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Friend, Melanie. No Place Like Home: Echoes from Kosovo

Those who study world conflicts from afar tend to portray both the perpetrators and their victims through a series of politically correct phrases, often masking just what years of oppression, ethnic cleansing, and nationalistic intolerance (to name just a few terms often used to describe Kosovo) mean for the common people who must bear the consequences.

This remarkable collection reveals how easy it is for those in power to manipulate the feeling of nationalism and systematically create an environment in which brutality becomes part of life.

Friend, a British photographer who has covered Kosovo's political turmoil since 1989, has collected some 50 interviews that she conducted with Albanian refugees in neighboring Macedonia after the conflict culminated in early 1999. The compelling and often disturbing photographs that accompany them serve not only to document the actual experiences of Kosovo's inhabitants, but to help us understand why the region must remain multiethnic for the good of all. Finally Friend acknowledges the difficulty faced by the international community in its attempt to bring peace to the region. Highly recommended for all interested in international conflicts.

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