

## **Reclaiming the Political in Bosnia: A Critique of the Legal-Rational Nightmare of Contemporary Bosnian Statehood**

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Through the lens of Sheldon Wolin's conception of "the political," this essay argues that the post-war Bosnian state, constructed through a fusion of nationalist ethnic cleansing, genocide, kleptocracy, and Western "nation-building," is an ideal representation of the depoliticization process inherent to every state-building project. The experience of state-building in Bosnia-Herzegovina illustrates more broadly the inherently violent and coercive nature of the state form. In place of this tendency, Andrej Grubačić's "radical balkanology" is suggested as representing the potential for a "no state solution" or what is termed a "cultural anarchic" turn for Bosnia and the greater Balkans. [*Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2013 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.*]

**KEYWORDS:** Bosnia-Herzegovina, Depoliticization, Apartheid, Anarchism.

*"Across the asphalt and concrete of our raped land, comes a band of profiteers, carrying away our wealth...Flags have been sown, the children convinced, the knives distributed, our graveyards divided."*  
Damir Avidić, "Po Asfaltu i Betonu"<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, all translations from Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS) have been done by me, and, as such, any errors are correspondingly my own and in no way those of the original author(s).