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The International Element, Statehood and Democratic Nation-building

Exploring the Role of the EU and International Community in Kosovo's State-formation and State-building

- Provides an in-depth mapping of the challenges arising from disputed statehood and unilateral secessionist claims
- Highlights how complicit elements of 'multilateral international involvement' and 'constitutive recognitions' remain inherently present in modern state emergence and state-building processes
- Demonstrates how democratization as a non-orthodox statehood criterion is steadily gaining new momentum and is demonstrated par-excellence in the case of Kosovo
- Explains how the EU was able to streamline its mode of intervention in the context of state-building and reform

This book represents a unique endeavor to elucidate the story of Kosovo's unilateral quest for statehood. It is an inquiry into the international legal aspects and processes that shaped and surrounded the creation of the state of Kosovo. Being created outside the post-colonial context, Kosovo offers a unique yet controversial example of state emergence both in the theory and practice of creation of states. Accordingly, the book investigates the legal pathways, strategies, developments and policy positions of international agencies/actors and regional players (in particular the EU) that helped Kosovo to establish its independence and gradually acquire statehood. Although contested, Kosovo, and its quest for statehood, represents a unique example of successful unilateral secession. The book therefore explores and analyses patterns of state formation and nation-building in Kosovo, and its transition to democracy. It presents a three-level assessment. First, seen from a historical perspective, the book examines the validity of the right of Kosovar-Albanians to self-determination and remedial secession.

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