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Coughlan, Reed, Owens-Manley, Judith

# Bosnian Refugees in America

New Communities, New Cultures

- Unique contribution
- It emerges from a structured research project and combines aspects of research and sociology or social work
- Addresses understanding the context of war and resettlement, patterns of social adjustment, and implications for practitioners in refugee communities. Although these are considered for one ethnic group, the Bosnians, the in-depth telling of the story of their resettlement in upstate New York has implications for those working with other groups of refugees and immigrants

In April of 1992, war began in Bosnia. Sarajevo, site of the 1984 Winter Olympics, and, we were told, one of the most beautiful cities in the world, became a city under siege. For all of the people of Bosnia, life shifted in unimaginable ways in a matter of hours, days, or weeks. An immediate exodus began from Bosnia, and people who had never anticipated leaving their country became refugees, dependent upon a world system of resettlement for displaced persons. This book relates the experiences of a hundred Bosnian families who came to Utica, a town in upstate New York. Bosnians in Utica came here as refugees - fleeing in 1993, having fled from the wars of succession in the former Yugoslavia. Our study evolved over several years as a result of our interests in the war in Bosnia and the massive flow of refugees that it precipitated. We began work on the project in the late 1990s as we set out to learn about the war and to explore refugee experiences of displacement, transit, and resettlement. Our intent is to portray the experience of Bosnian refugees in one American city and to capture, in their words, in as much detail as possible their adjustment to a new community and a new culture.

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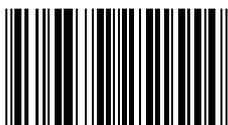
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