1. Record Nr. UNINA9910457158803321 Autore Pickering Paula M (Paula May), <1966-> Titolo Peacebuilding in the Balkans [[electronic resource]]: the view from the ground floor / / Paula M. Pickering Ithaca [N.Y.],: Cornell University Press, 2007 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 0-8014-6346-7 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (252 p.) Disciplina 949.703 Soggetti Peace-building - Bosnia and Hercegovina Return migration - Bosnia and Hercegovina Bosnians - Ethnic identity Yugoslav War, 1991-1995 - Refugees - Bosnia and Hercegovina Electronic books. Bosnia and Hercegovina Politics and government 1992-Bosnia and Hercegovina Ethnic relations Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Errata sheet inserted. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Introduction: The view from below -- Below the surface -- Selfunderstandings versus power -- The dilemma of migration -- Sites for building bridges -- The plague of politics -- Implications for Eurasia. After suffering years of war, Bosnia is now the target of international Sommario/riassunto efforts to reconstruct and democratize a culturally divided society. The global community's strategy has focused on reforming political institutions, influencing the behavior of elite populations, and cultivating nongovernmental organizations. But expensive efforts to promote a stable peace and a multiethnic democracy can be successful only if they resonate among ordinary people. Otherwise, such projects will produce fragile institutions and alienated citizens who will be susceptible to extremists eager to send them back into war. Paula M. Pickering challenges the conventional wisdom that common people are

> merely passive recipients of peacebuilding projects. Instead, in Peacebuilding in the Balkans, she shows how ordinary people,

particularly minorities in Bosnia, understand elite rhetoric and actively shape reconstruction. Pickering's years of fieldwork-direct observation,

interviews, and analysis of many surveys-has yielded a precise understanding of how ordinary citizens react to and influence peacebuilding programs in their neighborhoods, workplaces, municipal agencies, and other real-life social settings. The evidence suggests that international efforts to rebuild an inclusive Bosnia will be futile unless they pay sufficient attention to citizens' varying ties to ethnic groups, indigenous forms of civic activity, and the development of nondiscriminatory employment and responsive political institutions. Pickering's insights from reconstruction in the Balkans have important implications for peacebuilding elsewhere in Eurasia.