

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910971343403321
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Titolo	The crescent and the eagle : Ottoman rule, Islam and the Albanians, 1874-1913 // George Gawrych
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York : , : I.B. Tauris, , 2006
ISBN	9780755609758 0755609751 9781786734440 1786734443 9781786724441 1786724448
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 260 pages) : illustrations, maps
Disciplina	320.54094965
Soggetti	Nationalism - Albania 20th century history: c 1900 to c 2000 Turkey Foreign relations Albania Albania Foreign relations Turkey
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Sommario/riassunto	"The Crescent and the Eagle" examines the awakening of Albanian national identity from the end of the 19th century to the outbreak of the First World War - a period of intense nationalism in the Balkans - from an Ottoman perspective. Drawing on Ottoman and European archival material, the book undermines the customary negative stereotypes of Ottoman rule, offering a more nuanced interpretation. Gawrych provides a critical but objective examination of the evolution of government policies toward Albanians, from attempts to mould them into an "iron barrier" to the establishment of a uniform system of administration. He argues that this was a result of a complicated set of conflicting allegiances and identities, rather than a simply adversarial struggle between government imposition of policy and Albanian resistance. The author also analyses the general problems of endemic

violence and misadministration at the provincial level, and examines Albanian efforts to gain nationality rights and maintain local privileges and tribal autonomy. Weaving his analysis of these events into a chronological framework, he concludes that Albanian independence resulted from a confluence of foreign and domestic developments rather than from the design and will of the Albanians themselves. This stimulating study offers many fresh insights into the dynamics of power within the Ottoman Empire and contributes a new perspective to the study of the development of Albanian nationalism."--Bloomsbury Publishing.
