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Contested Nation-building within the International 'Order of Things': Performance, Festivals and Legitimization in South-Eastern Europe

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This volume is a collection of essays focusing on performance and public rituals in four South-Eastern European countries: Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The 'ambiguous' nation-building of the four nation-states is a process of imagining the political community of the nations that 'always necessitates – even presupposes – the imagining of an international community, a "Family of Nations"'. Thus we offer an approach to nation-building that is revealing of how performance, rituals and politics are at the heart of the new and ambiguous nation-building in the region of South-Eastern Europe. The papers address the intersection between nation-building, the state and public performance/rituals in (post)socialist timeframes and show how sovereignty of a nation-state is constructed, performed, and disseminated through public rituals, festivals and practices.

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