

The Literacy Lowdown: Shadowplay



A level geography students, remember, you should:

- undertake wider reading
- use factual texts, discursive / creative material

Summary

Shadowplay is a gripping read about a very recent conflict in Europe – it gives excellent perspective on the collapse of Yugoslavia and the Kosovo War.

Tim Marshall writes from his vantage point on the ground with his producer Jakša Šćekić by his side.

He worryingly explains ‘you can have the same conversation in Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, and Kosovo, and hardly anyone will ask what is really important...how can we stop this from happening again?’ p10 Tensions continue to simmer to this day.

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Specification links

AQA 3.2.1.4 Global governance Agencies can work to promote growth and stability.

Edexcel 8A.7 There are different forms of geopolitical intervention in defence of human rights.

OCR Global Governance: Human Rights 1.a. There is global variation in human rights.

Key quotes

“Marshal Tito kept Yugoslavia together after the war, and actually convinced a lot of people that they really were Yugoslav first, Croat / Bosnian / Muslim / Serb second.” (p73)

“Rambouillet is now shorthand for either ‘the place where the Serbs were given the chance to avoid being bombed, but turned it down’, or ‘the place where the Americans handed a surrender document to the Serbs, knowing they could never sign it, and ensured they could bomb’.” (p84)

“For many Belgraders, the war was absolutely real, in the sense of the explosions, the damage and death, and yet unreal, in the sense that you never saw the enemy. They felt, as anti-aircraft gunner Dušan Berdić said to me, as if they were fighting with ghosts.” (p152)

“The walls were closing in on Milošević. On 27 May the president was indicated by the UN war crimes tribunal for alleged crimes against humanity.” (p167)

“Bags of money had been brought in for years [to protest groups and for broadcasters]...The strength of the media and opposition had to be built up if the cracks in the regime were to be widened.” (p222)