



European Politics and Society: Václav Havel Joint Master Programme

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Charles University

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**Narratives about the Bosnian War: The United States Intervention through a
Discourse Analysis of CIA Documents**

Master's Thesis

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Wordcount: 21.296 words
Submission date: 12/06/2024

Abstract

The following research aims to add to the extensive scholarship on the Bosnian War by analysing it from a Decolonial perspective. The analysis is done through a Critical Discourse Analysis of the CIA collection of declassified documents *Bosnia, intelligence, and the Clinton Presidency: The Role of Intelligence and Political Leadership in Ending the Bosnian War*. It analyses the narratives used by the US authorities in its interpretation and intervention in the War. The research is guided by the questions “Through which discourse framework(s) did the CIA interpret the Bosnian War?” and “What Postcolonial and Decolonial lenses can tell us about how discourses might have affected how decision-makers acted in the Bosnian War?”. This Master’s Thesis is organised into four chapters. The first provides a historical contextualisation and a literature review of the wars that followed the breakup of Yugoslavia and its interpretations. The second chapter outlines the theoretical and methodological frameworks relevant to the analysis, discussing the contributions of Post-Colonial theory to studies about post-socialist spaces, debates on Balkanism, and the main contributions of the Decolonial theory in analysing the CEE and SEE regions. The third chapter analyses the CIA collection of documents through a Critical Discourse Analysis, establishing the discourse frameworks through which the CIA interpreted the Bosnian War. The fourth chapter concludes with a discussion on how the analysis is done in the third chapter dialogues with the contextual and theoretical literature from the first and second chapters.