

Balkan Federation and Communes

Revolutionary Projects in Bulgaria of the 19th & 20th Centuries

Yavor Tarinski

How much does an unrealized past—once a possible future—continue to agitate us?

Today the Balkans are too often defined by nationalism, violence, and xenophobia—ills cultivated after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire and the intervention of the Great Powers in the region. The peoples of the Balkans have since been squeezed into numerous small state entities, each promoting its own insular national idea.

But this was not the only path history could have taken.

At the dawn of the twentieth century, revolutionary movements envisioned a radically different future: a united, federated Balkans, where diverse peoples would manage public affairs through communal and participatory means. Ideas like the Balkan Federation and the Balkan Commune captivated the hearts and minds of revolutionaries, anarchists, and socialists across the region—traditions deeply rooted in the lands of the area now known as Bulgaria.

In this book, political theorist Yavor Tarinski revives and examines these buried visions. With clarity and commitment, he brings to light the radical traditions and libertarian imaginaries that continue to resonate.

This is a history *from below*—a story not of borders and empires, but of solidarity and possibility. One that still asks to be taken seriously by future generations.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Yavor Tarinski is an author, activist, and independent researcher. He is the cofounder of the Greek libertarian website and publishing house Aftoleksi, bibliographer of Cornelius Castoriadis's works at Agora International, and a member of the Transnational Institute for Social Ecology. A participant in movements around the Balkans as well as in international initiatives dedicated to the production of grassroots knowledge, he has authored several books that focus on direct democracy, social ecology, and autonomy. He resides in Athens, Greece.

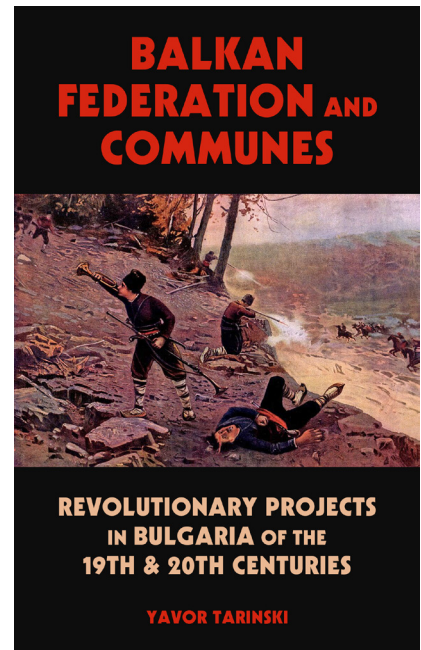
ACCOLADES

"As Tarinski suggests, this reading of history is crucial and should be used by horizontal social movements as the root from which contemporary political projects of internationalism, federalism, universal equality, and justice can flourish throughout the Balkan Peninsula. So, let us plant new revolutionary seeds for the new Balkan Federation and not forget that we belong to lands we have never known, against the bourgeois state, capitalism, nationalism, and war."

—Giorgos Chatzinakos, lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University

"Yavor Tarinski's book is particularly important because it brings to the stage the social movements and struggles that took place in our common place, the Balkans, and in the period preceding our own extended socio-historical present. It illuminates the ideas, visions, and actions that opened a horizon of social liberation against the intolerant paradigm of nation-state domination."

—Alexandros Schismenos, post-doctoral researcher (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)



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