

Assignment – Book Review of Gazmend Kapllani, *A Short Border Handbook; A Journey through the Immigrant's Labyrinth*, New Europe Books(2017)

Read the memoir and pay attention to, and take notes on, the following:

- What was the historical context of the wave of refugees in 1990-1993?
 - What was happening in Europe in general?
 - What was happening in the Balkan regions?
- With immigration, we often talk about “push” and “pull” factors: What was “pushing” them to leave? What about the host country or the place they hoped to go to was attracting them, “pulling” them to that destination?
- Pay attention to cultural traditions of Albania,
 - Gender norms
 - Religions norms
 - family relationships, strength of patriarchal family norms
- Describe the migrants?
 - Economics, class, gender, educational level
- How was the host country treating them? Why? What drove the treatment? What were the fears in the host country? How did they “other-ize” them?
- What were the migrants hopes and dreams?
- Look for other things that interest you, surprise you, inform you...
- How is the migration rooted in the history of Europe?
- How does this memoir of migration illuminate the 1990’s and the changes in national, social, cultural, and ideological patterns and shifts of the past and present?

Write a review of 3 to 4 pages (5 page MAX)) that discusses and evaluates the book as a description of this individual’s experience and the experience of Albanians in the 1990’s in the context of 20th century Europe and the rapid changes it was undergoing.

I. Introduction - Begin by naming the work and the author. Then provide some summary comments on:

- **The premise of the book**
- **A few sentences on your understanding of what the author’s intent in writing it might have been**

- the value it has and your thoughts on the cause for its popularity

II. The body of the paper should comment on and analyze the questions, issues, and themes that derive from your analysis of the book after considering the question list above. Please be sure to ground your discussion of the memoir in HISTORY, historical themes, and the events of the times... in historical analysis. (Do not just retell the story or talk about the story)

III. Conclude with your thoughts on the memoir and its value as a piece of literature, and whether and how historical themes we have been studying.

Format requirements:

- Body of Text: double spaced
 - Exceptions: block quotations, footnotes and bibliography
- Font: 12 pt, Times New Roman
- Margins: 1 inch on each of the four edges of the paper
- Include a bibliography with a full bibliographic citation of the book at the end of the paper.(Example

Citations: We will use Chicago Style citations and we will use the simplest form, parenthetical citations. Parenthetical citations are acceptable when the essay refers to only one or two sources. (For multiple sources, footnotes are required.)

Citations are required in three situations:

1. A direct quote.
2. When using an idea or the analysis of another author, even when it is not a direct quote and in quotation marks.
3. When citing data.

Format for Chicago style parenthetical citations is as follows: (Author's name, page #).

Example: "Charlemagne's empire was held together by personal relationships..." (Frankforter, 233)

Note- NO "p" or "pg" precedes the page number.