

THE CONCEPT OF THE BALKANS

CSABA SURÁNYI *

(Abstract) Europe does not have any other geographic unit that would have elicited as many disputes, the boundaries of which would be as difficult to define, and the name of which would have changed as many times as that of the Balkans Peninsula.

Where is it, and up to where does the Balkans expand? Is that a Peninsula in Southeast –Europe? Or is it merely a metaphor of a certain civilization? Does the Balkans really exist, or is it more of a political notion today? How can we define the relationship between the Balkans and Southeast-Europe? How can we find the middle way between recognizing the importance of geography in shaping history as opposed to the risk of overemphasizing this fact.

Key words: social space theory, Byzantine culture, Turkish and Islamic influence on the Balkans

Outline of Article

The phenomenology of the Balkans

From the Silver Mount to the Balkans

An “imaginary” endangered territory

The tyranny of *geography*

The Balkans vs. Southeast-Europe

Can the Southeast-European model of modernity exist?

The issue of urbanization

The Balkans

*

“*The Models in Geography.*”
-- R. Chorley – P. Haggett (1968)¹

© DKE 2015

<http://www.southeast-europe.org>
Contact: [dke\[at\]southeast-europe.org](mailto:dke[at]southeast-europe.org)

Note: *Respected Researchers*, if you make a reference to this article or quote part of it, please send us an email at dke@southeast-europe.org to let us know that. *Please cite the article as follows:*

Csaba Surányi: The Concept of the Balkans. *International Relations Quarterly*, ISSN 2062-1973, No. 24 – Winter 2015/4 (‘Europeanization: conflict and crisis management in the Balkans’)

Thank you for your kind collaboration. *Editor-in-Chief*

* *Author: Csaba Surányi historian.*

¹ See. Richard J. Chorley, Peter Haggett (1967) *Models in Geography*. Methuen, 816 p.; *Socio-Economic Models in Geography* by Richard J. Chorley and P. Haggett (1968) Routledge 468 p.; *Physical and Information Models in Geography* (2014) Richard J. Chorley, Peter Haggett. Routledge, 312 p.