

## *Central and Eastern European Review*

**Shkëlzen Gashi (ed.), *A Brief Memoir of the Albanian Rebellion of 1912. Hasan Prishtina*. Translated by Elizabeth Gowing. Republished by Rrokulia, Prishtina, 2010. 52pp. Reviewed by Antonia Young.**

This enlightening booklet, very ably translated by Elizabeth Gowing, memorializes Hasan Prishtina (born in 1878, assassinated at the age of 45). His intention was to supply a detailed record (as the book suggests) of the rebellion's aims and activity in Kosovo in 1912, citing 14 specific demands of the Ottoman Empire. A concise biography of this remarkable man (Hasan Prishtina) who was expelled from elected representation in both Ottoman and Albanian parliaments, at the end of this booklet, sets the scene for which the piece was originally written. Also included is a very negative 6-page letter published in *Dielli* newsheet no. 166 in 1912, written by the then 20-year-old Fan Noli (who later led Albania's democratic government for six months, before being ousted by Ahmet Zogu).

Hasan Prishtina exhorted Albanians to act out their "patriotic duty" to work to unite the Albanian lands within the then Ottoman Empire, and to end the persecution of its peoples under that Empire. His words could equally have been applied to experiences of Kosovars in Yugoslavia (in its various forms) and to Prishtina's activities which continued with the same aims until his assassination in Thessalonika in 1933.

The profits from this edition of the booklet, as from Prishtina's original, are to be donated to provide education for orphan children.

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