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Trends. Serbs and Kosovar Albanians: Birds of a Feather

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The ethnic cleansing of Kosovar Albanians by Yugoslav military, Serb police, and associated paramilitary forces has ironically highlighted how Albanians and Serbs alike are in the throes of similarly deep and powerful psychological processes.

Albanians driven from Kosovo have consistently demonstrated how the psychology of the self is significantly constituted by introjected objects--not just other people, but material possessions and other social and geographical aspects of locale. As the managing editor of the Albanian-language newspaper, *Koha Ditore* has been cited as saying that "Life is not only a bio-physiological concept. My life is the place where I grew up, where I live, my desk, my books, my music, my computer, the people I know and the places I go to have fun. This is what I am and without it I do not exist" (Bearak, 1999). Contemporary historians can find congruent examples related to Serb victims of Croat aggression occurring only several years ago.

Serbs in Belgrade and other urban areas within Serbia are resistant to information disconfirming governmental protestations and propaganda that Albanian deaths are notional, staged, perpetrated by other Albanians, largely perpetrated by North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or effected by Yugoslav and Serb forces only against Albanian terrorists with other Albanian deaths being collateral damage. This resistance is remarkable given that many urban Serbs have access to or access to people who have access to E-mail, the Internet, and short wave radio. Contemporary historians can find congruent examples amongst urban Kosovar Albanians towards the deeds of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Tragically, a shared sense among Serbs and Albanians of a shared humanity has taken flight before the onslaught of political and ethnic violence. (See Bearak, B. (April 26, 1999). Uprooted and idle, Kosovo's cultured pace their haven. *The New York Times*, pp. A1; A12; Chiasson, N., Charbonneau, C., & Proulx, J. (1996). Ingroup-outgroup similar information as a determinant of attraction toward members of minority groups. *Journal of Social Psychology*, 136, 233-241; Fox, L.A. (April 27, 1999). Letter to the editor. *The New York Times*, p. A30; Haslam, S.A., et al. (1998). When do stereotypes become really consensual? Investigating the group-based dynamics of the consensualization process. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 28, 755-776; Horenczyk, G., & Bekerman, Z. (1997). The effects of intercultural acquaintance and structured intergroup interaction on ingroup, outgroup, and reflected ingroup stereotypes. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 21, 71-83; Kowalski, K. (1998). The impact of vicarious exposure to diversity on preschooler's emerging ethnic/racial attitudes. *Early Child Development and Care*, 146, 41-51.) (Keywords: Albania, Kosovo, Political Psychology, Serbia, Stereotypes, Violence, Yugoslavia.)