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Trends. Kosovo: The Latest Reification of Boundaries?

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Beyond Rambouillet; Serbian and Kosovar Albanian atrocities; NATO bombing; still more atrocities; and attempts to relieve, recover, reconstitute, and invent democracy and multiethnic constituencies, there still remains the issue of boundaries. Should Yugoslavia still exist? Should it comprise Montenegro and Serbia? Should Kosovo be part of Serbia. Should Kosovo comprise enclaves varying in degree of multi-ethnicity? These questions create and reflect a subjugating discourse that boundaries are necessary, sufficient, or both to engender conflict and that geographical boundaries are the most salient in this regard.

As to the latter, boundaries of mind, spirit, culture, and praxis can transcend mere geography and engender conflict regardless of geography. Moreover, within geographical boundaries mind, spirit, culture, and praxis continually segment, fragment, and coalesce as boundaries within boundaries concurrently transcend geographical boundaries.

As to the former, it seems as likely—if not more likely—that conflict engenders boundaries or may concurrently arise with it. Analysts who espouse boundaries engendering conflict may be committing the fallacy of equating correlation with reciprocal or even "wrong-way" causality.