

## BOOKSHELF

Kosovo: a country at a crossroads  
Islam, terrorism, organized crime: the new Republic is a threat?

Kosovo: un paese al bivio  
Islam, terrorismo, criminalità organizzata: la nuova Repubblica è una minaccia?

Authors: Roberto Magni\* and Luca Ciccotti\* | Publisher: Franco Angeli Edizioni, Italy | Language: Italian, pp. 144 | ISBN: 9788820446567

The book stems from the field experience of two high-ranking Italian military police officers who have been stationed in Kosovo for long tours of duty, including an over-two-year mission in Financial Intelligence, primarily tasked to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. What remains to be said of Kosovo more than ten years after the NATO bombing campaign? Certainly there is a lot more to be said, warn the authors. Because the young Republic of Kosovo is likely to become a true "Pirate Bay" for those who wish to exploit the fluid situation and the difficulty to fully establish the so-called "rule-of-law", or legality in the broadest sense of the term. The Kosovar society is still undergoing a period of great turmoil and, from various points of view, that makes each day different from the previous one.

It is a fact that since 1999 rivers of ink have been poured into attempts to explain to the "Western" Europeans the many facets of this multifaceted and diverse society, so close geographically to the European Union but, in many ways, just as far away from our mentality. This book does not pursue the ambition to provide an exhaustive explanation of the segmented and complex phenomenon known as terrorism. It aims, through a reader-friendly texture, to search for answers to some questions. What will happen in the near future in an area so close to Europe? Could the situation in Kosovo deteriorate and become a threat to our nations?

The book opens with a brief history of Kosovo and further discusses topics including the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), organized crime in the region, relations between Islamic terrorist organizations and NGOs, the latter being often used as a cover to fund terrorism. There follows a survey of sources and mechanisms of financing Islamic terrorist groups, use of the financial system's "legal" ways for money laundering, and concludes with an examination of the current situation in Kosovo.

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The **Guardia di Finanza** (Finance Guard, short GdF) is an Italian law enforcement agency under the authority of the Minister of Economy and Finance and part of the Italian Armed Forces. The origins of the Guardia di Finanza date back to October 5, 1774.

Its activities are connected with financial, economic, judiciary and public safety: tax evasion, financial crimes, smuggling, money laundering, international illegal drug trafficking, illegal immigration, customs and borders checks, copyright violations, anti-Mafia operations, credit card fraud, cybercrime, counterfeiting, terrorist financing, maintaining public order, and safety, political



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and military defense of the Italian borders.

The Guardia di Finanza has around 68,000 servicemen and women (agents, NCOs, and officers). Its personnel are also deployed at the Europol and OLAF (European Agency of Fight against the Fraud). The GdF maintains over 600 boats and ships and more than 100 aircraft to serve in its mission of patrolling Italy's territorial waters.