



## A spotlight on a region that is not pacified: The multifaceted debut novel "Ach, mein Kosovo!" by Mechthild Henneke

Dear Sir or Madam,

the Western Balkans are nowadays a blank spot on the map for many. After the wars in the nineties, the region disappeared from focus. Only partially did the European Union accept countries. Mechthild Henneke's debut novel "**Ach, mein Kosovo!**" (ET 23 November 2021 / PalmArtPress / ISBN: 978-3-96258-096-4") throws a spotlight on a region that is far from completely pacified. The book tells a multifaceted story that is largely based on real events of a conflict that continues to flare up: that between Kosovo Albanians and Serbs.

The cornerstone and inspiration for the novel was a personal encounter between the author: the life story of a field doctor she met in Kosovo in 2003 set the ball rolling. His biography is similar to that of the protagonist.

In "**Ach, my Kosovo!**" readers follow medical student Taras Galani. The young Kosovo Albanian lives in Germany and joins the KLA in 1998 to do something about the oppression of his compatriots by the Serbs. Mechthild Henneke creates an impressive panorama of the Kosovo war.

The novel asks why people go to war and what such a decision entails. **Mechthild Henneke**, journalist and author in Berlin, lived in Kosovo for more than seven years between 1999 and 2008, where she worked for the United Nations and the OSCE. Previously, she was an editor at the Berliner Zeitung. Born in Westphalia, she studied political science and attended the Henri Nannen School of Journalism in Hamburg. After her return from the Balkans, she wrote her first novel.

Further information on the book and author can be found at:

<http://blog.mhenneke.de/>

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