

The Politics of Protest in Central Europe

Chiara Milan

“Sow hunger, reap anger“
Grassroots protests and new collective
identities in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Between 2013 and 2014 Bosnia-Herzegovina witnessed the first mass protests since the end of the 1992-95 war. In June 2013 the failure of the national parliament to solve a deadlock in the disbursement of national ID numbers spawned protests in the main urban centers of the country, lasting for over a month. In February 2014, the violent reaction of the police to a demonstration organized by the unemployed workers of the privatized factories in the former industrial hub of Tuzla sparked solidarity rallies all over the country. The talk provides an overview of the 2013-2014 Bosnian unrest, analysing the roots of its emergence, the social composition and forms of organization, with a specific focus on the self-organized platforms for the articulation of citizens' demands called “plenums”, as well as the achievements and shortcomings of such a form of civic resistance.

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