

The University of Delaware Jewish Studies Program presents

THE FRANK & YETTA CHAIKEN LECTURE IN HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES

A EUROPEAN ISLAM IN THE BALKANS:

HISTORY, 'ETHNIC CLEANSING' AND THE SEARCH FOR JUSTICE

• THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14 • 7PM • GORE HALL 103 •

ANDRÁS RIEDLMAYER
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SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE HAS BEEN AT A CROSSROADS, where the great empires and religious and cultural currents of the Mediterranean world have met and interacted with each

other and with rich indigenous traditions. The long history of cultural interactions has given this region a remarkable legacy, including a still thriving, 600-year-old Islamic tradition, which the Balkan Wars of the 1990s attempted to erase resulting in the deaths of 150,000 and the forced exile of millions. The violence against people was accompanied by systematic attacks on their heritage: the targeted destruction of historic buildings, houses of worship, manuscript libraries, and archives. A Council of Europe report in 1993 termed it “a cultural catastrophe in the heart of Europe.”

BASED ON MR. RIEDLMAYER'S FIELDWORK for the UN war crimes tribunal, his presentation outlines the history of this region's diverse cultural heritage, as well as his findings concerning its fate in the 1990s wars in Bosnia and Kosovo, and efforts to bring to justice those criminally responsible for this destruction.



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