

## IN SEARCH OF TITO'S PUNKS

An accessible, humane, honest, and rigorous look at a cultural movement that flourished during a period of political upheaval.

In 1981, Demob, a young multiracial punk rock band from a stagnating provincial English city, recorded 'No Room For You', a song that sold a few thousand copies before fading into history. The bass player was eighteen-year-old Barry Phillips. In 2011, he received a Facebook message telling him that the song was famous throughout the Balkans and had been covered by notable Yugoslavian punk bands. Hoping to understand how Demob's song had taken root in the communist-era Balkans, Phillips traveled to the region to learn about the punk scene that emerged in the waning years of Josip Broz Tito's rule. From Ljubljana to Rijeka to Novi Sad, Yugoslavia boasted one of the most dynamic punk rock and new wave scenes in the world. Rooted not only in western punk rock but also local Balkan folk music, its regional varieties each had a discernible DNA fused with Slavonian Tamburitza, Bosnian Sevdah, or the Dalmatian a cappella, Klapa.

*In Search of Tito's Punks* includes interviews with Pankrti ('Bastards'), Darko Rundek, KUD Idijoti ('Cultural Idiots'), KBO!, Atheist Rap, and other heroes of Yugoslavian punk and post-punk music. Phillips learns of border 'walls' and Brutalism, discovers the world's first fascist micro-state, sees the legacy of the NATO bombings and the impact of 'turbo-capitalism', and hears the recurrent echoes of genocides and the Holocaust. He also describes a gig where the entire village, including the mayor, came out to party with punks, and uncovers an unlikely relationship between Yugoslav music fans and an independent record shop in Wales.

A remarkable depiction [...] life and war, love and crises in Yugoslavia chronicled through music. Barry Phillips gives us an impressive picture of a country and a music scene that will not be repeated.

Branko Rosić novelist, *Urbana gerila* and *Berliner Strasse*

Barry Phillips is a historian. He is also a former musician and singer-songwriter, former speech writer and policymaker, former ID parade suspect, shelf-stacker and barman.

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IN SEARCH OF  
**TITO'S PUNKS**

BARRY PHILLIPS



ON THE ROAD IN A COUNTRY THAT NO LONGER EXISTS

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BARRY PHILLIPS

