

CHINA CROSSROADS

Tuesday, September 17th, 2024, 19:30 – 21:00

Yugoslavia and China: Lessons from the Past, Insights for the Future

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As the media and think tanks in Europe and beyond increasingly spotlight China's presence in the Balkans, they often frame China as a newcomer to the region. Yet, the region has been significant in China's foreign policy since the Cold War. The historical relationship between China and Yugoslavia was characterized by a distinct focus on ideas and learning - yielding both positive and cautionary lessons that have influenced China's evolving global strategy. The somewhat forgotten Yugo-Chinese histories and their legacies offer crucial insights into understanding Global China's role in the region and beyond. For the Yugoslav successor states and the EU, grasping these lessons is essential for navigating the current policy landscape and preparing for the coming challenges and opportunities ahead.

[Anastas Vangeli](#) is Assistant Professor at the School of Economics and Business, University of Ljubljana, and a Research Associate at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He is also affiliated with the University of Turin, Italy and the ESSCA School of Management. His research focuses on the intersection of globalization and evolving socio-political landscapes, with a focus on Global China, diffusion of ideas and their policy and managerial consequences. Anastas serves as an Associate Editor for the Asia Europe Journal, and together with Dragan Pavličević is a co-editor of "Yugoslavia and China: Histories, Legacies, Afterlives" (forthcoming).

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[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.