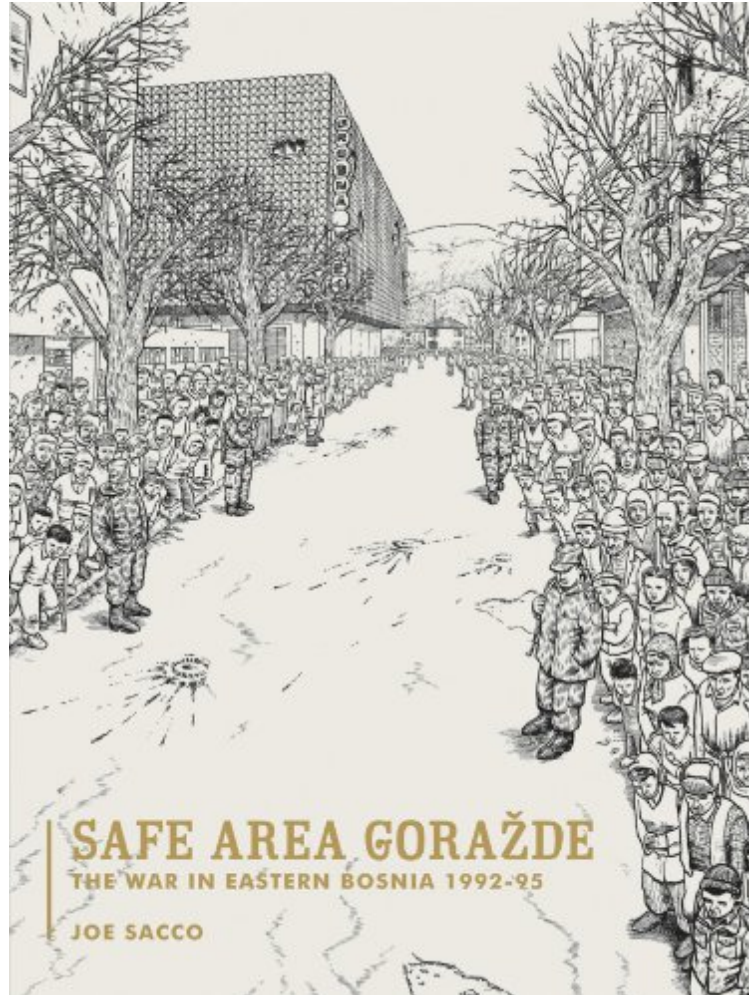


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Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia 1992-1995

Joe Sacco

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Joe Sacco : Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia 1992-1995 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia 1992-1995:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Profound, educational, beautiful ...By Caitlin MartinAs a comic book nerd I've long enjoyed Joe Sacco's amazing work. Superb journalism presented in comic book format, he is an artist who reminds us of all of the promise in the format.I bought Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia 1992-1995 at my local comic book store because I am in a period of learning more about the Bosnian War and it was by Joe Sacco and I could afford it at the time. I read it following my read of Logavina Street by Barbara Demick and it was a great companion piece. Where Demick's book is all about Sarajevo, Sacco's is about conditions in Safe Area Gorazde, a small place that was under unrelenting siege from 1992 to 1995. Sacco gives a great deal of background information about the conflict while at the same time humanizing it through format and the eyes of the people who lived through

the siege (including his own). Each in their own put themselves in the center of the stories they're telling - an acknowledgment of the myth of objectivity. I've read a lot of history and a lot of historical fiction and when the words "siege warfare" come up I tend to think about castles and knights and big walls and the people inside eating their horses. Safe Area Gorazde taught me a lot about modern siege warfare and opened my eyes further to a story I have neglected. It is simple to understand why Mr. Sacco won the Eisner Award for this book. Brilliant, heart-stopping, and terribly sad this is a work of genius - highly recommended. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

Wow By Richard R Amazing. This may be the most powerful testament yet written about the war in Bosnia. Gorazde was a "safe area" in eastern Bosnia, much like the ill-fated Srebrenica nearby. It was nearly -but not quite- overrun by Serb forces, and Sacco's four visits to the town yielded up this amazing comic-style account of the war from the narrow, pained perspective of a town under siege. The story fits with the format so well because it's not a chronology (like Honig's Srebrenica'), nor a political review of the disintegration of Yugoslavia, nor a journalist's travelogue. It's just a day-to-day account - conversations with soldiers, teachers, teenage girls, refugees, with their friends and families- all the folks who made up wartime Gorazde. They witnessed unspeakable brutalities, attacks on civilians, burning of houses, murders, rapes, gratuitous violence by wicked men. Cut off from the world they are bored, hungry for news and diversion. Sacco details these scenes and their terrible effects on the otherwise normal people of a nondescript Balkan town. The unforgettable man who made hours of home video of carnage and body parts, achieving almost sexual pleasure from watching it and screening it for visitors; the girls in search of blue jeans and boyfriends; the soldiers who just want to go back to the university. Sacco places Gorazde in its historical context by reviewing the broader war, events in Sarajevo and Srebrenica and Dayton. He points fingers, this is not an even-handed piece of jurisprudence, but a visit to one of the rings of hell, whose inhabitants know precisely who is guilty for visiting this carnage on innocents. They know, because they were all neighbors just months before. Sacco's illustrations pack a punch. Readers will by turns grow tense as a group walks all night in the snow for supplies, as a handful of men hold off a Serb column supported by tanks. Or sad as young people describe their terrors in terms that show unmistakable signs of trauma and mental illness. Or smile as Sacco's new friends show courage and humanity despite their suffering. These are enduring images. The book can be read in a few hours, and readers will not be able to put it down. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A stern warning By Fred Miner In addition to being informative and entertaining (in a dark way), Gorazde is a frightening look at what happens when a society breaks down and reverts to tribalism. Throughout this book I was struck by the fact that mean, ruthless people walk among us and need only to have the restraints of civilized society ripped away in order to live out their savagery. Sacco's book should be a warning to all who think that we have developed beyond such things. Yugoslavia had been an apparently stable and prosperous East Block country until the fall of communism but once the ethnic strife re-emerged, it fell for a time into a post apocalyptic state. The ink drawings gave a chilling look at the suffering and hopelessness that many of the Bosnians experienced (or died in). It is a story that we should all be aware of and we should heed its warning lest we too be polarized into such a collapse.

The winner of the 2001 Eisner Award for Best New Graphic Album. Sacco spent five months in Bosnia in 1996, immersing himself in the human side of life during wartime, researching stories that are rarely found in conventional news coverage, emerging with this astonishing first-person account. Praised by The New York Times, Brill's Content and Publishers Weekly, Safe Area Gorazde is the long-awaited and highly sought after 240-page look at war in the former Yugoslavia. Sacco (the critically-acclaimed author of Palestine) spent five months in Bosnia in 1996, immersing himself in the human side of life during wartime, researching stories that are rarely found in conventional news coverage. The book focuses on the Muslim-held enclave of Gorazde, which was besieged by Bosnian Serbs during the war. Sacco lived for a month in Gorazde, entering before the Muslims trapped inside had access to the outside world, electricity or running water. Safe Area Gorazde is Sacco's magnum opus and with it he is poised to become one of America's most noted journalists. The book features an introduction by Christopher Hitchens, political columnist for The Nation and Vanity Fair.

"[Demonstrates] how brilliantly comics can serve as reportage." - The New York Times "Graphic in every sense of the term, Sacco's account of everyday life in a city under siege puts one of the twentieth century's least understood catastrophes in perspective; it's the best argument around for comics as a journalistic medium." - GQ "Joe Sacco is an engaging and direct writer, but above all, he is a good journalist. Comics just happen to be the outlet for his reportage... [he is] a master of the unique medium of comics journalism." - William Jones, Graphic Novel Reporter "Published soon after the conflict that it documents, Safe Area Gorazde is an intense reading experience and an active call for the condemnation of tribal and international leaders who put politics ahead of humanity." - Suzette Chan, Sequential Tart About the Author Joe Sacco lives in Portland, Oregon. He is the author of many acclaimed graphic novels, including Palestine, Safe Area Gorazde, But I Like It, Notes from a Defeatist, The Fixer, War's End, and Footnotes in Gaza. Christopher Hitchens (1949-2011) is the author of God Is Not Great, Hitch-22, and Why Orwell Matters.