Unbribable Bosnia and Herzegovina—The Fight for the Commons affirms the transformative impulse of the February protests and plenums that took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2014. It brings together a range of interventions that materialize a common emancipatory frame in which politics is recuperated against the dominant bureaucratic management of the status quo. The fight for the commons upholds life that refuses to be bribed into accepting the dominant oppression and corruption as the only possibility of social existence in Bosnia and Herzegovina today. Local and international challenges to this fight for the commons will entail building and proving in everyday life solidarity that targets violent practices of exclusion, inequality, and injustice. The protest and plenums in Bosnia and Herzegovina mark a new and hopeful moment in asserting a more equitable and just sociality—a fight that is local in its early achievements but global and universal in its implications.

The Editor: Damir Arsenijević is a Leverhulme Trust Fellow at De Montfort University, Leicester, leading a project “Love after Genocide”. He is an activist, academic and a psychoanalyst in training, working in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His book Forgotten Future: The Politics of Poetry in Bosnia and Herzegovina was published by Nomos in 2010.

Unbribable Bosnia and Herzegovina—The Fight for the Commons is probably the most innovative and important collection of texts dealing with the unbearable realities of society in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina. This book provides an indispensable documentation and reflection of the demands and visions voiced during the protests and plenums in 2014. The authors provide a healthy antidote to counter the political and social cynicism, which prevailed for more than 20 years in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A new, just and sustainable social contract in Bosnia and Herzegovina is possible.

Tobias Flessenkemper, Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE), Nice

This collection is an invaluable look into the processes, histories, and potentials of the recent popular revolt in Bosnia and Herzegovina known as the February protests and plenas of 2014. Something different has been unfolding in the country; people are fed up but have not given up. Cutting through the unhelpful and myopic attempts to apply labels of success or failure, this book takes seriously the valiant struggles of people in Bosnia and Herzegovina to devise new ways of imagining community in a context that at first appears extreme but in fact reflects challenges facing ordinary people throughout the contemporary world.

Elissa Helms, Central European University (CEU), Budapest

Popular protests that rocked Bosnia and Herzegovina in February 2014 were the first rupture in the “continuation of war by other means” reality of a country trapped in a vicious cycle of nationalist mythomania and transitional plunder of resources by the political elite... Unbribable Bosnia and Herzegovina—The Fight for the Commons serves as an invaluable record of how these momentous events unfolded, what were their central ideas and what awaits in the struggle to see them take hold.

Refik Hodžić, Director of Communications at the International Center for Transitional Justice, New York
Southeast European Integration Perspectives

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