

***Mediating Individual and Collective Identities: Paula Huntley, Alice Mead and American Perspectives of the Kosovo***



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**Abstract**

American authors Alice Mead and Paula Huntley have both written books about Kosovo. This dissertation aims to study and examine Kosovar identity construction by drawing from the literary works of both American Authors and evaluating how individuals may heal from collective trauma as well as define their sense of belonging. While Paula Huntley's journal, Hemingway Book Club of Kosovo, is an autobiographical account of her experience as an educator and resident in Kosovo, Alice Mead has written numerous children's books, such as (Girl of Kosovo, Adem's Cross, Swimming to America, and Journey to Kosovo) to talk about events from the perspective of an American. This dissertation will be an analysis of how both their individual and collective identities are mediated through different approaches to present insights into past traumas and present challenges that affect the Kosovar Culture, which are directly influenced by the Kosovar conflict.

**Keywords:** Conflict, Children, Individual Identity, Collective Identity, American Perspective.