



Burek: A Culinary Metaphor (Paperback)

By Jernej Mlekuz

Central European University Press, Hungary, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. As Simple as Burek is a saying current among young people in Slovenia. But in his book, Jernej Mleku holds just the opposite. The burek--a pie made of pastry dough filled with various fillings, well-known in the Balkans, Turkey (bèurek), and also in the Near East by other names-- whether on the plate or as a cultural artifact, is in fact not that simple. After a brief stroll though its innocent history, before parasitical ideologies had attached themselves to the burek and poisoned its discourses, Mleku focuses on the present. In Slovenia, the burek has become a loaded metaphor for the Balkans and immigrants from the republics of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Without the burek it would be equally difficult to consider the jargon of Slovenian youth, the imagined world of Slovenian chauvinism and the rhetorical arsenal of advertising agents when promoting healthy foods. In this analysis therefore, the burek is always what Mleku calls the metaburek. It is greasy, Balkan, Slovene, not-Slovene, the greatest, eastern, the best, shit, oriental, unhealthy, plebian, Yugoslav, junk, a cherub (burek spelled backwards is kerub, the Slovene...



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