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“Bridges that divide...” How bridges divide people and ethnic groups in the Balkans of 2017

Case: Mitrovica Bridge in Kosovo and Mother Teresa Bridge in Skopje, FYROM

Bridges have a great symbolism in the human history they are meant to connect, to make people pass in one other side that is their very main purpose. Even though they are a symbol of connection they also are the weakest link between communities' countries, it's easier to target a bridge to divide people.

My presentation will focus on how the bridges have symbolic power to divide communities, because they are the weakest link between two ideas, cultures. I will explore the reason why bridges have such strong symbolism in terms of power and pride. As much as they are important to connect people and cultures they are used even politically to show power and control.

For ex. the bridge at Mitrovica in Kosovo is a place where the two ethnic groups clash, protest, and confirm their legacy on their respective territories. For many years the bridge is a symbol of community's rejection (serbs) of Kosovo's self-declared independence - and the authority of the government in Pristina.