

Never Enver

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NEVER ENVER

Albania, 1945. The Democratic Front, a socialist movement, won the elections held after the end of the Second World War and established a communist-style dictatorship. The leader of the movement, Enver Hoxha, kept the power with iron fist. He ruled Albania in an extremely isolationist and anti-revisionist way, chasing the chimera of autarchy and riding ambitions of power.

The geographical situation of Albania was critical. It was bordered to the North with Tito's Yugoslavia, initially allied but increasingly interested in the control of the Balkans, and to South with Greece, a country with deep historical rivalries and, with the beginning of the Cold War, part of the western alliance. This instilled in the dictator a deep sense of fear that quickly turned into paranoia. During the fifty years of communist dictatorship the Adriatic coasts were dotted with agave plantations in order to prevent a hypothetical attack by paratroopers while along all the territory started the constructions of bunkers made off concrete and steel. They were supposed to serve the defense of the homeland. It is estimated there have been built about 750,000

Twenty years after the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the communist dictatorship, Albania is still characterized by the massive presence of his bunkers. Nevertheless, the bunkers have suffered a different fate: most of these have been destroyed with the dual purpose of removing the dramatic and embarrassing past together with the extraction of the precious metal used to build them. Some were decorated to defuse the coexistence, others became landfill while others are simply forgotten. However a part of these bunkers have been reconverted by the population for different purposes. They became bars, restaurants, shops, stables, a tattoo studio and even a church in honor of the fallen during the dictatorship. These bunkers alternate with those who persist in everyday life of the population, creating a shadow of the past that is inexorably slowly dissolving























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