

Many Tunnels, Few Lights

Vladimir Milčin

“So why does Soros give us money?” asked the person at the wicket in the Commercial Bank branch. He didn’t give me a chance to answer and immediately “enlightened” me by asserting that George Soros intended to buy Macedonia. I asked him why Soros would buy an unrecognized country closed in by two embargoes, and he responded, “That Jew Soros wants to resettle the Jews from Israel to Macedonia!” “But, why?” I shouted. “Because here they’d be secure, while in Israel they’re threatened by a sea of Arabs!” he shot back.

This was my first real-life encounter with a conspiracy theory. The malicious charge that Macedonia was destroyed by Soros’s millions can be read on social networks even today. As Umberto Eco says: “The most unusual aspect of the proven fabrication of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* is not their existence, but their acceptance.” The more fraudulent something is, the more tenacious it is. And tough as weeds.

“Yes, we had a difficult opponent, though I’m not referring to [rival political party] SDSM, it was only a screen, an instrument, a poker... If George Soros hadn’t been behind it—with all the millions that he poured into Macedonia through the entire network of nongovernmental organizations, media, the politicians, inside and outside, whom he pays, the influence of the most powerful states in the world—a decisive influence when we talk about smaller countries like ours—it wouldn’t have been so difficult, and the economy would have been stronger, we would have had more job openings,” stated the former premiere Nikola Gruevski on 3 January 2017. His party, VM-RO-DPMNE, announced an offensive against the *Sorosites*, the first phase in the operation *De-Sorosisation of Macedonia*. By order of the Public Prosecutor’s Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Financial Police and the Financial Intelligence Unit combed through the work of 22 civil society organizations from 2012 to 2017. The case was assembled towards the end of December

© Beka Vučo, Monument of Alexander the Great, Skopje, North Macedonia, 2019

