

Forum:	Historical Security Council
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Introduction

The Kosovo War, also known as the Kosovo Crisis, was an armed conflict that took place in Kosovo and surrounding regions from 1998 to 1999. The conflict was between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which was composed of Serbia and Montenegro, and the Kosovo Albanian separatist group known as the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), resulting in the deaths of an estimated 10,000 people, mostly civilians, and the displacement of over 1 million people (Allcock). Without any doubt, it could be stated that the consequences of Kosovo War had far reaching effects and that the conflict not only occurred in the region but represented the political and international dynamics of the end of 20th century. (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica). This event occurring in the late 20th century not only caused immense displacement and physical/emotional suffering for the individuals and families affected, but also had a profound impact on the economy and political stability of the region, leaving many without access to basic necessities such as food, water, and medical care. Its physical and emotional impacts on those affected, has been noted to cause many to experience trauma and long-term psychological effects.

Along with its profound humanitarian consequences, the war also underscored the significant role that monopolies played in shaping the political and economic landscape of the region. The war fueled, in part, by economic grievances and disparities between the Albanian and Serbian populations, with a small group of powerful economic elites monopolizing key industries and resources also yielded to a growing recognition of the need to break down monopolies and promote fair competition to support economic growth and stability of similar regions, aligning with RCIMUN 2023's theme of "The Monopolies Turning the Wheels of History".

Definition of Key Terms

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY): The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) was a country in Southeastern Europe that existed from 1992 to 2003. It was formed from the two remaining republics of Yugoslavia, Serbia and Montenegro, after the breakup of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) in 1991. The FRY was led by Slobodan Milošević and was involved in a number of conflicts during the 1990s, including the Kosovo War. The Kosovo War was a conflict between the FRY and the Kosovo Albanian separatist group known as the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) that began in 1996 and escalated in 1998, leading to a 78-day NATO bombing campaign against the FRY (Allcock).

Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA): The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) was a separatist group that sought independence for Kosovo, a province in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) with a majority ethnic Albanian population. The group was active during the 1990s, and it was considered a terrorist organization by the Yugoslav government. The KLA conducted a number of military and terrorist actions against Yugoslav security forces and civilian perceived as collaborating with the government with the aim of achieving independence for Kosovo. The group was dissolved after the end of the Kosovo War and the

establishment of the international administration in Kosovo (Sullivan).

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): NATO is a military alliance of European and North American countries, founded in 1949 to provide collective defense against potential aggressors. Its members pledge to defend each other in case of attack and resolve conflicts through diplomacy. In the Kosovo War, NATO launched a 78-day bombing campaign in 1999 against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to force the withdrawal of Yugoslav security forces from Kosovo and establish an international peacekeeping force.

OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission: The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) was a civilian monitoring mission that was deployed to Kosovo in 1998. It was established by the OSCE to verify compliance with the agreements reached between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and the Kosovo Albanian leadership regarding the reduction of tensions in Kosovo and to monitor the human rights situation in the region. The mission was present in Kosovo until 1999 when the Yugoslav security forces withdrew from the region and were replaced by the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) ("OSCE Kosovo").

Rambouillet Agreement: The Rambouillet Agreement was a proposed peace agreement to resolve the Kosovo War, negotiated in Rambouillet, France in February 1999 between representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Kosovo Albanian leadership. The agreement proposed autonomy for Kosovo within Yugoslavia, including the possibility of independence after three years, as well as the deployment of international peacekeeping forces. The FRY delegation rejected the agreement, leading to the NATO bombing campaign against the FRY ("Rambouillet Accords").

Campaign of terror: A campaign of terror is a systematic and sustained series of violent acts committed by a group or government against civilians or an opposing group, with the intent to spread fear and destabilize society. This tactic is used to achieve political or ideological goals and can include bombings, assassinations, kidnappings, and other forms of violence, as well as propaganda and censorship.

General Overview

Background and historical context of the Kosovo War The political and ethnic landscape of Kosovo in the 1990s:

In the 1990s, Kosovo was a province within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) with a majority ethnic Albanian population but was under the control of the Serbian government led by Slobodan Milošević. Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo had long-standing grievances with the Serbian government, including discrimination in areas such as employment and education. They had limited access to political power and faced repression of their cultural rights. Milošević's rise to power in Serbia in the late 1980s and his emphasis on Serbian nationalism further exacerbated tensions between Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo. In 1989, Milošević revoked Kosovo's autonomous status within Yugoslavia, which led to widespread protests among the Albanian population and further strengthened the Albanian nationalist movement. This move was seen by ethnic Albanians as an attempt to suppress their political and cultural rights, and it led to the emergence of Albanian nationalist movements, calling for greater autonomy or independence from Yugoslavia. As a result, by the 1990s, Kosovo was in a state of political and social unrest, with sporadic protests and incidents of violence between Albanians and Serbs. The political and ethnic landscape of the province was deeply divided and tensions were high, laying the foundation for the eventual outbreak of the Kosovo War (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica).

The rise of ethnic Albanian nationalism movements in Kosovo:

The rise of ethnic Albanian nationalist movements in Kosovo before the Kosovo War was a direct response to the suppression of political and cultural rights by the Yugoslav government led by Slobodan Milošević. These movements, led by political leaders such as Ibrahim Rugova, aimed to secure autonomy

or independence for Kosovo, and were driven by a desire for self-determination and to assert their rights as an ethnic group. The suppression of Kosovo's autonomous status within Yugoslavia in 1989 and the repression of any calls for autonomy or independence by the Yugoslav government, led to the emergence of these movements. The Albanian nationalist movements in Kosovo gained support and momentum among the population, particularly in the 1990s, through the organization of peaceful protests, political rallies and cultural events. The growing support for these movements, coupled with the repression by the Yugoslav government, led to the escalation of tensions in the region and eventually to the Kosovo War (Borgen).

The role of Slobodan Milošević and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the conflict:

Slobodan Milošević, the president of FRY from 1989 to 2000, could be considered as a key figure for the Kosovo conflict. Under the leadership of Milošević, Yugoslavian government's policies were viewed to be suppressive against the autonomy of the ethnic Albanian population in Kosovo, which composes a vast majority of the population in the region. These policies included the revocation of Kosovo's autonomy and the repression of Albanian culture and language.

In fact, it could be argued that, along with his aggressive rhetoric, Milošević's actions and policies in Kosovo yielded to the emergence of the Kosovo War as the tensions between ethnic Albanians and the Serbian government pursued to escalate. For some, Milošević's character was known to be authoritarian, ambitious and a strong leader and he definitely was determined to maintain the unity of Yugoslavia and keep the Kosovo province under the control of the Serbian government. (Hosmer).

Escalation of tensions in Kosovo

The emergence of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and its attacks on Yugoslav security forces:

The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) emerged as a separatist group seeking independence for Kosovo in the late 1990s. The group was primarily composed of ethnic Albanians, who made up the majority of the population in Kosovo and had long been oppressed by the Serbian-dominated government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). The KLA was formed as a response to the ongoing repression and human rights violations committed by Yugoslav security forces in Kosovo.

In the early stages of the Kosovo War, the KLA launched a series of attacks on Yugoslav security forces in an effort to gain control of the province. These attacks were primarily targeted at police and military personnel, as well as government buildings and infrastructure. The KLA's tactics were characterized by the use of guerilla warfare and ambushes, which made it difficult for Yugoslav security forces to counter their actions. The KLA's attacks on Yugoslav security forces were seen as acts of resistance against the oppressive policies of the Serbian government and were supported by the majority of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian population. The group's ultimate goal was to gain independence for Kosovo and create an ethnically homogeneous state (Sullivan).

The Yugoslav government's crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo:

In response to the emergence of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and their attacks on Yugoslav security forces, the Yugoslav government implemented a series of policies aimed at suppressing the autonomy of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian population and repressing their culture and language. These policies included revoking Kosovo's autonomy, restricting the use of the Albanian language in public spaces, and banning Albanian-language schools and media. The government also used force to try to crush the KLA and the ethnic Albanian population, which led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, and the deaths of many innocent civilians. Reports of human rights violations committed by Yugoslav security forces, including mass killings, forced displacement, and the use of rape as a weapon of war, were documented and reported by various human rights organizations. The Yugoslav government's actions were seen as a form of ethnic cleansing and were widely condemned by the

international community. These actions not only led to the escalation of the conflict but also violated the basic human rights of the ethnic Albanian population, which further fueled the fire of the war.

The failed efforts of the international community to resolve the conflict through diplomacy:

Even though the failed efforts will be further elaborated in the chair report, the international community has attempted several times to resolve the conflict through diplomatic and peaceful approaches; however, almost all of these ultimately failed to cease the war. The first diplomatic effort was attempted by the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy and Russia by proposing the Rambouillet Accords. Through the accords, these nations called for an end to the hostilities and the deployment of an international peacekeeping force in Kosovo; however, the Yugoslav government refused the terms of the accords, and the talks ultimately resulted in breaking down.

In addition to this attempt, the United Nations (UN) also made an attempt to resolve the conflict through a series of negotiations and peace proposals, but these efforts were also unsuccessful. Later, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1199, which called for an immediate ceasefire and for a political settlement to the crisis. The resolution stayed de jure and was de facto ignored by the Yugoslavian authorities, not changing anything in the continuation of the war. Along with the United Nations, many organizations such as Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) attempted diplomatic solutions but these efforts were also unsuccessful and the failure of these diplomatic efforts led to the NATO intervention in 1999, which ultimately brought an end to the conflict. Despite these failed attempts, the international community continued to exert pressure on the Yugoslav government and the KLA to come to a peaceful resolution, and the Dayton Agreement was signed in 1995, which ended the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and paved the way for the peace agreement in Kosovo ("Rambouillet Accords").

NATO intervention in Kosovo

The decision to launch a bombing campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the withdrawal of Yugoslav security forces from Kosovo and the deployment of an international peacekeeping force:

Perhaps one of the most controversial aspects of the Kosovo conflict which distinguishes it from other conflicts is the intervention of a third party in the region as NATO's decision to launch a bombing campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the Kosovo War was a controversial one and had significant consequences on the civilian population. The bombing campaign was a part of Operation Allied Force that had the purpose of coercing FRY to withdraw its military forces from the Kosovo region and cease the human rights violations against the ethnic Albanians in the region. The campaign lasted for 78 days and it targeted a wide range of miscellaneous infrastructure, ranging from military infrastructure like air defense systems, military bases to civilian structures such as government buildings. According to the Yugoslav government, the bombing campaign resulted in the deaths of around 500 civilians, and the injury of around 2,500. This included the bombing of the Serbian Radio and Television headquarters, which resulted in 16 deaths and 16 injuries. The bombing campaign also caused significant damage to the infrastructure of the country, including homes, schools, and hospitals causing a loss of millions (and billions according to some figures) of dollars. The economic consequences of the bombing campaign were thus severe, as the country's economy was severely impacted by the destruction of infrastructure and the loss of human lives (Chawla).

The bombing campaign also had a significant impact on the civilian population of Kosovo, with around 500,000 people being displaced and many more experiencing the trauma of war. The bombing campaign also led to the deaths of around 10,000 ethnic Albanians, according to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The ICTY also reported that the Yugoslav security forces were responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including mass killings, forced displacement, and the use of rape as a weapon of war. Despite the devastating consequences, NATO justified the bombing campaign as a humanitarian intervention to stop the ethnic cleansing and violence

against the Albanian population in Kosovo. The bombing campaign ultimately brought an end to the conflict, and the peacekeeping force was deployed to Kosovo (Wise).

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY):

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) had a complex policy towards the Kosovo War in the 1990s. Initially, the government of the FRY, led by President Slobodan Milošević, sought to suppress the demands of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo for greater autonomy. This led to the widespread repression of the Albanian population, including police brutality, forced displacement, and political repression (Hosmer). As the war in Kosovo escalated, the FRY government began to take a more hardline stance, refusing to negotiate with the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and instead opting for a military crackdown on the Albanian population.

Despite this, the FRY government was not entirely united in its approach to the Kosovo War since there were certain differing ideas and approaches to the conflict with some of the government officials advocating for negotiation and settlement and some supporting the military solution. The aforementioned pressure implemented by the international community was of course a major game changer as well in shaping FRY's approach.

As the war continued, the FRY government's policies towards Kosovo became increasingly isolated, with the international community imposing sanctions and embargoes on the country. Despite this, the FRY government refused to back down, instead escalating its military campaign against the KLA and the Albanian population. This subsequently led to widespread human rights abuses, including war crimes and crimes against humanity, which were later documented by international organizations. The hardline stance of the FRY government ultimately led to the NATO bombing campaign in 1999, which ended the conflict and led to the withdrawal of Yugoslav troops from Kosovo (Allcock).

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

During the 1990s, NATO's policies on the Kosovo War were heavily focused on the use of military force as a means to bring an end to the conflict. This stance was driven by the belief that the Yugoslav government, led by Slobodan Milošević, was committing human rights abuses against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo and that diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict had failed. In March 1999, after several months of failed diplomatic negotiations, NATO began a bombing campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, targeting military and infrastructure targets in an effort to weaken the Yugoslav military's ability to continue its crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

As part of its military campaign, NATO also deployed a large number of ground troops to Kosovo as part of a peacekeeping force after the war. The goal of these troops was to maintain peace and stability in the region, as well as to provide humanitarian aid to those affected by the conflict. NATO's policies during the Kosovo War also included the establishment of a UN-backed war crimes tribunal to prosecute those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity during the conflict.

Throughout the duration of the war, NATO faced criticism from some nations and organizations for its use of military force, with some arguing that it was not the appropriate response to the situation in Kosovo. However, the alliance maintained that its actions were necessary to protect the human rights of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo and to bring an end to the violence and instability in the region. Despite the criticisms, NATO's policies ultimately succeeded in bringing an end to the war and achieving its stated goals of protecting the human rights of ethnic Albanians and restoring peace and stability to the region (Wise).

Kosovo Albanians:

The Kosovo Albanians, who constitute the majority of the population in Kosovo, had been advocating for independence from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for decades prior to the Kosovo War. They sought autonomy and self-determination, as they felt marginalized and discriminated against by the Yugoslav government's policies. The Kosovo Albanians formed the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in the mid-1990s, which carried out attacks on Yugoslav security forces in an attempt to achieve their goals. The KLA's actions escalated the conflict, leading to the intervention of NATO in 1999 ("Kosovo: Why Is").

Throughout the war, the Kosovo Albanians' main objective was to gain independence from Yugoslavia. They believed that the only way to achieve this was through armed resistance, as peaceful protests and negotiations had not resulted in any substantial changes. The KLA, which was considered a terrorist organization by Yugoslavia, was the main armed group representing the Kosovo Albanians' interests. The group's attacks on Yugoslav security forces were seen as acts of self-defense and a means to achieve their goal of independence.

Despite facing significant military power from Yugoslavia, the Kosovo Albanians remained determined in their efforts for independence and they sought international support for their cause and were able to gain recognition from several countries and organizations as the legitimate representatives of Kosovo. The Kosovo Albanians' stance on the war was that they were fighting for their rights as a people, and that the international community should support their efforts for self-determination and independence. Ultimately, the Kosovo War ended with the withdrawal of Yugoslav forces and the establishment of a UN-administered province of Kosovo, which declared independence in 2008 and is recognized by over 100 countries.

United States of America (USA/US):

Under the leadership of Bill Clinton's presidency, the United States adopted a significant role in the conflict in the latest of 20th century. The US, intrinsically due to its leadership nature in NATO, supported the Albanian party in their fight for independence from the FRY. The Clinton administration believed that Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic was responsible for gross human rights violations against the Albanian population in Kosovo and sought to end the conflict through diplomatic and military means. Following this belief, the United States, along with its NATO allies, launched the bombing campaign against Serbian military targets in an effort to force Milosevic to withdraw his troops from Kosovo and accept a peace deal ("US Foreign Policy").

However, there has been skepticism surrounding the true motivations behind the US involvement in the conflict. One theory is that the US saw the situation in Kosovo as an opportunity to assert its military dominance in the region, and to send a message to other countries in the Balkans and beyond. Some have argued that the US was more interested in showing off its military might than in resolving the conflict or protecting the rights of the Kosovo Albanians. Additionally, there are suggestions that the US had economic interests in the region, such as the desire to secure access to oil and natural resources in the Balkans. Critics argue that the US used the conflict as a pretext to intervene in the region and gain control over these resources. There are some who argue that the US was more interested in preventing the spread of Russian influence in the Balkans, rather than in protecting the rights of the Kosovo Albanians, which frankly also connects to the economic concerns as domination yields to economic volume increase. Some have suggested that the US saw the conflict as an opportunity to push back against Russia's expanding presence in the region, and to maintain its own dominance in the area. With these reasons, it is possible to conclude that the US's policies in the Kosovo War were not entirely noble, and that there were other factors at play in the US's decision to intervene in the conflict.

The United States also played a key role in the negotiations that led to the eventual peace agreement, known as the Kumanovo Agreement, which was signed in June 1999. This agreement granted significant autonomy to Kosovo within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and provided for the deployment of a NATO-led peacekeeping force in the region. The United States' objective was to stabilize the situation in Kosovo and to prevent the spread of violence and humanitarian crisis in the region, which was achieved through the military campaign and the peace agreement.

Thus, the United States' official stance during the Kosovo War was one of support for the Kosovo Albanians and opposition to the actions of the Serbian government and was a solid Albanian supporter bearing in mind its leadership status in NATO.

European Union (EU):

During the Kosovo War, the European Union's official stance was one of support for the Kosovo Albanians and opposition to the actions of the Serbian government. The EU, along with the United States and other NATO allies, believed that Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic was responsible for gross human rights violations against the Albanian population in Kosovo and sought to end the conflict through diplomatic means. The EU played a key role in the negotiations that led to the eventual peace agreement, known as the Kumanovo Agreement, which was signed in June 1999. This agreement granted significant autonomy to Kosovo within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and provided for the deployment of a NATO-led peacekeeping force in the region. The EU also played a significant role in the reconstruction and development of Kosovo after the war. The EU established the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) in 2000 to manage the delivery of humanitarian aid and reconstruction assistance to Kosovo. The EU also deployed a civilian mission, the EULEX, to Kosovo to assist in the rule of law and justice sectors in the region. The EU's objective was to stabilize the situation in Kosovo, to prevent the spread of violence and humanitarian crisis in the region and to support the reconstruction and development of Kosovo after the war (Friis).

Russian Federation:

Unsurprisingly opposite to the US's stance in the conflict, the Russian Federation's official stance was one of opposition to the actions of the NATO-led coalition and support for the Serbian government. Russia believed that the bombing campaign launched by NATO was a violation of international law and that the independence of Kosovo would set a dangerous precedent for separatist movements in other regions. They also believed that the NATO-led intervention was an attempt by the West to expand its influence in the Balkans and to marginalize Russia's role in the region, confirming some skepticism on the state level. Russia strongly opposed the independence of Kosovo and did not recognize its statehood. In terms of policy, Russia actively opposed the NATO-led intervention, and throughout the duration of the conflict, Russia's foreign ministry issued statements condemning the bombing campaign and calling for an immediate ceasefire. Additionally, Russia provided diplomatic and political support for the Serbian government, and was actively involved in negotiations for a peace agreement. Russia's objective during the Kosovo War was to prevent the independence of Kosovo, to defend the territorial integrity of Serbia and to maintain its influence in the Balkans region (Antonenko).

Timeline of Events

March 1989	Serbian President Slobodan Milošević abolishes the autonomy of Kosovo that had been previously granted under the 1974 Yugoslavian constitution.
September 1991	Kosovo Independence Referendum was held, in which an overwhelming majority voted in favor of independence from Yugoslavia. Note that it was boycotted by Serbians residing in the area, comprising around 10% of the population.

July 1997	The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) was formed with the aim of liberating Kosovo from Yugoslavia.
28 February 1998	The Kosovo War begins with a series of attacks by the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) against Serbian security forces in Kosovo.
15 January 1999	The Rambouillet Accords, a proposed peace agreement for Kosovo, are presented to the Yugoslav government.
18 March 1999	Yugoslavia rejects the Rambouillet Accords, and peace talks between Yugoslavia and the Kosovo Albanians break down.
23 March 1999	The North Atlantic Council, the governing body of NATO, votes to authorize the use of military force against Yugoslavia if a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Kosovo is not reached.
24 March 1999	OSCE affirms that the state of Yugoslavia has failed to implement the measures discussed in Rambouillet Accords. NATO begins its bombing campaign by targeting military and infrastructural zones for the purpose of compelling Milošević to withdraw his troops from the Kosovo region. X This is when the debates will begin.

UN Involvement

The United Nations played a significant role in the Kosovo War, through the actions of various UN organizations. The UN Security Council passed Resolution 1244 on June 3, 1999, which called for the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in Kosovo and the withdrawal of Yugoslav security forces. The resolution also established an interim administration for Kosovo, to be run by the UN, and called for the protection of human rights and the return of refugees and displaced persons.

The UN peacekeeping force, known as UNMIK (United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo) was deployed to Kosovo shortly after the resolution was passed. UNMIK was tasked with maintaining a secure and stable environment in Kosovo, as well as overseeing the reconstruction and development of the region. The mission also played a key role in the establishment of democratic institutions and the protection of human rights in Kosovo.

Another UN organization that was involved in the Kosovo War was the UN High Commissioner for

Refugees (UNHCR). The UNHCR played a crucial role in providing humanitarian assistance to the hundreds of thousands of people who were displaced by the conflict. The organization provided shelter, food, and other basic necessities to refugees and internally displaced persons. The UNHCR also played a role in the safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes.

The UN also played a significant role in the aftermath of the Kosovo War. The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) was established in 2008, under the auspices of the UN, with the goal of establishing the rule of law and strengthening the judicial system in Kosovo. The UN also played a role in the normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo, through the EU-facilitated dialogue between the two countries. The UN continues to play a role in the ongoing development of Kosovo, through its various organizations and agencies.

Relevant UN Documents

1. Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Kosovo (10 June 1999, S/1999/613)
2. Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (20 September 1999, S/1999/929)
3. Security Council resolution 1244 (10 June 1999, S/RES/1244)
4. Security Council resolution 1264 (15 September 1999, S/RES/1264)
5. Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (10 November 1999, S/1999/1203)
6. Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (12 January 2000, S/2000/26)
7. Security Council resolution 1274 (24 October 1999, S/RES/1274)
8. Security Council resolution 1287 (11 December 1999, S/RES/1287)
9. Security Council resolution 1315 (14 August 2000, S/RES/1315)
10. Security Council resolution 1345 (22 June 2002, S/RES/1345)
11. Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (22 June 2000, S/2000/567)

Treaties and Events

Rambouillet Agreement/Accords: The Rambouillet Agreement, as aforementioned, was a peace agreement signed in March 1999, during the Kosovo War. The purpose of the agreement was to end the hostilities between the Kosovo Liberation Army and Yugoslavia by establishing an autonomous self-governing state of Kosovo within FRY, which was planned to be brokered by the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Russia, and it was later on presented to the Yugoslav government and the Kosovo Albanian delegation during negotiations at the Château de Rambouillet in France. It consisted of two parts: the first part dealt with the political status of Kosovo, while the second part dealt with the withdrawal of Yugoslav security forces from Kosovo. The first part of the agreement provided for the establishment of an autonomous Kosovo, which would have its own government, parliament, and judicial system while the second part of the agreement provided for the withdrawal of Yugoslav security forces from Kosovo, as well as the deployment of a NATO-led peacekeeping force in the region ("Rambouillet"). With the rejection of the Yugoslavia government to agree on the Rambouillet Agreement, NATO came into the picture by beginning their bombing campaign against FRY which had the aforementioned detrimental effects to the living community in the region but also had the positive effect of ending the war.

The war officially ended with the signing of the Kumanovo Agreement, which provided for the withdrawal

of Yugoslav forces from Kosovo and the deployment of a NATO-led peacekeeping force, KFOR, in the region. The Rambouillet Agreement played a crucial role in the Kosovo conflict as it was the first official peace agreement proposed and was intended to provide a solution for the ongoing violence between the Yugoslav government and the KLA. However, its failure ultimately led to the NATO bombing campaign and the eventual deployment of KFOR, which would shape the future of Kosovo (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica).

Kumanovo Agreement: This agreement was a peace agreement signed on June 9, 1999, during the Kosovo War and it was brokered by the G8 nations, which consist of the United States, Canada, Japan, Russia, Germany, Italy, France, and the United Kingdom. The core purpose of the agreement was to implement the withdrawal of Yugoslav forces from Kosovo and deploy KFOR forces in the region. Under the agreement, Yugoslav forces were required to withdraw from Kosovo within 11 days of the signing of the agreement and it marked the official end of the Kosovo War and the beginning of the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. Just like the Rambouillet agreement, this agreement also suggested the establishment of an interim administration in Kosovo, but this time it was suggested to be run by the UN (Hosmer). Not only did it establish these policies, but it was a significant step in resolving the Kosovo conflict and shaping the future of the region. Its purpose, just like the purpose of all other attempts, is to bring stability to the region by the withdrawal of military (especially FRY) forces from Kosovo and the alternative suggestion was the deployment of a NATO-led peacekeeping force. Along with its *peaceful* aims, the agreement provided for the return of refugees and the establishment of an interim administration in Kosovo, which helped to pave the way for the eventual establishment of the Republic of Kosovo ("Kumanovo").

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244: UNSC Resolution 1244, passed by the United Nations Security Council on June 10, 1999 during the Kosovo War, provided for the deployment of a UN-mandated international peacekeeping force in Kosovo, which was to be known as the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). The resolution established an interim administration in Kosovo, which was to be run by the UN. The resolution was adopted under chapter VII of the UN Charter, which allows the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security. It was adopted by 14 votes in favor and one abstention, by the Russian Federation. It authorized the deployment of the UNMIK and KFOR, the NATO-led peacekeeping force, in Kosovo and provided for the protection of the human rights of all citizens of the region, including the return of refugees and the establishment of democratic institutions. UNSC Resolution 1244 was a significant step in resolving the Kosovo conflict and shaping the future of the region as it provided for the deployment of a UN-mandated peacekeeping force and established an interim administration in Kosovo, which helped to bring stability to the region and pave the way for the eventual establishment of the Republic of Kosovo ("United Nations").

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Ahtisaari Plan: The Ahtisaari Plan, also known as the Comprehensive Proposal for the Kosovo Status Settlement, was a peace plan proposed by UN special envoy Martti Ahtisaari in February 2007. The plan proposed a supervised independence for Kosovo, which would have been monitored by the international community to ensure the protection of the rights of minorities in the region. It was accepted by the government of Kosovo but was rejected by Serbia and did not gain the support of the UN Security Council. The plan proposed to establish an independent and democratic Kosovo, governed by the rule of law, and with the protection of the rights of minorities. It also proposed the deployment of a EU-led mission in Kosovo, known as the EULEX, to ensure the rule of law, and the protection of human rights, and to help Kosovo to establish its institutions ("Summary").

The Ahtisaari Plan failed for a number of reasons as firstly, the plan proposed a supervised independence for Kosovo, which was not accepted by Serbia. Serbia rejected the plan as it would mean the loss of its province and the independence of Kosovo would be a violation of Serbia's sovereignty. Serbia also rejected the idea of the international community supervising Kosovo's independence and the deployment

of international missions in the country. Secondly, the plan did not gain the support of the UN Security Council either since Russia, a P5 member, opposed the plan as it saw it as a violation of Serbia's sovereignty and a precedent for the independence of other regions. Russia also vetoed a draft resolution presented by the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, which would have supported the Ahtisaari Plan. Lastly, the plan was criticized by some Kosovo Albanians as it did not provide for the immediate independence of Kosovo, and the idea of supervised independence was not accepted by them. They saw it as a delaying tactic and wanted to have an immediate independence without any conditions. Despite this, the Ahtisaari Plan played a significant role in shaping the future of Kosovo, by laying the foundation for the country's independence and for the deployment of international missions in the country.

Possible Solutions

First of all, the diplomatic approach to solving this crisis is the number one method that should be pursued or at least tried out. Even though similar methods have been tried out in the past, a key aspect of this solution would be to bring all parties of the conflict to the table, especially FRY and the KLA, to negotiate the details of solving this crisis. The underlying issues must be determined beforehand at they must be directly addressed during these summits and negotiations. This could involve proposing a plan for autonomy for Kosovo within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as guarantees for the protection of minority rights and the return of refugees.

Additionally, it could be an option to consider the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in the region to help maintain peace and security once a diplomatic solution has been reached. This might help to ensure that all parties adhere to the terms of the agreement and would provide a neutral third-party presence in the region to help prevent any future conflicts. However, do not forget that the deployment of UN peacekeeping forces to cease a conflict might not always work and exacerbate the situation of the conflict even more. It is also of top significance where these forces will be deployed from and it cannot be ensured if the deployment of peacekeeping forces would create even more problems as it is sometimes viewed as a way of powerful nations oppressing the public of a sovereign nation. Ultimately, a diplomatic solution that addresses the underlying issues of the conflict and involves all parties, including regional actors, and the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force, would be the most effective way to bring an end to the hostilities in Kosovo and pave the way for a lasting peace in the region.

It is important to address the humanitarian crisis in the region in addition to pushing for a diplomatic solution to the conflict. Provision of humanitarian aid, such as food, shelter and medical assistance, to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the crisis is of crucial significance. This could involve working with international aid institutions like Red Cross to deliver aid to those in need. It must be always beared in mind that protecting civilians is of paramount importance during a conflict, and this can be achieved by implementing safe zones, providing security for civilians, as well as ensuring the protection of minority groups. The trauma of war and displacement can have a significant impact on the mental health of those affected by the crisis, providing psychological support, such as counseling, would help to address the mental health needs of those affected by the conflict. Once the conflict has been resolved and peace has been restored, it is important to promote the reconstruction of the region, this could involve providing financial assistance for the rebuilding of homes, businesses, and other infrastructure that were destroyed during the conflict.

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