

Committee: Special Political and Decolonization Committee

Issue: The Question of Admission of Kosovo as a United Nations Member

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Position: Co-Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Katerina Tziola and I couldn't be more honored and excited to have been given the ability to serve as a co-chair in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee of this year's Deutsche Schule Thessaloniki Model United Nations.

First of all, I wish to congratulate all of you for participating in this conference. From past experiences I am convinced that participating in a United Nations simulation will prove to be helpful in every way possible, from expanding your knowledge in English and debating on worldwide issues of global significance, to having fun and meeting new people.

Both of the topics of this year's agenda, are of major importance. This study guide though, will focus on the second topic of the agenda, namely the question of the admission of Kosovo as a United Nations member. Kosovo's admittance to the UN has been a crucial and controversial issue within the United Nations for several years. Many agreements have been signed and many discussions have been made, notwithstanding, finding a feasible solution that would satisfy all Member States seems almost unattainable. It is, therefore, in the responsibility of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, to cooperate and work together in order to find a long term solution to this issue.

This study guide, as mentioned, is to introduce you briefly to the topic, and give you an overview of the blocks involved and your country's policy. I, thus, encourage you to read the study guide carefully, check the bibliography down below in order to examine some of the sources yourself, and to furthermore conduct your own personal research on the topic for a more detailed notion, that will ensure you are accumulated with the issue to the needed extent.

My email address, tziolakate@gmail.com, remains always open for you and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this study guide, our topic, your delegation's policy or the rules of procedure in general.

Have fun researching!

Yours truly,

Katerina Tziola

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Kosovo is a self-declared independent country located in the Western Balkan Peninsula. Throughout the years the question of its United Nations membership has been regularly discussed.

Kosovo was first settled by Slavs and was a part of the Ottoman Empire from 1389 to 1913. After the World War I, it became a part of the Yugoslavian Republic, under which a high degree of autonomy was given to the region. However, those rights were abstracted when Yugoslavia fell apart during the 90's, leading to an escalation of the already existing tensions between Kosovo's split Albanian and Serb populations.

The culmination of national conflicts combined with strong historical hostilities started the Kosovo War. Basically, the constant Serbian oppression on one hand and Kosovo's lack of cooperation on the other, led to political resistance movements such as the Bosnian War or the formation of Kosovo's Liberation Army (KLA). At this point it is important to mention that in the aftermath of these acts any peaceful way to handle the crisis between Serbia and its province seemed delusory.

The issue should be both historically and ethnically examined: Historically, the area of Kosovo has long been considered a province of Serbia. However ethnically, the majority of Kosovo's population is Albanian. In 2008, Kosovo declared independence. Serbia recognized it as illegal and the matter was brought to the International Court of Justice. The ICJ ruled the declaration "not illegal", as it didn't violate the international law. Nowadays, the European Union as well as the United Nations are seeking for a possible normalization of the relations and for the reestablishment of peace.



Figure 1: Map showing ethnic Serbian and Albanian population

That being said, some seem to forget that the procedure to become a UN member requires being recognized and accepted as an independent country by all its

member states. Thus, Kosovo’s autonomy shall be questioned and considered as well, since it’s clearly a major factor on its admission as a UN member.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Autonomous province

An autonomous province is a term for a type of province -a region within a country- that has administrative autonomy. An autonomous province is still a part of the country and it usually has less autonomy than an autonomous state.¹

Ethnic Diversity

The marked differences between people of many ethnic groups, as well as slight variations in behavior of persons in the same ethnic group, that coexist within the greater culture. In a larger society is the population that is bound together by common ties of race, language, nationality or culture.²



Figure 2: Ethnic diversity in Kosovo, 2002

¹“Autonomous Province.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 8 May 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autonomous_province.

²*Race Relations*, racerelations.net/?page_id=28.
 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Ethnic Group.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 25 July 2017, www.britannica.com/topic/ethnic-group.

Nationalism

The support of one nation's interests, especially to the exclusion or detriment of the interests of other nations. Nationalism can also be defined as the advocacy for the political independence of a particular or people.³

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ottoman Empire and Serbian rule

The Ottoman Empire, founded around 1299, was one of the longest-lasting dynasties in world history, ruling large areas of the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe for more than 600 years. During this period of time, many Turks moved to Kosovo while later on, Kosovo became 95% Albanian due to some influx of Albanians under Ottoman rule.

In 1389 Serbia fought off an Ottoman invasion near Kosovo's present day capital Pristina. Since this battle, the so called "Battle of the Blackbirds", Kosovo has been thought of as a Serbian territory and in fact, many Serbians are nowadays referring to the 1389 battle as a direct historical link to Kosovo being Serbian. A rise of immigrating Albanians was notably compounded by the mass exodus of Serbians from Kosovo in the late 1600's.

Serbia achieved independence from the Ottomans and an official recognition as a state in the 1878 Treaty of Berlin, coupled with, in 1912, the enforcement of Kosovo within the Serbian borders. Finally, during the first Balkan War and more specifically in the Treaty of London, Serbia gained power over Kosovo which remained a part of the country until the 1980's.



Figure 3: Map of the Ottoman Empire, mid-19th century

³Dictionaries, Oxford. "Nationalism: Definition of Nationalism in English by Lexico Dictionaries." *Lexico Dictionaries | English*, Lexico Dictionaries, www.lexico.com/en/definition/nationalism.

In the meantime, the territory which today belongs to the Republic of Albania, remained part of the Ottoman Empire until it declared independence in 1912, during the Balkan Wars. Albania was given territory by Kosovo due to the cultural significance it held for it, denying Serbia in turn. The Ottoman Empire had less power over the Balkans during the turn of the 20th century and officially fell apart in 1922.

Yugoslavia

Yugoslavia was formed in 1918 as the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in the peace settlements at the end of the First World War. ⁴It consisted of six republics -Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia- and two Serbian provinces -Vojvodina in the north and Kosovo in the south. Similar to the republics, these provinces were allowed autonomy and the right to self-governance.

The formation of Yugoslavia and the majority of the Balkans being incorporated into it, entails Serbia's loss of sovereignty over Kosovo which had a lot of privileges and more self-autonomy than other countries within Yugoslavia. Furthermore, according to the 1974 Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY), the constitution Kosovo was declared "Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija", giving it almost the same rights as Yugoslavia's six republics, as mentioned above, and actually granting the status of "federal autonomous unit". That being said, Kosovo Albanians continued to demand full republic status while the resident Serbs complained of harassment.

Slobodan Milosevic, the president of Serbia from 1989 until 1997, pursued at the time some nationalist policies: in 1989, he abstracted the rights of the abovementioned SFRY constitution in order for Serbia to take control of the province.



Figure 4: President Slobodan Milosevic arrives in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, to meet mine workers on strike over constitutional changes, December 1988

⁴"Yugoslavia | Definition of Yugoslavia in English by Lexico Dictionaries." *Lexico Dictionaries | English*, Lexico Dictionaries, www.lexico.com/en/definition/yugoslavia.

In response to this act, Kosovo started an aggressive campaign claiming its autonomy which was rather supported and maintained by the people, since 57% of Kosovo wanted outright independence, 43% wanted to join Albania and 0% wanted to remain with Yugoslavia. Violent protests took place in which more than 20 people were killed and in addition, Kosovo's Liberation Army (KLA) was formed with the goal of a greater Albania providing no peaceful solutions to the problem. The tensions escalated quickly and eventually, there were 20 more victims when Yugoslavia sent troops, tanks, warplanes and police forces to Kosovo.

During the Bosnian War (1992-1995), Albania's parliament recognized Kosovo as independent and the first president of the self-proclaimed republic of Kosovo was elected which wasn't approved by the Serb authorities.

Finally, after a period of political and economic crisis, the republics of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia split apart in 1991 coupled with later inter-ethnic Yugoslav wars due to unresolved issues.

Kosovo War and NATO's intervention

After the breakup of Yugoslavia, series of bomb attacks have been conducted by the KLA and after that, their leader was killed in 1997 in a gunfight with the police.

The militancy in Kosovo emerged in 1995, when the KLA orchestrated the so called "Insurgency in Kosovo" (1995-1998). It was basically a campaign of violence



Figure 5: Serbian and other non-Albanian refugees

throughout the region with terrorist attacks, for instance attacking Serbian government buildings, killing policemen, targeting ethnically Serbian villages, and general infrastructure. Its aim was to independence through force. On the other hand, Milosevic sent more Serbian security forces into Kosovo to defeat the KLA.

The insurgency led to the Kosovo War in March 1998. The open conflict between Kosovar Albanian forces and Serbian military and police forced 400,000 people from their homes. The international community was now in fear of the war's humanitarian consequences and the risk of it spreading to other countries.

In May 1998 North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) first meeting concerning the Kosovo crisis took place: they decided to contribute to the response of the international community as well as provide and promote security and stability in the neighboring countries. In addition to this, NATO



Figure 6: Ethnic Albanians fleeing Kosovo

offered in September 1998 an ultimatum to President Milosevic, in particular to accept a peace deal or to face a military action. The Serbian government rejected this offer, as they were not interested in a partial agreement under an American influence but in a beneficial settlement of the issue. In response, the NATO Council authorized in October 1998 Activation Orders for air strikes on Serb military targets in Kosovo and throughout Serbia itself, in order to withdraw the Milosevic forces from Kosovo, to bring an end to the violence and to facilitate the return of refugees. The US and its Western allies intervened in March 1999 and bombed Serbia for 78 days. The Milosevic forces agreed to comply as well as KLA agreed to disarm and the air strikes were called off.

Later on, the Kosovar Albanians returned to Kosovo and the Kosovar Serbians fled to Serbia. Kosovo was finally placed under UN administration.

Kosovo's Chances of a United Nations Membership

The tensions between Albanians and Serbs in Kosovo continue into the 21st century and sporadic violence has occurred. In October 2003 Kosovo Albanians and Serbian politicians met for the first time since 1999 and compromised to agree on final status talks overruled by the United Nations due in 2005. A Serbian referendum in 2006, approved with narrow majority a new constitution which included a preamble that flatly described Kosovo as an "integral part of Serbia". The majority of Kosovar Albanians undoubtedly boycott it and thence the United Nations proposed a independents plan for Kosovo which was welcomed by the Kosovar Albanians whereas rejected by the Serbians. Meanwhile the issue was held to Security Council to decide about Kosovo's independence where Russia opposed to the resolution and the USA's support was noticeable. Under those circumstances the talks ended in deadlock.

In February 2008 Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia even though Serbia considered it illegal as a violation of its territorial integrity. In October 2008 the UN General Assembly voted and referred Kosovo's secession to the International Court of Justice. In the meantime, Kosovo joined the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Ultimately, the ICJ ruled in 2010 Kosovo's declaration "not illegal" since there was no violation of international law.

Both Serbia and Kosovo were and still are seeking to join the European Union. Henceforth, the presidents of Serbia and Kosovo considered the redrawing of borders between Serbia and Kosovo, as part of the normalization of relations required for their EU accession. However a border change would have some considerable difficulties in agreeing the specifics of a new border and a fear of possibly reigniting the conflicts. The majority of the EU was in favor of any deal between them that will follow the international law, nevertheless Germany and the United Kingdom were

against any border changes. The UK and the German embassy in Pristina both stated that the correction of the national borders could be a destabilizing factor in the region and beyond and they both supported to a further agreement between Kosovo and Serbia with the EU participation.



Figure 7: The Kosovan-Serbian border is watched by NATO peacekeepers

In 2013 Kosovo and Serbia agreed not to block each other's way to an eventual European Union membership, which is dependent upon their regularizing of relations. Thus, external pressure could be the only way to improve the strained relations.

Equally important with the EU membership is to Kosovo the UN membership. Therefore, the question that must be analyzed is how can a country become a member of the United Nations: according to the Chapter VII of the UN Charter, every "peace-loving" state is welcomed to the Organization provided that it will be able to carry out all the obligations written in the Charter and judged by the Organization. Countries are admitted to membership in the United Nations by decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. Any recommendation for admission must receive the affirmative votes of 9 of the 15 members of the Council, provided that none of the p5 members (China, France, the Russian Federation, the UK and the USA) have voted against the application. Not to forget, that Russian Federation, as an ally of Serbia, is able to unilaterally veto

admission to the UN. Afterwards, the recommendation is presented to the General Assembly to vote and with a 2/3 majority of the countries present, the state can be admitted.



Figure 8: Serbia's Minister of Foreign Affairs (left) and the President of Kosovo (right) shake hands in Brussels in December 2013 as EU Foreign-Policy chief looks on.

Since the International Court of Justice, as previously mentioned, has declared the independence as “not illegal” as well as in accordance with the international law and, now, with the judicial pronouncement in favor of Kosovo’s policy, the Kosovar authorities are allowed to apply for a UN membership. However,

even though *the UN does not recognize States, admission of an entity into its membership, signifies that that entity has been accepted as a State by all its members*⁵. The traditional requirements for a region to be considered a state -for statehood- are firstly a permanent population, meaning stable inhabitants in the territory, secondly a defined territory, thirdly an effective government and lastly the capacity to enter into relations with other States.⁶ Kosovo possesses permanent population and its territory is recognized. Despite that, Kosovo has no effective government in place since it’s controlled indirectly by foreign forces such as NATO, the United Nations Mission In Kosovo (UNMIK) etc. and haven’t sorted the issues with Serbia yet. Fertile dialogue and collaboration is now, more than ever, for both needed.

The Republic of Kosovo is currently diplomatically recognized by 105 countries and supported by 53%, more specifically by 102 out of 193 member states of the United Nations.

⁵Efewerhan, David. Kosovo’s Chances of UN Membership: A Prognosis. 2012, www.gojil.eu/issues/41/41_article_efewerhan.pdf.

⁶Article 1, Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States.

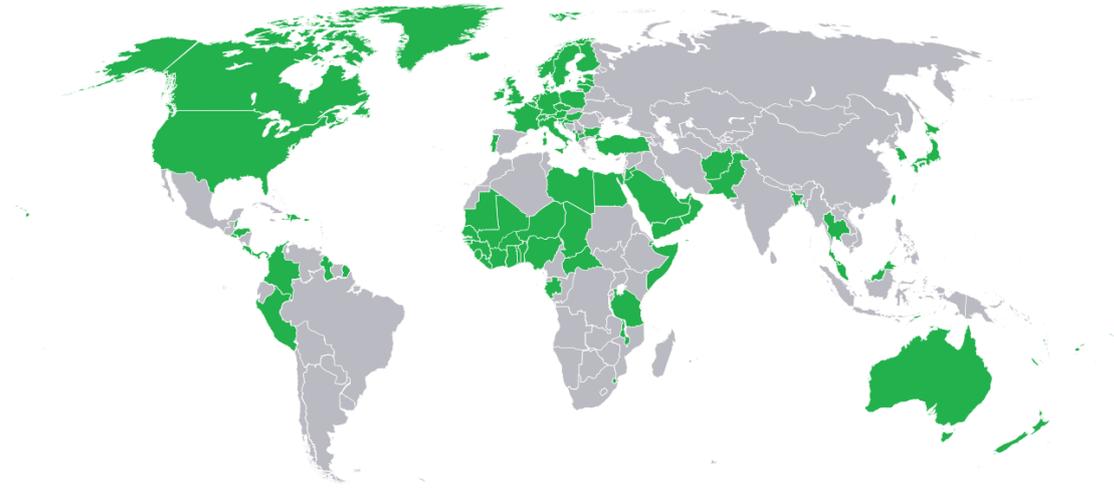


Figure 9: Map of states that have recognized Kosovo's independence (December 2018)

In spite of the recognition as matter in question, can Kosovo survive as an independent country? To begin with, Kosovo was considered the poorest region in the former Yugoslavia and after its collapse, the percent didn't change. Since the declaration of its independence in 2008, Kosovo's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rose from 5.6 billion dollars up to 6.3 billion dollars in 2015. The new nation is currently also struggling with many challenges concerning mainly its mounting economic issues with a 33% of unemployment, its hostile neighboring countries and its remaining ethnic tensions with the Serb minority which, keeping in mind that Kosovo's military force is small and more specifically 5,000 active soldiers ⁷ for a population of 1.8 million people, can be risky. Kosovo is greatly dependent on imports, and is connected to organized crime and corruption.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Kosovo

Kosovo was officially part of Serbia from 1912 and afterwards, in 1918, it became part of Yugoslavia. It is still divided along ethnic lines since 90% of its population is Albanian and even almost ten years after its declaration of independence on 17 February 2008, it remains in deep crisis and it is challenged by a combination of political, economic and social problems. Kosovars still desire their country's entry to the European Union as well as to the United Nations.

⁷Surk, Barbara. "Kosovo Parliament Votes to Create an Army, Defying Serbia and NATO." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 14 Dec. 2018, www.nytimes.com/2018/12/14/world/europe/kosovo-army-serbia-nato.html.

Albania

With over 93% of the total population of Kosovo being Albanian and considering that Albanian is an official language of Kosovo, Albania supports Kosovo every step of the way: When Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia in 2008, Albania became one of the first countries to officially announce its recognition of the sovereign Republic of Kosovo. Albania is in favor of Kosovo's entrance in the UN, in the EU as well as in NATO, where it is a full member of.

Serbia

Serbia continues to consider Kosovo as its own province and a Serbian territory and thus is against its independence. However, there is only a minority of Serbians in Kosovo. More specifically, only one in every twelve Kosovars identifies as an ethnic Serbian and most of them are concentrated in the north. Serbia is also working on joining the European Union. Therefore, the country is pressured to make a deal with Kosovo, yet the relations between them remain tense.

Russian Federation

Russian Federation has supported and sided with Serbia since the beginning of this conflict. Russian President Vladimir Putin courted Serbia as an ally and even visited Serbia to express his solidarity. In fact, the country's reaction to the 2008 Kosovo declaration of independence is one of strong opposition. Russia has also criticized the establishment of the Kosovar army as illegal. Finally, Russia continues to oppose the entry of Serbia not only in the European Union but also in the United Nations, since it blames this so far unsolved issue on the intervention of the USA and the Western Europe. Not to forget is that, Russia's veto power in the Security Council means it can block Kosovo's attempt at UN membership.

USA

The United States was one of the first countries to recognize Kosovo's independence and since then it has consistently provided support for Kosovars. As an ally, the USA's goal is to help Kosovo by strengthening institutions, human rights, rule of law, and more recently, by supporting the negotiations with Serbia aiming at a potential integration into the EU and the UN. Kosovar leaders seem to rely on the United States as their country's most powerful and reliable ally.

NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance with 29 members which agreed to mutual defense opposed to an attack of a non-member country. NATO is very involved with the issue discussed: they orchestrated two important meetings in 1998 concerning the escalation of violence in

Kosovo during the Kosovo War and also authorized orders for air strikes to support diplomatic efforts and to withdraw the Milosevic forces. Its member states have also contributed for Kosovo Force (KFOR), a peacekeeping force to establish a secure environment in Kosovo which was gradually reformed to the self-sufficient Kosovo's Security Force. As for the humanitarian problems that Kosovo dealt with, NATO focused on providing immediate practical assistance to the many refugees of the war.

KLA

The Kosovo's Liberation Army, also known as the KLA, was an ethnic Albanian nationalist militant group, a separatist movement. KLA was active during the 1990s and aiming at an eventual creation of a greater Albania. Their goal was Kosovo's independence and separation from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and from Serbia. However their ideas were implemented by violent actions rather than by peaceful solutions. KLA orchestrated for example the "Insurgency in Kosovo" and hence also started the Kosovo War.

BLOCS EXPECTED

Since the recognition and acceptance of Kosovo as an autonomous and independent state is so tightly bound with its admission as a UN member, the blocs that should be formed when writing a resolution are:

Bloc against

Namely, the bloc that is completely against the recognition of Kosovo-and consequently also against its admission as a United Nations member- and supports Serbia's point of view, emphasizing the historical bond between Serbia and its province, Kosovo. Countries such as Russia, China and some European Union members strongly object to letting Kosovo break away from Serbia over Serbia's objections.

Bloc in favor

More specifically, the alliance that is completely in favor of the recognition of independence of Kosovo-and therefore also in favor of its entrance in the UN- and have declared it by officially recognizing the state. The countries in this bloc are stressing the fact that, taking into consideration the percentages of Kosovo's population, it is fair and ethically correct for it to be regarded as autonomous. Some international heavyweights such as the United States, Britain, France and Germany all formally recognized Kosovo.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
1912	Balkan Wars: Serbia regains control of Kosovo from the Turks
1913	Treaty of London: recognition of Serbia's control over Kosovo
1946	Kosovo in the Yugoslav Federation
1974	Yugoslav constitution recognizes Kosovo's autonomy
1989	President Slobodan Milosevic abstracts the rights of the 1974 constitution
1990s	KLA is formed, tensions escalate
1991-1992	The Yugoslavian Federation falls apart
1995-1998	The Insurgency in Kosovo
1998	Open conflict between Serbian military and Albanian Kosovar forces – NATO's first meeting concerning the crisis
1998-1999	The Kosovo War
1999	NATO launches air strikes against Serbia
February 2008	Kosovo declares independence, Serbia considers it illegal
October 2008	UN General Assembly votes and refers the independence declaration to the ICJ
2010	The ICJ rules Kosovo's independence declaration "not illegal"
2013	EU starts negotiating an association agreement with Kosovo
2014-2019	Normalization attempts and talks in progress

RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

The International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion named "Accordance with international law of the unilateral declaration of independence in respect of Kosovo." on the 22. July 2010, No. 141, refers to the background of the issue and then

analyzing the question whether is in accordance to the international law for Kosovo to declare its independence by presenting a previous resolution of the Security Council 1244 (1999). The Court stated that *“that general international law contains no applicable prohibition of declarations of independence”* and eventually decided that the declaration *“did not violate general international law”*.

Worth mentioning is also a 2019 briefing by the head of UNMIK DURING THE 8459th meeting of the Security Council concerning the recent developments in Kosovo (S/PV.8459) . When the president gave the floor to Ms. Citaku, the Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to the United States, she stated that *“Kosovo will not ever negotiate its statehood or its independence — not today, not tomorrow, never”* and that they are prepared to make negotiations as equal neighbors. She further mentioned where the problem in her opinion lies and more specifically to the fact that *“Serbia is inherently opposed to the idea that Kosovo is its equal”*.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The previous attempts to solve this issue were mainly conducted by international authorities and organizations rather than Kosovo itself. To be exact, at the beginning of the 1990s the international community had adopted the role of the passive observer, thinking that the crisis in Kosovo was an internal matter for Yugoslavia to settle. However, by the end of the decade and after seeing its serious escalation, they decided to get involved and since then, the issue reached its internationalization.

UNMIK’s attempts

For example UNMIK, the United Nations Mission In Kosovo was created to diplomatically handle any further tensions with the political leadership of Serbia and to implement the 1244 Security Council’s resolution in 1999 which provides a framework that would control the return of the refugees and the withdrawal of the military forces from Kosovo by authorizing military presence.

NATO’s attempts

NATO was also mentioned in that resolution and considered as a great help to the conflicts by creating KFOR. Furthermore, the organization managed a ceasefire by threatening Serbia with the use of force, when the Kosovo’s crisis was viewed as a threat to international peace and security.

Other attempts

From 1992 to 1999, numerous resolutions were passed by the UN General Assembly in relation to the escalating crisis in Kosovo, in the context of Yugoslavia, raising deep concerns about violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The United Nations, the European Union and other international actors continue to support the development of a stable, democratic, multi-ethnic and peaceful Kosovo. The Contact Group, an informal formation of great powers was created by the United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy and Russia to organize an international peace conference on Kosovo. Nevertheless, they couldn't manage to find a long-term solution to the problem.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Kosovo desires a status that allows its full international integration. On the other hand, Serbia wants to ensure the rights and the protection of Kosovo's Serbs.

Assuming that the EU and UN perspectives for Kosovo do not fade- because in that case Kosovo's and Serbia's willingness to negotiate will fade as well- compromise under some international forces seems to be the first reasonable solution concerning the question of admission of Kosovo as a UN member. This idea has already been suggested, ending however in deadlock. In order for the Serbs to accept Kosovo's independence, they have to be made an offer by for example the European Union which ensures protection of their ethnic minorities and a possible agreement on redrawing borders between Kosovo and Serbia.

Border change may have considerable difficulties in agreeing the specifics of a new border, however there appear to be three options: Firstly, for the entirety of North Kosovo, which includes four ethnic Serb-majority municipalities, to become part of Serbia. Secondly, to transfer North Kosovo to Serbia but assign ethnic Albanian-majority municipalities in the south of Serbia to Kosovo. Lastly, to return the Kosovo-Serb border to the one that existed in 1956, which would transfer several villages in Kosovo, mainly populated by ethnic Serbs, to Serbia, in exchange for several villages mainly populated by ethnic Albanians to Kosovo. The matter can be put to referendum, the prospects for which remain unclear. The border change can eventually rejuvenate the conflict and might call into question other western Balkan borders, whereas taking the risk might allow Kosovo's admission to the United Nations.

Seeing these possible solutions to the matter, we must take into consideration that any solution may cause other culturally independent and autonomous areas in several countries, such as Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia to demand independence as well.

Concluding, both Serbs and ethnic Albanians have important claims and ties to Kosovo. Although the creation of an independent Kosovo will be ideal from one perspective, such a drastic measure could bring further instability in the region and therefore, that independence essentially needs to happen in stages.

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