The Kosovo War, NATO Involvement..pdf

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Introduction

Kosovo is a self-declared independent country located in the Balkans region of Europe. Kosovo is boarded to Serbia to the north & east, Macedonia to the south, Albania to the west, and Montenegro to the northwest. Kosovo is a small county similar to the size of Lebanon, and it’s the smaller country in the Balkans. Kosovo name is determined from a Serbian place-name meaning “field of blackbirds”.

Kosovo`s declaration of independence from Serbia was accepted in 2008 by United State (US) and most members of the European union (EN), excluding Serbia, Russia, china, plus several countries from EU. The below figure shows some information about Kosovo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official Name</th>
<th>Republika e Kosovës (Albanian); Republika Kosovo (Serbian) (Republic of Kosovo)¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Form of government/Political status</td>
<td>multiparty transitional republic² with one legislative house (Assembly of Kosovo [120³])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International authority</td>
<td>UN Interim Administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of state</td>
<td>President: Hashim Thaçi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of government</td>
<td>Prime Minister: Isa Mustafa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Pristina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official languages</td>
<td>Albanian; Serbian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official religion</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monetary unit</td>
<td>Euro (€)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>(2015 est.) 1,843,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure (1):**

¹ Alternative short-form names in Albanian
² In Feb. 17, 2008 independent was declared, and in June. 15, 2008 the constitution become effective. Despite ICG ruling that support Kosovo`s independence in 2010 Serbia continue to claim Kosovo as an integral part
³ Twenty seats are reserved for minority communities.
I Historical Background

In the 12th century Kosovo was under the Serbian empire which was subject to the rule of the Nemanjic dynasty. The Nemanjic dynasty was the most important dynasty of Serbia in the middle ages. During that period, the Nemanjic led to the establishment of the Serbian Orthodox Church.4

Turkish Ottoman Empire came to power and occupied Kosovo for 500 years, from the mid-15th to early 20th century. During Ottoman rule Christian Serb start to leave the region. Over century’s numbers of Muslims and Albanians religious and ethnic groups rise. Before WWI Ottoman has been defeated by four Balkan countries, in 20th century Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro and Serbia had succeeded to gain independence from Ottomans. These countries established the Balkan League in 1912 to be directed against the Ottoman Empire. At that time the Ottoman Empire was still in control of the ethnic population.

In 1918 Serbia gain control over Kosovo and it became a part of Kingdom of Serbia. Then countries of southeast Europe came together under the name Kingdome of Serbia, Croats and Slovenes by the merge of State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs. In October 3rd 1929 State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs was renamed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Albanians was treated as national minority with no rights to the republic of their own.

Yugoslav tries to gain Kosovars by establishing Albanians schools and culture institution. On the other hand, Albanians were provocative by the state security police. 200,000 were immigrated to Turkey during 1945-1966. Yugoslav Constitution referred to Kosovo as a self-governing state of Kosovo in 1963. But its constitutional state was determined by Serbia’s parliament.

Slobodan Milosevic a communist leader visited Kosovo in April 24th 1987 to calm the Kosovo Serbs fury against their perceived mistreatment. Milosevic said 'No one should dare to beat you!' repeatedly broadcast on Serbs television. Due to this aggressive speech Milosevic became a nationalist revival and he became the president of Serbia in December 1987. During his rule he helped his allies to power in Vojvodina, Montenegro and Kosovo in late 1988. Early 1989 the Serbs Parliament makes a constitution adjustment and Kosovo reasserting Serbian control over Kosovo.

In 1990, Serbs took control of Kosovo’s over radio, television station and major industrial institution and Belgrade (Capital of Serbia) dissolve the Kosovo government.

4 Bideleux Robert, “The troubled history of the region, and the deep-rooted antagonisms between the different ethnic groups laying claim to it”, it - See more at: http://www.historytoday.com/robert-bideleux/kosovos-conflict#sthash.TUoBdHZT.dpuf
After April 1990 Kosovo started non-violent resistance under the leadership of the democratic league of Kosovo (LDK), founded by Dr. Ibrahim Rugova in December 1989, and was elected the president of the self-proclaimed republic. Three countries declared their independence from the Yugoslavia Federation which was Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia.

Between 1993 -1997 an Ethnic tension and armed unrest escalate. From March to September 1998 an open conflict starts between Serb Police and separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). KLA used offensive guerrilla attacks and take control over half of Kosovo. Milosevic was in a very critical situation force him to negotiate with Kosovars. The success of KLA on restraining Serbs could infect neighboring Macedonia and hence the Balkans as a whole, NATO only called for rebuilding Kosovo’s self-government and respect for civil rights and put military intervention as a plan B.

II North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Intervention

NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance. It was established in April 4th 1949. It was located in Haren, Brussels and Belgium, where the supreme allied commander resides.

In September 23rd 1998 United Nation Security Council approved resolution 1199 to demand ceasefire. US Deputy Richard Holbrooke was responsible of the negotiation. In 23 March, 1999 negotiation failed; and the matter where handed to NATO5. In 24 March, 1999 NATO starts an air strike on Serbian people and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). According to NATO, the operation seeks to protect human right in Kosovo. This was the first time NATO used military force with the approval of UN Security Council. NATO bombing continued for 78 days, from 24 March to 10 June 1999. Heavy NATO airstrike led to the withdrawal of Yugoslav army from Kosovo and the establishment of UNMIK, a UN Mission in Kosovo.

III NATO Goals of Intervention

NATO objectives were stated at the North Atlantic council meeting held at Brussels on 12 April 1999:

- Terminate of all violence and military action by Milosevic government.
- Removal of all military, police paramilitary forces in Kosovo.

- UN peacekeeping in Kosovo.
- Safe return of all refugee and displaced people.
- Creating political framework treaty for Kosovo based on “Rambouillet Accords”

IV Current Situation of Kosovo

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia and established the Republic of Kosovo in February 17, 2008. Kosovo independence’s was recognized by 22 out of 27 countries in EU. The international court of justice ruled that the independence didn’t violate the international law. The EU has hold negotiation between Serbia and Kosovo due to Serbian diplomatic power that persuade countries to mot recognize their independence. Also, it used parallel governing institutions in Serb-majority district in Kosovo.

V Political Situation

Political framework takes place in multi-party parliamentary representative democratic republic, whereby the prime minister is the head of government, and the president of Kosovo is the head of state.

On 2015 the parliament rewrites the constitution to allow the creation of a special EU-backed court to examine war crimes ostensibly committed by ethnic Albanian guerrillas during the 1998-1999 war. As of 20 October 2015, 111 UN states have recognized the independence of Kosovo and it has become a member country of the IMF and World Bank. 23 out of 28 EU member states recognize the independence; Spain, Cyprus, Greece, Slovakia and Romania have not done so, mainly due to issues with minorities and separatist movements in their own respective countries.

VI Economic Situation

Kosovo is considered as one of the poorest countries in Europe. About 45 per cent of the population of Kosovo is poor, with another 18 per cent vulnerable to poverty. As much as 13 per cent of population is extremely poor. Extreme poverty is considerably higher (44%) among the Serbian minority than among Kosovo’s Albanian.

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* Rambouillet Agreement was a proposed peace agreement between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and a delegation representing the Albanian majority population of Kosovo.
Economic growth in Kosovo is depending on donors and international staff working in the country. On 2008 the Mid-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) was approved by the Government of Kosovo. The main aim of the MTEF is to fix the Government’s development priorities and spending guidelines for the future of the country. It is also an important reference documents for international donors.

A major problem facing Kosovo is Corruption. The actions taken by the Government of Kosovo to face corruption were weak which affect the functions of the public administration and infrastructure. Due to the corruption, the foreign investment is low and it is unlikely to increase.

**VII Futuristic Expectation**

Kosovo has been accepted by most of world leading governments as independent country from Serbia. However, some powerful country such Russia didn’t recognize Kosovo independent which may block Kosovo membership in the UN in the future. Due to Russia’s veto right in the UN security council. On the other hand, Kosovo seek to join the EU and NATO, but due to the non-recognition of several NATO and EU countries. Kosovo is a powerless country with a very weak government institution which will need the allies with such leader countries in the world like Russia to be accepted as Independent County.

To be accepted as independent country Kosovo needs to build a new infrastructure. As weee as developing the economy that will lead to develop in government institution. However, many countries accepted as independent country to deal with it economy. This will make pressure for all countries to accept it independent, because without any power as a country you cannot convince state to accept you as Independent County.

**VIII Alternative solutions for Kosovo Future**

It is very difficult to find a solution for Kosovo future that will satisfy both Serbs and Albanians. To introduce any solutions we should take into account the interest, needs and requirements of people living in Kosovo.

Dividing through the river Ibar seems to be a solution to the problem. This will be based on the number of Serbs and Albanians place in the area. As the Northern part belonging to Serbia and Southern majority area to the newly independent Kosovo. Since Albanians represent 96% of the population. On the other hand Serbs represent 7%. Considering the culture differences between Albanians and Serbs will lead to their independence.
The remaining should remain under the international jurisdiction, protected by the international forces. This is to control the line between the North and South. However this will require the migration of population, Serbs to the North, Albanians to the South. Such situation has occurred before during 20th century when Greeks and Turks traded places in nearby Turkey and Greece. If this divider is accepted by both parties, it will eliminate any potential conflicts in the future.

**Conclusion**

I argue that Kosovo become a fully recognized member of the international community, and to enter the EU. It is clear that the goal of EU is to ensure a peaceful integration between Serbia and Kosovo.

Today there are 111 have recognize the independence of Kosovo. The main challenges to gain EU membership are to have a stable political institutions and economic development. However it is clear that in order to gain the membership is to work hard against the corruption. Corruption is a threat to Kosovo sustainability and economic development.

There must be a final settlement regarding Kosovo status. It is unclear what part of Kosovo will be ruled from where. It seems that there are no possible future scenarios that currently exist with zero risk.
References


4. Robert Bideleux, “The troubled history of the region, and the deep-rooted antagonisms between the different ethnic groups laying claim to it”, it - See more at: http://www.historytoday.com/robert-bideleux/kosovos-conflict#sthash.TUoBdHZT.dpuf


