
VHMUN 2016

Study Guide for Historic Security Council

- Yugoslav War of 1991

AGENDA 2 : YUGOSLAV WAR OF 1991

Background:

Post World War II, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was formed under Josip Tito's authoritarian leadership. The country governed itself by dividing the nation into six semi-autonomous regions; Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Montenegro and Macedonia, formed along ethnic lines and with essential independence on most civic and domestic issues of administration, save for overriding federal Yugoslav authority on issues like the military, foreign policy and central economic decision-making. The nation also included two autonomous provinces; Kosovo, today an independent nation and Vojvodina, now an autonomous province of Serbia. The nation's and the Serbian constituent republic's capitals were both based in Belgrade. Demographically, Serbs comprised 40% of the population, followed by Croats at 22%.

These divisions, at the time of the nation's formation, were seen as the best way to ensure unity among the ethnic groups dominant in the country, and could be maintained thanks to Josip Tito's authoritarian leadership, which lasted till his death in 1980.

However, as Serbs were both the ethnic majority and the majority demographic in the city in which federal government was based, the federal government was often comprised majorly of Serbs, which was fine in the initial years of the nation's existence due to Tito's rule. However, in the 1980s, due to economic hardships across the country arising after the death of Tito and the lack of similarly imposing federal leadership, nationalism on ethnic lines began to ferment, resulting in major tensions between the constituent republics. The economic struggles also caused a desire for greater autonomy.



Tensions reached breaking point in 1990. Slobodan Milošević was elected president of the constituent republic of Serbia, and according to the Hague Tribunal, began undertaking policies designed to break down regional autonomy and establish federal authority over a Greater Serbia. He did so by encouraging nationalist sentiment across the country, using his influence to initiate media blackouts during demonstrations against his rule and by encouraging harsh police action against demonstrators. Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, a historically Muslim population, were encouraged to identify as Turkish and emigrate to Turkey, as were other Muslims, with the intent to create a Serb-majority primarily composed of Christians.

Milošević's actions were denounced by leaders of Slovenia and Croatia, who demanded that Yugoslavia be amended into a full-party confederal state. These actions led to a whirlwind of accusations from both sides, and resulted in citizens of one constituent republic boycotting the products of the other and removing their savings from banks located in the other republic.

As tensions escalated, Montenegro declared support for Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia declared solidarity with Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina stayed neutral. Milošević eventually offered Milan Kučan, president of the Slovene constituent republic, the following deal; Serbia would recognize the right of the self-determination of the Slovene nation to independence if Slovenia in turn recognized the right of self-determination of the Serb nation to remain united with Serbia. Such a deal would have set a precedent for Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia to remain in one state with Serbia. Milošević's ally in the Yugoslav federal government, Borisav Jović stated, *"I put it bluntly. We didn't want a war with Slovenia. Serbia had no*



*territorial claims there. It was an ethnically-pure republic – no Serbs. We couldn't care less if they left Yugoslavia ... We would have been overstretched. With Slovenia out of the way, we could dictate terms to the Croats."*Nationalist rhetoric heated on all sides.

In 1989, a military coup in Montenegro resulted in Milošević gaining the power to select the president of the Montenegrin constituent republic, which along with the fact that he controlled the selection of the president of the autonomous Kosovo and Vojvodina provinces, effectively ensured him 4/8 votes in any federal issue, allowing him de-facto control of the nation as a whole.

In January 1990, the 14th Congress of the League of Communists in Yugoslavia was convened as the ruling party by this point was in crisis. Much of Congress was spent in debating the future of the party and of the government's structure, led by the Serbian, Croatian and Slovene delegations. The Serbian delegation, led by Milošević, insisted on a policy of "one person, one vote" in the party membership, which would empower the largest party ethnic group, the Serbs. In turn, the Croats and Slovenes sought to reform Yugoslavia by delegating even more power to six republics, but were voted down continuously in every motion in an attempt to force the party to adopt the new voting system. As a result, the Croatian delegation, led by Chairman Ivica Račan, and Slovene delegation left the Congress on 23 January 1990, effectively dissolving the all-Yugoslav party. This in turn, along with external pressure, caused the adoption of multi-party systems in all republics.

On June 25, 1991 Croatia and Slovenia formally claimed independence from Yugoslavia, followed by Macedonia and Bosnia the following year. Serb minorities outside Serbia and Montenegro, however, remained where they were which led to immense ethnic conflict in the region. Eventually, these minorities formed armed militias and began fighting with the newly formed governments, with the backing of the Yugoslav People's Army (YPA).

Timeline:

22 Sept, 1987: Slobodan Milošević is elected President of Serbia.

Jan 1990: Croatian and Slovene delegations walk out of Yugoslav Congress, leading to its dissolution and multi-party elections.

25 June, 1991: Croatia and Slovenia declare independence from Yugoslavia.

July 1991: A three-month long ceasefire on Brioni is declared.



September 1991: JNA attacks Croatia in Dalmatia. Croatian war of independence begins. EU proposes Carrington-Cutileiro plan.

December 1991: Serbian group in Croatia declares itself the “Republic of Serbian Krajina” which remains unrecognized by all but Serbia.

Jan 1992: Macedonia declares independence.

April 1992: Carrington-Cutileiro plan falls through. Bosnia and Herzegovina declares independence and Bosnian War of Independence begins.

May 1992: United Nations accepts Bosnia, Slovenia and Croatia as members.

Summer 1992: Bosnian Serbs gain control of 70% of territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Hundreds of thousands of refugees result from the war and large portions of Bosnia and Herzegovina are ethnically cleansed of non-Serbs.

January 1993: Vance–Owen peace plan offered. Under pressure from Slobodan Milošević, Karadžić signs the plan, but after a vote in assembly of Bosnian Serbs he withdraws his signature.

July 1993: Owen-Stoltenberg peace plan offered. Refused by Izetbegović in August.

May 1995: Croatia launches Operation Flash and in 2 days enters Western Slavonia UNPA zone, retaking the territory. The exodus of 11,500–15,000 Serbian refugees follows.

July 1995: Srebrenica genocide reported, 8,000 Bosniaks killed by units of the Army of Republika Srpska (VRS) under the command of General Ratko Mladić.

August 1995: Croatia launches Operation Storm and reclaims over 70% of its pre-war territory, entering all UNPA zones except Eastern Slavonia, resulting in the exodus of the entire Serbian population in these areas, approximately 200,000 refugees. NATO decides to launch a series of air strikes on Bosnian Serb artillery and other military targets on August 30th.

November 1995: Milosevic, Tudjman and Izetbegovic lead negotiations in Dayton, Ohio.

December 1995: Dayton Agreement signed in Paris, marking end of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

1996: Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, comprising Serbia and Montenegro, officially recognize Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and the Republic of Macedonia.

March 1998: Fighting between Yugoslav troops and police and ethnic Albanians in Kosovo begins. Ethnic cleansing and forced deportation of Albanians from Kosovo is carried out.

March 1999: NATO carries out Operation Allied Force.

June 1999: Control of Kosovo is handed over to the UN while still remaining a part of FR Yugoslavia.

Feb 2000: Slobodan Milošević is voted out of office.

Feb 2002: Milošević is tried for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in The Hague.

2001-2004: Ethnic violence between Kosovar Albanians and Kosovar Serbs rises.

UN Actions Thus Far:

1991: United Nations Security Council Resolution 713: Arms embargo on SFR Yugoslavia.

1991: United Nations Security Council Resolution 721: Affirmation of a peacekeeping mission once a ceasefire is signed.

1991: United Nations Security Council Resolution 724: Establishment of a committee under the Security Council to focus on matters pertaining to the arms embargo and efforts of the Secretary-General on the issue.

1992: United Nations Security Council Resolution 727: Deploying 50 officers to ensure the maintenance of a recent ceasefire in the region.

1992: United Nations Security Council Resolution 740: Approval of a peacekeeping mission (note to delegates: this is not the same as affirming a peacekeeping mission)

1992: United Nations Security Council Resolution 743: Established aforementioned peacekeeping mission, UNPROFOR.

1992: United Nations Security Council Resolution 749: Authorises deployment of UNPROFOR to SFR Yugoslavia.

1991: United Nations Security Council Resolution 752: Demands belligerents in the war respect the April 12 ceasefire.

Future Actions:

Note: these actions are just for background as to the course the international community took to handle this situation. These events, unless specifically brought in by delegates, will ***not*** occur in committee, and may not transpire in the manner it did in reality.

Operation Deliberate Force: After United Nations Security Council authorization in Resolution 781 (not listed here), NATO, in conjunction with UNPROFOR, carried out a number of airstrikes in Bosnia in 1995 against the Bosnian Serb forces present in the country. In total, they destroyed 334 targets, but not without civilian casualties.

Operation Allied Force: In 1999, NATO carried out further airstrikes in Kosovo, this time to halt the ethnic cleansing of Albanians in the region. This was the first, and till date only time that NATO has ever acted without Security Council authorization, instead terming this event “humanitarian intervention”.

Notes for Committee on the Roles of Certain Nations:

Committee begins on 1 May 1992. Bosnia and Croatia have declared independence and are fighting the war against the JNA of Yugoslavia. Fighting is taking place in all three countries. Although full members of the UN, at this time the three nations are present in the Security Council as observers, under Article 31 in Chapter V of the UN Charter. The United Arab Republic will be present in committee as the Delegate of Egypt, the successor state of the United Arab Republic that existed in 1968.

Chair - AkshatNagori

Co Chair - Nikhil Mishra