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A COMPLICATED HISTORY

There can be few places in the world as small as Kosovo where the arguments over ethnic development and history are seen so differently by its people.

- [Ethnic Conflict Has Centuries-Old Roots](#)
- [Myth and Countermyth in the Balkans](#)

Albanian Population

Since 1981, Kosovo has been the focus of tension between an intransigent local population and Serbian nationalists. Ethnic Albanians, who represent most of the population in Kosovo, say they are [fighting for self-determination](#).

Serbian Nationalism

Many Serbs believe Kosovo to be Yugoslav territory. They consider it sacred, blood-soaked soil; the land where nationhood was forged in 1389. Turkish armies crushed Serbian forces on the Kosovo plain that year, a victory that ushered in five centuries of Muslim Ottoman domination and [Christian Orthodox Serbian resistance](#).

[A Different Kind of War in Kosovo: Serbian](#)



• [Kosovo Roundtable](#)

In spring 1999, the New York Times on the Web brought together four Balkan experts for a discussion on the crisis in Kosovo.

AFTER THE WAR

[Kosovo Rebels Regrouping Nearby in Serbia](#)

(March 2, 2000) Just across the boundary line from Kosovo, armed Albanians wearing uniforms of a new branch of the Kosovo Liberation Army are training for a battle the West does not want them to have.

[NATO Says Milosevic Incites Chaos](#)

(February 23, 2000) American and NATO officials accused Slobodan Milosevic of fomenting violence in Kosovo and infiltrating his police into the province in an attempt to thwart peacekeeping efforts.

[In Kosovo City, Serbs Force Albanians From Homes](#)

(February 12, 2000) Despite the presence of several hundred added peacekeeping troops, Serbs continue to threaten ethnic Albanians who live among them in Mitrovica.

[Kosovo's Ex-Guerrillas Turn to Civil Duty](#)

Repression vs. Quiet Resistance

Serbian nationalism in the Balkans first surged there in 1981, as Belgrade sought to crush the movement of Albanians seeking self-determination in an area that Serbs revere as the cradle of their nationhood.

Ethnic Conflict Is Threatening in Yet Another Region of Yugoslavia: Kosovo

When diplomats and politicians in the Balkans tried to imagine where regional conflict might break out, their attention turned to the restive Yugoslav region of Kosovo, where ethnic conflicts ran deep and prospects for peaceful compromise seemed bleak.

- [If Walls Could Speak, Serb Epic Would Unfold](#)
- [Milosevic's Vision of Glory Unleashes Decade of Ruin](#)

Timeline

- [Chronology of Events Relating to the Kosovo Conflict](#)

POLICING THE PROVINCE

U.S. Troops Seize Weapons From Albanians in Kosovo

(March 16, 2000) American troops in Kosovo carried out raids on the strongholds of ethnic Albanian guerrillas, in the largest effort to date by American forces there to end the guerrillas' threat to the NATO-led peacekeeping mission.



[Command Structure](#)

Responsibility for the peacekeeping operation is divided among five countries.

Spiral of Violence in Kosovo Divides U.S. and Its Allies

(March 12, 2000) Washington and its NATO allies are fighting among themselves over how to keep a deteriorating situation in the Serbian province from spinning out of their control.

Torn Mitrovica Reflects West's Trials

(February 27, 2000) NATO officials are keenly aware that Mitrovica has come to symbolize the West's failure to bring any real measure of security, justice or freedom of movement to minorities in Kosovo.

- [SLIDE SHOW: Struggling to Keep the Peace](#)

(February 2, 2000) Former fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army have turned their attention to more mundane tasks, performing their first public service job as the newly formed Kosovo Protection Corps.

G.I.'s in Kosovo Face Barrage of Complaints

(January 29, 2000) American soldiers are shaking hands, smiling and trying to blunt a deluge of complaints that have forced U.S. Army officials to investigate soldiers' behavior, including charges of rape and murder.

- [U.S. Sergeant in Kosovo Accused of Killing Girl](#)

The Serbs of Kosovo, Strangers in a Familiar Land

(December 18, 1999) The Serbs in the last remaining Serbian village in Kosovo are surrounded by hostile Albanians. They are guarded by Italian troops, but there is violence nearly every night.

State Dept. Now Estimates Serbian Drive Killed 10,000

(December 10, 1999) The State Department says the number of Kosovar Albanians killed in the Serbian campaign to force out the Albanian population is nearly five times larger than the number of bodies unearthed from mass graves.

Fears Grow Over the De Facto Partition of Kosovo

(November 14, 1999) Senior Western and U.N. officials say they are increasingly worried that President Slobodan Milosevic may be using the north of the province to undermine international efforts to bring Kosovo peace.

Chaos and Intolerance Now Reign in Kosovo

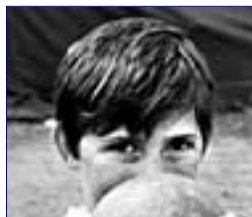
(November 22, 1999) The reality of revenge is eroding the United Nations' goal of multiethnicity. Serbian and Gypsy minorities continue to be harassed and attacked. Justice is rare and court trials nearly nonexistent.

1999 NATO AIRSTRIKES

March 1999: NATO Attacks

NATO Starts Barrage Against Serbs

(March 25, 1999) The forces of NATO opened an assault on Serbia with cruise missiles and bombs as President Clinton denounced the Yugoslav President for feeding the "flames of ethnic and religious division" in Kosovo.



• [PHOTO ESSAY](#)

May 1999: Tribunal Indicts Milosevic

Warrants Served for Serb Leader and 4 Assistants

(May 28, 1999) The international tribunal issued an arrest warrant for Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav President, charging him and other senior officials with crimes against humanity in Kosovo, including the murder, forced deportation and persecution of ethnic Albanians.

June 1999: NATO War Ends

Serb Military Accepts Accord

(June 10, 1999) The Yugoslav military acceded to an agreement that will permit a military force commanded by a NATO general with sweeping powers to occupy Kosovo, clearing the way to an end to the Western alliance's first war.

April 2000: CARE Retrospective

CARE Visits War-torn Kosovo One Year Later

One year after the Kosovo crisis, take a trip with CARE relief worker Mike Godfrey as he explores the devastation as well as the recovery taking place in the war-ravaged province.

Text

- [Full Text of the U.N. Security Council Resolution on Kosovo](#)

SPECIAL REPORT

[Horror By Design:](#)

[The Ravaging of Kosovo](#)

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MAP

[Yugoslavia](#) from Merriam Webster's Atlas

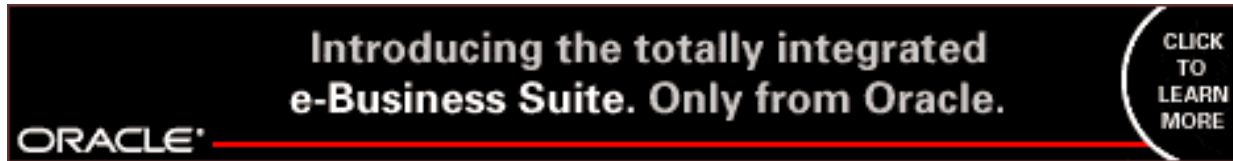
RELATED WEB SITES

- [The U.N. Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo](#)
- [Building Peace in Kosovo](#), from the U.S. State Department
- [NATO's Operation Allied Force: The Kosovo Crisis](#)
- [NATO and Yugoslavia](#), from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
- [The United Nations Association of the United States](#), "Finding Solutions for Peace in Kosovo" discussion series.
- [Kosovo Peacekeepers](#)
- [Serbian Orthodox Church](#)
- [Serbia Info News](#)
- [Kosova Crisis Center](#)
- [Kosovo, Focus on Human Rights](#), from Human Rights Watch

- [Text of Military Technical Agreement](#)
- [Text of the K.L.A. Demilitarization Agreement](#)

Archive

- [Complete Coverage of the NATO Airstrikes](#)



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