

US ROLE IN YUGOSLAV WARS

BSS 187/487

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Main topics

- About Yugoslav wars
- Role of the USA in conflict management
- Political situation in USA
- The current role of the USA
- Future

Little intermezzo: personal experience



Yugoslav wars: Roots

- Yugoslavia
 - ▣ Established after WWI
 - ▣ Multi-ethnic country
 - ▣ Different religions, language conflict areas ...

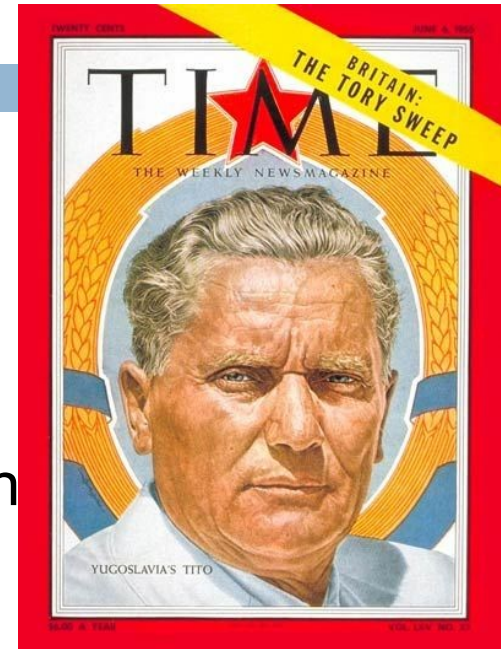


Serbia and Montenegro have asserted the formation of a joint independent state, but this entity has not been formally recognized as a state by the United States.

Macedonia has proclaimed independent statehood, but has not been formally recognized as a state by the United States.

Yugoslav wars: Path into the Hell

- Reasons:
 - ▣ Economic situation
 - ▣ Marshall Tito's dead
 - His strong leadership suppressed nation
 - ▣ Nationalism
- 1990 - 14th Extraordinary Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia
 - ▣ Milošević – Serbia – more centralized
 - ▣ Croatia and Slovenia – more federalization



Yugoslav wars: Different Conflicts

- 1991 - Croatia and Slovenia declaring independence
- 1991 – Ten-Day War: Slovenia x Yugoslav's People Army
- 1991-1995 – Croatia War of Independence
- 1992-1995 - Bosnian War
 - ▣ Karadžić – ethnic cleaning
 - ▣ Daytonon Agreement
- 1998-1999 – Kosovo War – Serbia x Albanians
 - ▣ NATO engagement!

Role of the USA in conflict management: concrete historical period

- focus - the Balkans in 90's
- complexity, geostrategic position, historical importance, mixture of nationalities, ethnicities, political personalities
- former USSR, great temptation but also great problems to deal with
- ongoing ethnic clashes resulted into serious war

USA x NATO

- leadership of the group is in the hands of the nation with the most powerful economy
- winner of the Cold War
- thinking of main policy advisors still in Cold War terminology
- NATO membership first offered to FYROM and Albania – why?
 - Not developed but with desire to participate (air campaign in Kosovo)
 - Turbulent inner conditions had to be solved --- West will help with reestablishment according to its ideals before anyone else could do so
 - 1991 Strategic Concept: to assure and maintain balance throughout Europe
 - Spread of Western ideology and values, new allies, historical and political importance (East – West ideological borders)
- To assure the post-Cold War dominance the US was actually seeking for

Political situation in the US

- Change of administrations --- Clinton in the office
- high priority on domestic policy
- hesitancy between pragmatic moral principle connected with ethnic cleansing in Bosnia
- Administration was opposing every plan proposed for the recovery of Yugoslavia
- The change of presidents had obvious impact over the situation in Yugoslavia's most turbulent territories
 - ▣ ethnically mixed citizens
 - ▣ call over ethnic or national recognition
- empathy with the fate of citizens, who were under various types of attacks because of their ethnicity or desire to show US influence in former USSR countries

VANCE-OVEN

- UN arms embargo --- disarm all sides of the conflict
- Hard to reach an international agreement about ethnic war; many critics
- Main obstacles:
 - ▣ taking away guns discontent ethnic majority, but also from self-defending minority
 - ▣ Muslims in Bosnia should have surrendered and possessed no weapons for their defense against mostly Serbian aggression and ethnic cleansing
 - ▣ Difficulties with moral principles + Incoherence of international actors --- Conflict management troubles
- Dayton agreement

VANCE-OVEN

- Its initial aim was not to end the war in Bosnia, but to look after heavy weapons on the international scene and thus reduce friction among international actors
- Plan was then modified to stop the war, prevent Serbs from establishing contiguous territories and avoid ethnic purification
- HOWEVER, this plan was primarily not designed for Yugoslav recovery
 - ▣ The main obstacle of application
 - ▣ New plan should have been created, obtaining main points of struggle and ideas for transformation
 - ▣ Dayton 1995 – 3 more years of war and casualties because of the lack of coherence

Conflict management critical points

- Key results concerning the end of Bosnian war would have arrived earlier in time, if major contributing states would have acted differently than the way they actually did
- Approach of the USA as major power --- confusion within international actors
- Reluctance of Clinton's Administration towards the use of force
 - ▣ Change in administrations during most critical period of Bosnian civil war
 - ▣ Against ethnic cleansing as well as weapons embargo, at the same time as he was new in the presidency and focused primarily on domestic development
- Resulted into UK – France cooperation in air forces, under the management of the US
 - ▣ Preserve a chief position in decision making
- Example of great ambitions, but the frailty of common policy and an absence of common understanding

The current role of the US

- US less dominant than in 1990's
- The role of the leader was overtaken by the EU
- US still engaged
 - ▣ NATO
 - ▣ Financial aid
- „We will continue to stand with you as you persue your European future togather“ Mike Pence, august 2017

FUTURE

- Strategic importance of the region for the EU and US
- Challenges for the region
 - ▣ spillover of the conflicts in North Africa, Middle East
 - ▣ propaganda and radicalization
 - ▣ migration crisis
 - ▣ Russian influence
- Cooperation with the EU

THANK YOU

- For ATTENTION!
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