State Setting of the Present-day Bosnia-Herzegovina

Bosnia-Herzegovina's declaration of sovereignty in October 1991 was followed by a declaration of independence from the former Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) on March 3, 1992 after a referendum boycotted by a majority of Bosnian Serbs. The Bosnian Serbs - supported by neighboring Federal Republic of Yugoslavia - responded with armed resistance aimed at partitioning the republic along ethnic lines and joining Serb-held areas in Croatia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to form a "Greater Serbia." The Bosnian War was at the same time an inter-state and inter-ethnic armed conflict that took place in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995. The war involved several sides. The main players were the forces of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (multi-ethnic unit largely but not exclusively composed of Bosniaks) and those of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serbs (Republika Srpska) and Bosnian Croats (Croatian Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia) entities within Bosnia- Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Herzeg-Bosnia. The former two groups were lead and supplied by the neighboring countries of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia respectively. In March 1994, Bosniaks and Bosnian Croats reduced the number of warring factions from three to two by signing an agreement creating a joint Bosniak/ Bosnian Croat Federation. Close to 300,000 people were killed or wounded and 1,500,000 internally and externally displaced.

The General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Dayton Peace Agreement) is the peace agreement negotiated by leaders of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio in November 1995. It was formally signed at the Élysée Palace in Paris on December 14, 1995. These accords put an end to the armed conflicts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia that followed the break-up of the SFRY.

The implementation of the agreement required heavy international military involvement. In 1995-1996, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) led International Peacekeeping Force (IFOR) of 60,000 troops served in Bosnia-Herzegovina to implement and monitor the military aspects of the agreement. IFOR was succeeded by a smaller (32,000 troops) NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) whose mission was to prevent renewed hostilities and stabilize peace. SFOR troop numbers were gradually reduced first to 12,000 and then to the final 7,000. In 2004 they were replaced by the 7,000 troops of the European Military Force (EUFOR), which was the third and largest European Union (EU) mission under the European Security and Defense Policy/Common Foreign and Security Policy cap at the time. Apart from monitoring the security situation and the ongoing deterrence, the tasks of the EUFOR were to support the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and to provide the security environment in which police can combat organized crime. Currently EUFOR deploys around 600 troops in theater in policing capacity. Parallel to this, in 2003 the EU launched the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) to establish a sustainable, professional, multi-ethnic police force capable of fighting large-scale organized crime. The mission was ended in June 2012.

The peace agreement had a profound impact on the socio-economic and political structure of the post-1995 Bosnia-Herzegovina. It preserved Bosnia's external borders, existence and sovereignty. On the other hand, the agreement created a complex multi-ethnic asymmetrical federal state setting. The three main Bosnian ethnic groups and feuding parties in the Bosnian War were: Bosniaks (48% of the population, Sunni Muslims), Bosnian Serbs (36% the population,
Bosnia-Herzegovina is a country in Southeast Europe. It consists of two semi-autonomous entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska. The Federation is the larger of the two entities, comprising 51% of the territory and 62% of the population. It is predominantly Bosniak, with significant Croation and Serb populations. The Republic of Srpska is smaller, comprising 49% of the territory and 38% of the population, and is predominantly Serb. The capital of the Federation is Sarajevo, while Banja Luka is the capital of the Republic of Srpska.

Overseeing the Federation is the High Representative (HR), who serves as the EU’s special representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The HR is appointed by the European Council and serves at the discretion of the Union. The HR is responsible for ensuring that the Dayton Peace Agreement is implemented and that the EU’s pre-accession strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina is successful. In 2011, the HR was decoupled from the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and became the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina (HRBiH). The HR’s authority includes the ability to impose legislation and remove officials appointed by the BiH authorities, including the presidents of the State and the two entities.

The Dayton Peace Agreement divided Bosnia and Herzegovina into three semi-autonomous parts: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Srpska, and the Brčko District. The Federation is the largest entity, comprising 51% of the territory and 62% of the population. It is predominantly Bosniak, with significant Croation and Serb populations. The Republic of Srpska is smaller, comprising 49% of the territory and 38% of the population, and is predominantly Serb. The capital of the Federation is Sarajevo, while Banja Luka is the capital of the Republic of Srpska. The Brčko District is an internationally administered area.

The HR is responsible for ensuring that the Dayton Peace Agreement is implemented and that the EU’s pre-accession strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina is successful. In 2011, the HR was decoupled from the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and became the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina (HRBiH). The HR’s authority includes the ability to impose legislation and remove officials appointed by the BiH authorities, including the presidents of the State and the two entities.

The HR’s role is to ensure that the Dayton Peace Agreement is implemented and that the EU’s pre-accession strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina is successful. In 2011, the HR was decoupled from the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and became the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina (HRBiH). The HR’s authority includes the ability to impose legislation and remove officials appointed by the BiH authorities, including the presidents of the State and the two entities.
Topographic map of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Map A (Ethnic composition in 1991), Map B (Federation, Republika Srpska and Brčko District), Map C (Ethnic composition in 2010)
**Bosnia-Herzegovina Facts and Figures**

**Location:** Southeastern Europe (bordering Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia)

**Area:** 51,187 sq km

**Population:** 3,875,000

**Official languages:** Bosnian (Latin alphabet), Serbian (Cyrillic alphabet) and Croatian (Latin alphabet)

**Terrain configuration:** Mountains and valleys

**Climate:** Predominantly continental with some parts of Herzegovina having Mediterranean climate

**Main natural resources:** Coal, iron ore, bauxite, copper, lead, zinc, chromite, cobalt, manganese, nickel, clay, gypsum, salt, sand, timber and hydropower

**Agriculture:** Wheat, corn, fruits, vegetables and livestock

**Industries:** Steel, coal, iron ore, lead, zinc, manganese, bauxite, aluminum, vehicle assembly, textiles, tobacco products, wooden furniture, ammunition, domestic appliances and oil refining

**Natural hazards:** Destructive earthquakes and floods in the Northern part of the country

**Government type:** Federal democratic republic

**Legal system:** Based on the civil law system judicial branch. The Constitutional Court consists of nine members: four members are selected by the Federation, two members by the Republika Srpska and three non-Bosnian members selected by the president of the European Court of Human Rights.

**Urbanization:** 49% urban population

**Literacy rate:** 98% of the population

**GDP (Total in terms of PPP):** $32.43 billion

**GDP (Per capita in terms of PPP):** $8,400

**Gini Index:** 32.6

**Human Development Index:** 0.710

**Currency:** Bosnian Convertible Mark

**Flag and coat of arms:** The three points of the triangle represent the three constituent peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina: Bosniaks, Bosnian Croats, and Bosnian Serbs. It is also represents the map of Bosnia-Herzegovina that looks like a triangle or a heart as some people call it the ‘heart-shaped nation’. The stars, representing Europe, are meant to be infinite in number and thus they continue from top to bottom. The flag features colors often associated with neutrality and peace – white (peace), blue (European Continent), and yellow (multi-ethnicity). The three colors are also traditionally associated as being the colors of the Bosnian Kingdom under the House of Kotromanić.

Bosnian National Coat of Arms and Flag
**Timeline of Bosnia-Herzegovina and its Neighboring States (1990-2013)**

**1990**

**Death of the Yugoslav League of Communists and First Democratic Elections**
The failure to reach an agreement on the Constitutional settlement of Yugoslavia among the representatives of six different republics caused a deep crisis within the Yugoslav League of Communists and lead to its end. The first democratic elections were organized in all six Yugoslav republics. With the exception of Macedonia, parties with nationalist orientation won the elections in other parts of the SFRY.

**1991**

**Unrest and the Beginning of Disintegration**
Slovenia and Croatia declared independence in late June 1991. An armed conflict broke out between the Yugoslav Army (under Serbo-Montenegrin leadership at the time) and the Slovenian military. European Community (EC) made several mediations and succeeded in brokering the agreement between the two parties. In Croatia, semi-military Croatian forces started fighting the local Croatian Serbs militia supported by the Yugoslav Army.

![Yugoslav People’s Army troops retreating from Slovenia](image)

**UN Response**
The Security Council accepted Resolution 713 – sanctions on weapons deliveries to Yugoslavian territory. United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali sent former American Foreign Minister Cyrus Vance as his personal envoy to restore peace in the SFRY.

**Slovenia and Croatia Leave the SFRY**
Civil war in Croatia continued violating the fourteenth agreement on cease-fire. Independence referendums are held in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia. In both republics, the majority of the citizens voted for independence. As a result, Bosnian Serbs in the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina proclaimed an independent state called Republika Srpska, thereby extending the war. Serb-controlled Yugoslav Army forces continued attacks in Northern Croatia – systemically destroying the cities of Vukovar and Osijek. Around 600,000 people were made homeless due to the war at this point and creating thousands of refugees.
Bosnia-Herzegovina Study Trip

City of Vukovar in ruins

1992

Dissolution of the SFry
The European Community recognized Slovenia and Croatia as independent states on January 15 followed by other states, despite warnings from UN Secretary-General that stated such recognition was premature. On April 6 the European Community recognized the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Macedonia was not recognized as an independent state by the EC because of the naming issue raised by the Greeks. The remaining members of the SFry (Serbia and Montenegro) form the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with Slobodan Milošević as president. Bosnian Serbs proclaimed an independent state, which did not receive international recognition. Soon after, Bosnian Croats do the same action by proclaiming the Croatian Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia which, along with the Republika Srpska, beame classified as an unrecognized entity.

Ethnic Cleansing
The Serbian led forces began implementing ethnic cleansing policies towards non-Serb populations in the Serb occupied parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. The policies are designed to remove, by violent and terror-ensuing means, the civilian population of another ethnic group from certain geographic areas. As the conflict developed this trend was used by the other ethnic groups as well, but not to the extent practiced by the Serbs.

Ethnic cleansing in the Bosnian city of Bijeljina
Increased UN Engagement
In reaction to its support of the Bosnian Serbs, The UN Security Council imposed economic sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In addition, the UN establishes a United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), consisting of 14,000 soldiers, policemen, and civilians. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announces there are 2,225,000 internally and externally displaced individuals in the conflict zone.

1993
First Peace Plan Launched in Geneva
The International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, chaired by Cyrus Vance and the EC’s David Owen, convenes in Geneva. The conference marks the first time the three feuding Bosnian groups meet. The idea of the first plan is to divide Bosnia-Herzegovina into ten semi-autonomous provinces. Bosniaks and Bosnian Croats accept the deal, however, the Bosnian Serb leadership eventually refuses the deal as the Republika Srpska National Assembly denies the plan. Former Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg succeeds Cyrus Vance as the UN Chairman of the Conference on former Yugoslavia.

Bosniak-Bosnian Croat Conflict Begins
Up to 1993, Bosnian (multi-ethnic but predominantly Bosniak) and Bosnian Croat armies fought together against the Bosnian Serbs. The political relations between the two parties corroded with the increased separatist intentions of Herzeg-Bosnia. Even though fighting began between the two groups in Herzegovina and Central Bosnia, the Bosnian-Bosnian Croat alliance was kept alive in Northern and Northwestern parts of the country.

Soldiers talking to a rape victim in Central Bosnia

1994
Reports on Ethnic Cleansing
The Expert Commission of the UN published extensive reports on ethnic cleansing practices in Bosnia-Herzegovina (mass graves, systematic rape, existence of concentration camps and plunder).
ICTY
The first International Tribunal for War Crimes since the end of the Second World War is created. The ICTY is a body of the UN established to prosecute serious crimes committed during the wars in the former Yugoslavia, and to try their perpetrators. The tribunal is an ad hoc court that is located in The Hague, the Netherlands.

NATO and the UN Collaboration
Under the permission of the UN, NATO establishes and maintains a no-fly zone over the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina. In early 1994 the UN total costs amount to $ 1.6 billion with human costs including 924 wounded 350 taken hostage and 79 dead during first two years of UNPROFOR's mission. Battles between areas dominated by the Bosnian Army and Bosnian Serbs intensify.

1995
UN Soldiers Taken Hostage
The ceasefires arranged in 1994 are violated by the Bosnian Serb government forces. Bosnian Serbs fire at the Sarajevo airport, which was under the control of the UN, stopping emergency supply deliveries to the city. NATO bombs Bosnian Serb positions to enforce UN resolutions that prevented the use of heavy artillery. In retaliation, Bosnian Serbs take 360 UN soldiers hostage and use them as human shields to prevent NATO from bombing their positions. The siege of Sarajevo continues.

Genocide
Several predominately Bosniak territories in Eastern Bosnia (Goražde, Srebrenica and Žepa) were proclaimed UN safety enclaves. The Security Council declared these areas to be treated as protected zones under the UN. Despite this, Bosnian Serbs, headed by Ratko Mladić, constantly attacked Goražde without any success, however they conquered Srebrenica and Žepa. In Srebrenica and Žepa, the Army of the Republic of Srpska led by General Mladić killed more than 8,500 Bosniak men. Srebrenica and Žepa are described as the worst crime scenes committed on European soil since the end of the Second World War.
Croatian Offensive
In May, Croatian forces attack Western Slavonia, an area controlled by Croatian Serb forces since 1991. The attack continues in August towards the Serb-controlled area of Krajina. After the conquest, these areas are ethnically cleansed of 200,000 Croatian Serbs who were forced to escape to Serbia and Serb-held parts of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Bosnian Serbs retaliate by expelling the remaining population of Bosniaks and Bosnian Croats from Bosnian Krajina (area including the city of Banja Luka and some surrounding municipalities). Close to 60,000 people are forced to leave their homes.

Dayton Peace Agreement
Peace talks resume, led by a contact group consisting of the United States (US), its European allies (France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom) and Russia. US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke is appointed as a chief negotiator. Foreign ministers of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Croatia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia meet in Geneva and sign the contact group's initiative for the future peace plan. Several months later, presidents of these three countries meet on the military based near Dayton, Ohio. Alija Izetbegović (Bosnia-Hercegovina), Franjo Tuđman (Croatia also representing Bosnian Croats) and Slobodan Milošević (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia also representing Bosnian Serbs) were the representatives of the three main negotiating parties. Negotiations were led by Richard Holbrooke, the Russian Vice Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and the EU chief negotiator Carl Bildt. After three weeks of constant negotiations behind close doors, the peace deal was reached. Bosnia-Hercegovina remained a sovereign state within the present and internationally recognized borders, but for the first time since its existence (mid tenth century) as a political entity it becomes divided along ethnic lines into three parts. Three administrative units are: Federation of Bosnia-Hercegovina (predominately inhabited by Bosniaks-Bosnian Croats, decentralized entity composed of 10 cantons, 51% of the territory), Republika Srpska (predominately inhabited by Bosnian Serbs, centralized entity, 49% of the territory) and Brčko District (inhabited by all ethnic groups, neutral and self-governing administrative unit under the sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1% of the territory, formally the part of both entities). The name Republika Srpska should not be confused with the classical notion of the republic. It is only a fictional title since it is not a country that has a republican form of state-setting, but an administrative unit inside Bosnia-Hercegovina. Hence, this name cannot be translated as a “Serb Republic”
since it is not a country, but an entity inside sovereign Bosnia-Herzegovina. In order to secure the implementation of the peace accords, NATO (IFOR) sends 60,000 troops to replace UNPROFOR and implement the military aspect of the agreement.

Slobodan Milošević, Alija Izetbegović, Franjo Tuđman signing the final peace agreement in Paris on December 14, 1995

**Humanitarian Efforts**
The civil part of the peace agreement prescribes: humanitarian aid, reconstruction, reinforcement of political and constitutional bodies, support for human rights, repatriation of refugees and free/fair elections. The OHR was formed to oversee the civilian implementation of the agreement. Carl Bildt was chosen as the first High Representative. The three presidents officially sign the peace agreement in Paris on the December 14, 1995. The ICTY takes legal proceedings against Bosnian-Serb political leader Radovan Karadžić and General Ratko Mladić.

**Macedonia Naming Dispute Emerges**
A diplomatic dispute over the use of the name Macedonia emerged at this time and has been an ongoing issue in the bilateral relations between Greece and the Republic of Macedonia since today. This dispute has a significant influence on Macedonian Euro-Atlantic integration to this day.

1996

**First ICTY Trial**
Dušan Tadić, Bosnian Serb general, is prosecuted for murder, torture, and rape. He was sentenced to twenty years in prison. Dušan Tadić was a first individual found guilty of committing war crimes on the European soil since the Nurnberg trials. On July 11, 1996 the ICTY issues an arrest warrant for Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić.

1997

**From Implementation to Stabilization**
In 1997, the SFOR replaced IFOR as the military force maintaining the peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This action marked a shift in the implementation of the stabilization phase. Number of troops is reduced from 60,000 to 31,000. While IFOR main task was to reduce hostilities between former belligerents, SFOR’s
mission was orientated towards preventing the potential harassment and aggression towards refugees returning to their homes and villages.

Second High Representative Named
Former Foreign Minister of Spain, Carlos Westendorp, succeeds Carl Bildt as the High Representative.

1998

Return of Refugees
A UNHCR report in April states that 400,000 former refugees have returned, however 1,800,000 refugees remain still displaced (800,000 are internal and 600,000 are external refugees).

EU/Bosnian Consultative Task Force
The EU established a Consultative Task Force, which was designed to provide technical and expert advice in the field of administration, the regulatory framework and policies.

Kosovo War Begins
Serbian military offensive causes tens of thousands of Kosovo Albanians (around 200,000 individuals) to take refuge in Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro in June 1998. US envoy Richard Holbrooke meets with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milošević resulting in a withdrawal of Serbian security forces from Kosovo. Milošević also allows 2,000 observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to monitor the cease-fire in the Kosovo region. However, this does not stop the hostilities.

ICTY
The Tribunal issued search warrants for eight high ranking politicians, among them former President of Republika Srpska Radovan Karadžić and General Ratko Mladić.

1999

The Fighting Continues in Kosovo
The conflict between the Kosovo Liberation Army and the Yugoslav Army deepened. French President Jacques Chirac and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright invite Serb and Kosovo Albanian delegations
to Chateau Rambouillet, outside of Paris, for peace talks. The parties come close to agreeing to a plan to give Kosovo substantial self-government, but the process fails when Serbian President Slobodan Milošević refuses to agree to the implementation of the agreement by NATO-led military forces. The 1,000 OSCE observers in the region are drawn back.

**Persecutions and Ethnic Cleansing**

Serb forces continue the persecution of Kosovo Albanians. By the beginning of April, UNHCR estimates that the Serb assault has resulted in 226,000 refugees in Albania, 125,000 in Macedonia, and 33,000 in Montenegro. By the end of May 1999, over 230,000 refugees have arrived in Macedonia, over 430,000 in Albania and some 64,000 in Montenegro. Approximately 21,500 have reached Bosnia-Herzegovina and over 61,000 have been evacuated to non-Balkan states. Within Kosovo itself, an estimated 580,000 people have been rendered homeless. It is estimated that by the end of May, 1.5 million people, i.e. 90% of the population of Kosovo, had been expelled from their homes. Some 225,000 Kosovar men were believed to be missing and at least 5,000 Kosovars had been executed.

**Proposals for a Solution**

NATO initiates, without the consent of the UN Security Council. Air raids against military and other strategic targets in Yugoslavia and Kosovo continue. In June, following seventy-eight days of NATO air strikes, Slobodan Milošević accepts a proposal for the solution to the Kosovo conflict. NATO bombings stop and UN Security Council adopts a resolution regulating the peace terms: immediate cessation of hostilities, withdrawal of Yugoslavian forces as well as police and paramilitary forces from Kosovo, international military and civilian presence in the region (including NATO forces), the installment of a temporary public administration, security guarantees for returning refugees and a political process leading to extensive autonomy for Kosovo and demilitarization of Kosovo Liberation Army.

**Croatian President Franjo Tudman Dies**

The father of independent Croatia, President Franjo Tudman, dies of cancer at the age of seventy-seven. Tudman’s regime was characterized by the authoritarian tendencies and thus prevented Croatia from starting membership talks with the EU.

**The Stabilization and Association Process**

The EU proposes the Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) for five countries of South-Eastern Europe, including Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is the first clear prospect of integration into the EU structures.

**2000**

**Declaration on Return of Refugees**

On March 9, Bosnian Serb political authorities and Croatian Foreign Minister Tonino Picula unveiled a declaration allowing tens of thousands of regional refugees (30,000 Croatian Serbs located in Bosnia-Herzegovina and 70,000 Bosnian Croats in Croatia) to return home after meeting with the US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Ethnic hatred and bureaucratic obstacles have delayed any substantial returns, particularly under previous Bosnian Serb and Croatian governments who opposed ethnic reconciliation.

**Potential Candidates for EU Membership**

The European Council of Feira announces that the countries covered by the SAP are potential candidates for the EU. At the Zagreb Summit, the EU and the Western Balkans countries officially endorse the SAP. As a consequence the EU Road Map document is published. This document sets out eighteen essential steps to be taken by Bosnia-Herzegovina in the short term before a Feasibility Study for the opening of negotiations on Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) could be undertaken.

**Yugoslav Presidential Elections**

Yugoslav Presidential elections are held. On September 27, Yugoslavia’s Electoral Commission decide that President Slobodan Milošević and his main opposition challenger Vojislav Koštunica must undergo a second
round of voting. Koštunica adamantly opposes a runoff election. During the days that follow public pressure mounts. Students walk out of the schools, businesses close and protesters block roads demanding Milošević to concede defeat. Twenty thousand peaceful protesters gather in downtown Belgrade. The situation becomes unbearable and finally Vojislav Koštunica is sworn in as president by the Yugoslav parliament on October 8. Two days later EU oil embargo and flight restrictions against Yugoslavia go out of force.

2001

Macedonian Conflict
This was an armed conflict that began when the ethnic Albanian National Liberation Army (composed of Albanian ethnic minority of Macedonian) militant group attacked the Macedonian security forces at the beginning of January 2001. The conflict lasted throughout most of the year, although overall casualties remained limited to several dozen for either side.

Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization (CARDS) Programme
A new assistance program, specifically designed for the SAP countries, was launched. CARDS replaced both the Phare and Obnova programs for the SAP countries.

International Pressure on Bosnian Nationalist Parties
The Bosnian Croat member of the Collective Presidency, Ante Jelavić, is dismissed as his party threatens to declare an independent Croat Republic inside Bosnia-Herzegovina. Under international pressure the major party of the Republic of Srpska, the nationalist Serbian Democratic Party, votes to expel all those suspected of war crimes, including former president Radovan Karadžić.

General Condemned for Genocide in Srebrenica
Wartime General of the Army of the Republic of Srpska, Radislav Kristić, is found guilty of genocide by the ICTY. Kristić is sentenced to forty-six years for his role in the massacre of thousands of men and boys in Srebrenica.

Milošević is Arrested
Former President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milošević, was arrested in Belgrade and charged with misappropriation of state funds and abuse of his official position. President Bush called for an extradition to the ICTY saying that aid to Yugoslavia is dependent on such a move. Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Đinđić overruled the Constitutional Court and authorizes extradition of Slobodan Milosevic to the Hague. Political rift began between Đinđić and Yugoslav President Vojislav Koštunica, a supporter of a Belgrade trial option.

2002

New High Representative and first EUSR
British politician Sir Paddy Ashdown became the High Representative and first EUSR replacing Spanish diplomat Carlos Westendorp.

Former President of Republika Srpska Biljana Plavšić Sentenced at the Hague
Former Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavšić changes her plea at the ICTY to that of “guilty of crimes against humanity”. The remaining seven charges are dropped. She was subsequently sentenced to seven years in prison.

Trial Against Milošević Begins
Trial of Slobodan Milošević on charges of genocide and war crimes began in The Hague.
State Union of Serbia and Montenegro Replaces Federal Republic Yugoslavia
Montenegrin and Serbian leaders signed EU mediated accord to set up new state to be called Serbia and Montenegro in place of Yugoslavia. Federal parliament ratified accord on ending federation, clearing the way for the creation of a new constitution of Serbia and Montenegro and formally ending the existence of Yugoslavia.

Court of Bosnia-Herzegovina
The Parliament of Bosnia-Herzegovina established a Court on July 3. It provided judicial protection in matters falling under the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina such as combating terrorism, war crimes, human trafficking, organized and economic crimes. Also, with the aim of establishing the rule of law, it is important to emphasize the role of the Court that will also worked on the harmonization of standards in court proceedings.

2003
EUPM Being Launched
The EUPM is launched as the first ever mission under the European Security and Defense Policy. It took the place of the UN International Police Task Force. Its tasks are to train the law enforcement personnel, assess threats to public order, inspect local police and promote overall reform of the police sector.

Progress Towards the EU
In June, at the Thessaloniki Summit, the SAP is confirmed as the EU policy for the Western Balkans, confirming the European Union’s perspective on the countries. In November, the Commission produces a Feasibility Study assessing Bosnia-Herzegovina's capacity to implement a SAA.

High Representative’s Action Against the Entities
High Representative Paddy Ashdown abolished the Supreme Defense Council of Republika Srpska. He also alters the constitutions of Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Republika Srpska removing all reference to statehood from both.

Serbian Prime Minister Assassinated
Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Đinđić was assassinated in Belgrade. This event opened a period of investigations and trials with the aim of eradicating the strong link between criminality, politics and business left behind by the Milošević regime.
United Nations Conditions for Kosovo
In October, Serbian and Kosovo Albanian leaders held their first direct talks since 1999. In December the UN sets out conditions for final status talks in 2005.

Croatia Applies for Membership in the EU
Croatia submits formal applications for the EU membership.

2004

Slovenia Becomes Euro-Atlantic State
Simultaneously the country joined NATO and the EU in 2004.

EUFOR Replaces SFOR
EUFOR (“Althea” operation) replaces NATO’s SFOR mission. Operation Althea is the most ambitious EU military operation to date. Being a robust ongoing military presence, the EUFOR serves also to highlight the EU’s strong political commitment to peace and security in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Clashes Between Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo
The worst clashes since 1999 erupt between Serbs and ethnic Albanians in the divided town of Kosovska Mitrovica, Kosovo. Nineteen people are killed. NATO sends reinforcements.

Croatia Getting Closer to the EU
EU agreed to start accession talks with Croatia in March 2005.

Ministry of Defense of Bosnia-Herzegovina
The Ministry of Defense of Bosnia-Herzegovina is formed as a common state-level institution in charge of army reform.

2005

Opening of Negotiations for SAA
In October, the European Commission recommended the opening of negotiations for a SAA with Bosnia-Herzegovina. SAA Negotiations are officially opened in Sarajevo on November 25 after the Council adopts the negotiating directives.

High Representative Paddy Ashdown Dismisses Member of Presidency
High Representative Paddy Ashdown dismisses Bosnian Croat member of Presidency Dragan Čović, who faced corruption charges. Ivo Miro Jović is appointed as the Bosnian Croat member of the Presidency.

Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina Formed
Multi-ethnic unit created by the unification of the Army of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Army of Republika Srpska. Bosnian military sent soldiers to assist American-led invasion of Iraq.

Support for Police Reform
Both state and entity parliaments back establishment of the unified police force. A structural police reform aimed at rationalizing police services is one of the conditions laid out by the European Commission in its 2003 Feasibility Study.

Montenegrin Leaders Propose Independence
Montenegrin leaders wrote to Serbian counterparts suggesting early end to union with Serbia and establishment of two independent republics. Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica rejected the
Serbia and Montenegro begins talks on a SAA with the EU
Talks began on a SAA with the EU, regarded as a preliminary step on the long road to membership.

Macedonia Becomes EU Candidate Country
On November 9, 2005 the European Commission recommended that Macedonia attain candidate status.

Ante Gotovina Arrested
In March EU delayed talks on potential Croatian membership because of failure to arrest General Ante Gotovina, who was wanted by the ICTY on war crimes charges. Ante Gotovina was arrested in December 2005 on Canary Islands, Spain.

2006

Plans for OHR to Close in the Future
The Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, the international body guiding the peace process, concludes that Bosnia-Herzegovina has made sufficient progress in its recovery to allow for the closure of the OHR on 30 June 2007, and calls on the authorities of Bosnia-Herzegovina to take full responsibility for peace implementation as it moves towards Euro-Atlantic integration. At the same time as the OHR was preparing for closure, the EU was increasing its commitment to Bosnia-Herzegovina. German politician Christian Schwarz-Schilling was appointed as new High Representative/EUSR. The mandate of EUPM was extended for two years.

New Instruments for EU – Bosnia-Herzegovina Relations
The first Reform Process Monitoring meeting was held replacing the Consultative Task Force. An updated European Partnership for Bosnia-Herzegovina is adopted.

Genocide Case at the International Court of Justice
In February International Court of Justice in The Hague began hearings in genocide case brought by Bosnia-Herzegovina against Serbia and Montenegro.

Constitutional Reforms Fail
The main political parties reach an agreement on a package of constitutional reforms. These reforms follow most of the Venice Commission’s principal recommendations. However, in April, a vote in the House of Representatives of Bosnia-Herzegovina failed by a narrow margin required to adopt the constitutional changes. A bitter political campaign for the October elections began.

Elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development
General elections reflected ethnic divisions with the Serb entity voting to maintain a split from the Federation. In the run-up to the vote, Bosnian Serb leadership threatened to seek complete secession in event of moves to end autonomy of Serb entity.

**Bosnia-Herzegovina joins Partnership for Peace**
In December, Bosnia and Herzegovina joined NATO's Partnership for Peace pre-membership program after the organization overturns a decision to exclude it because of its failure to catch Radovan Karadžić.

**Milošević Dies**
Slobodan Milošević died in his cell in the Hague where his trial by the ICTY was still underway.

**Montenegro Becomes Independent**
In March, Montenegro's Parliament agreed to hold a referendum on independence from Serbia on May 21, 2006. In the referendum Montenegro voted to separate from Serbia - 55.5% of votes were cast in favor of independence, just 0.5% above the threshold required. In June, Montenegro declared independence.

**Talks on the Future Status of Kosovo Begin**
In February, UN-sponsored dialogues on the future status of Kosovo began. The direct talks between ethnic Serbian and Kosovar leaders on future status of Kosovo took place in Vienna. In October voters in a referendum in Serbia approved a new constitution that declared that Kosovo is an integral part of the country. Kosovo's Albanian majority boycotted the ballot and UN sponsored talks on the future of the disputed province continue.
2007

EU Initiates the Stabilization and Associations Agreement with Bosnia-Herzegovina
In December, EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn announced that Bosnia-Herzegovina was to initiate the SAA with the EU. Bosnia’s state-level government adopts an action plan to continue with police reform that would eventually integrate the country’s ethnically divided police troops into one force, an essential requirement for joining the EU.

Miroslav Lajčák Becomes High Representative
Experienced Slovakian diplomat Miroslav Lajčák became new High Representative.

2008

EU and Bosnia-Herzegovina sign the SAA
Bosnia-Herzegovina signed the SAA with the EU, pledging to reform its election law. Signing of an SAA is the last step before a country can attain the status of the candidate for membership in the EU. At the same time, the two parties signed an Interim Agreement on Trade and Trade-Related Issues.

Radovan Karadžić Arrested
After 13 years on the run, former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić was arrested in Belgrade and transferred to the Hague to face charges of committing genocide during the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia.

Kosovo Declares Independence from Serbia
Acting unilaterally, Kosovo declared independence from Serbia. United States and the majority of the countries of the EU responded by officially recognizing Kosovo. However, Serbia, backed by Russia, withheld recognition and filed a legal complaint with the UN ’s International Court of Justice challenging the legality of Kosovo’s secession.
2009

Albania and Croatia Join NATO
Albania and Croatia joined NATO on April 1, shortly before the 2009 Strasbourg–Kehl Summit.

Karadžić Trial Begins in the Hague
The trial against Radovan Karadžić began on October 26 in the Hague. The defendant boycotts the trial, but attended a procedural hearing on November 3, asking for a delay of 10 months to review the 1.3 million pages of prosecution documents and prepare for the trial. The tribunal appointed a lawyer to represent Karadžić and adjourns the trial till March 10, 2010.

Constitutional Reform
In October, the EU and American-brokered talks between seven main Bosnian political parties, aimed at the passing a package of constitutional reforms, ended in failure. The internal socio-political crises deepened.

European Court of Human Rights Rules that Bosnian Constitution is Discriminatory
On December 22, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled in Sejdic & Finci v. Bosnia and Herzegovina that Bosnia’s Constitution is discriminatory in barring national minorities from running for election to the House of Peoples and the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Bosnian Constitution distinguishes between two categories of citizens: the three ‘constituent peoples’ (Bosniaks, Bosnian Croats and Bosnian Serbs) and ‘Others’ (Bosnian Jews, Roma and other national minorities as well as those who do not declare affiliation with three main ethnic groups). The House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Presidency are composed only of persons belonging to the three constituent peoples. In the judgment, the ECHR rules that the Bosnian Constitution must be amended.

2010

Republika Srpska Passes Independence Referenda Law
On February 10, the National Assembly of Republika Srpska passed a law creating the legal framework for holding a referendum. Prime Minister Milorad Dodik claimed that any referendum will not call for independence, but would instead focus on the role of the High Representative.

Conference in Vienna on Constitutional Changes
The Conference agreed that the Bosnian Constitution should be amended to comply with the ruling by the ECHR which declared the constitution to be discriminatory against non-constituent ethnic groups.
Serbia Apologizes for Srebrenica
By a narrow majority, Serbia's Parliament passed a landmark resolution apologizing for the 1995 Srebrenica massacre.

International Court of Justice Rules on Kosovo
EU’s International Court of Justice ruled that Kosovo’s declaration of independence was not illegal.

NATO gives Bosnia-Herzegovina a Membership Action Plan
At a meeting of foreign ministers in Tallinn, Estonia, NATO gave Bosnia-Herzegovina a Membership Action Plan (MAP). While it held no promise of a NATO membership, MAP served as an assistance program and a means of providing Bosnia-Herzegovina with guidance and support in various political, economic, security, and legal reforms. However, the membership was postponed for another year after Bosnia misses September 1 deadline for the registration of all military equipment in the country, the last requirement for MAP.

EU Grants Bosnian Citizens Visa-Free Travel Regime in the Schengen Area
After more than fifteen years Bosnian citizens were allowed to conduct visa-free travel inside the Schengen Area.

2010 General Elections
Bosnia holds general elections in October 2010. At 56%, voter turnout was the highest since 2002. The election results for the tri-partite presidency reflect the ongoing cleavage between the Republika Srpska, where a Nebojša Radmanović wins reelection for the Bosnian Serb seat of the presidency. In the Federation, Bakir Izetbegović, son of the late wartime President Alija Izetbegović, wins the Bosniak seat, while Željko Komšić is reelected as the Bosnian Croatian member of the Presidency. Milorad Dodik, the current Prime Minister of Republika Srpska, was elected as the new Republika Srpska President. The Central Election Commission stated that 10% of the ballots in the Republika Srpska were invalid, prompting OSCE to call for an investigation.

Montenegro Become EU Candidate Country
On 17 December 2010, Montenegro became an official EU candidate country.

2011

European Commission Cancels Development Aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina
European Commission blocked the developmental aid to the country due to lack of internal socio-economic reforms.

Milorad Dodik Calls for Referendum
President of Republika Srpska Milorad Dodik called for a referendum in the Republika Srpska asking voters whether the state court and prosecution, Bosnia-Herzegovina’s only central judicial institutions, ought to be abolished. EU’s High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton and Miroslav Lajčák, the Managing Director for Russia, Eastern Neighborhood and the Western Balkans of the EU’s new External Action Service, traveled to Republika Srpska to meet with Milorad Dodik. There, in return for Dodik’s calling off the referendum, they agreed to hold a “structured dialogue” with the Bosnian Serbs on the future of judicial institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Ratko Mladić Arrested in Serbia
Ratko Mladić was arrested on May 26, 2011 in Lazarevo, near Zrenjanin in the Banat region of the northern province of Vojvodina.

Croatia Invited to Join the EU
Croatia finished accession negotiations on June 30, 2011. Accession expected to take place in mid 2013.

Goran Hadžić Arrested in Serbia
On July 20, 2011 President Boris Tadić announced that Serbian authorities had arrested Hadžić. He was the last ICTY prosecuted fugitive.

Fourteen months without a State-Level Government
December 2011 - Bosniak, Croat and Serb political leaders reach agreement on formation of new central government, bringing to an end 14 months of deadlock since 2010 general election.

Serbia Becomes EU Candidate Country
On October 12, 2011 European Commission recommended that Serbia be granted official EU candidate status following its successful application for EU membership.

Terrorist Attack on US Embassy in Sarajevo
Bosniak Wahhabi Islamist form Sandžak (Serbia), attacked US embassy on October 28, 2011. One Local policeman guarding the embassy was wounded before the shooter was disarmed and arrested by the police.
2012

**Trial of Ratko Mladic opens at The Hague**
May 2012, The ICTY opens the war crimes case against Mladic. He faces charges including genocide and the massacre of more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys at Srebrenica in 1995.

**Srebrenica burials**
July 2012, large crowds attend the mass funeral of some 500 newly-identified victims of the Srebrenica massacre.

**Bosnian Serb ex-general Zdravko Tolimir sentenced by ICTY**
December 2012 - Bosnian Serb ex-general Zdravko Tolimir sentenced to life in prison by Hague UN war crimes tribunal for genocide over the Srebrenica massacre. A close aide to then Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic, he was arrested in Serbia in 2007 after two years on the run.

2013

**Federation president charged for corruption**
April 2013 - The president of the Federation of BIH, Zivko Budimir, is arrested on corruption charges. Mr Budimir and four other officials are accused of taking bribes to arrange pardons for convicts. Mr Budimir had refused to step down from office in the wake of a political crisis that blew up in 2012, splitting the ruling coalition.

**Croatia joins the EU**
In the January referendum Croatian voters back joining the European Union by a margin of two to one, albeit on a low turnout of about 44%. Formal accession takes place in June 2013, commentary in BIH “we are not getting any closer to EU, but EU is coming closer to us”.

**Protests over the #JMBG cause draw 10,000 people out on the streets**
In the first post-war instance of serious popular mobilization, some 10,000 individuals gathered in front of the Parliament in Sarajevo to protest the #JMBG situation. The issue, in short, was that newborns were not being issued ID numbers since January 2013 due to a failure of the parliament to agree on a draft law on the way personal identification numbers should be issued. Bosniak and Croat legislators insisted on rejecting the demand of their Serb colleagues, who wanted people from the Bosnian Serb part of the country to have different identification numbers than people in the rest of the country. Without ID numbers, the parents of these children are unable to secure vital documentation, including passports. After local media reported on the case of young Belmina Ibrisevic, prevented from traveling to Germany for a life-saving surgery, events were set in motion. The protests were most active in June, and grew into a larger movement demanding more accountability. They died out, however, after a provisional law on ID numbers was adopted.

**First census in 22 years**
BiH’s first census since the war of 1992-95 took place between October 1st and 15th, following many years of delay caused by attempts to ensure that all refugees and displaced persons who wished to return to their pre-war homes were able to do so. In the months before the census there was also considerable controversy about the wording of questions relating to individuals’ ethnic and religious identities. The issue remains vitally important in BiH, because political power and many public-service jobs are shared out on the basis of a quota system among the members of the three constituent peoples Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims), Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats.
Huge mass grave discovered at Tomasica
In October local civilian witnesses revealed the site of what is believed to be the largest mass grave from the war. Located in a village next to Prijedor, it is believed to contain upward of 1,000 bodies of Bosniak and Croat civilians killed by Serb forces. As of November 29, 470 bodies have been excavated. The forensic teams will continue the excavation work in the spring season.

Leaders fail to agree on the implementation of the Sejdic-Finci ruling
Even after a series of reform talks, leaders of the six largest parties failed to agree on how to implement the Sejdic-Finci ruling from 2009. The ruling by the European Court for Human Rights mandated to Bosnian leaders to change its constitution and allow minorities run for top governing posts that are currently reserved for candidates from the three largest ethnic groups, Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats. In response to this repeated failure to reform, the EU withdrew 45 million euro of pre-accession funds and the Council of Europe threatened to suspend BIH’s membership in this organization. Constitutional Reform remains the key condition for the continuation of EU accession talks.
Books on Bosnia-Herzegovina


Francine Friedman, *Bosnia and Herzegovina, a Polity on the Brink* (Routledge, 2004).


Raif Dizdarević, *From the death of Tito to the Death of Yugoslavia* (Šahinpašić, 2009).


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- Sarajevo Canton
- Tourism Association of Sarajevo Canton
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**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**
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- Central Bank of Bosnia-Herzegovina
  [http://cbbh.ba/?id=1&lang=en](http://cbbh.ba/?id=1&lang=en)
- Constitutional Court of Bosnia-Herzegovina
  [http://www.cccb.ba/eng/](http://www.cccb.ba/eng/)
- Court of Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Council of Ministers of Bosnia-Herzegovina
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**ENTITIES**
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- Delegation of the European Commission to Bosnia-Herzegovina
- European Union Police Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina
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- European Union Special Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina
  http://www.eusrbih.eu/
- Office of the High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina
  http://www.ohri.int/
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina
- United Nations Development Programme in Bosnia-Herzegovina
  http://www.undp.ba/
- The United Nations Refugee Agency, Bosnia-Herzegovina
  http://www.unhcr.ba/
- United States Embassy in Bosnia-Herzegovina
  http://sarajevo.usembassy.gov/
- World Bank Bosnia-Herzegovina

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  http://www.bim.ba/en/292/
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