

<b>Forum:</b>	Security Council (SC)
<b>Issue:</b>	The issue of Kosovo
<b>Student Officer:</b>	Kalliopi Vareli
<b>Position:</b>	Deputy President

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear all,

My name is Kalliopi Vareli, and I am a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student at Costeas Geitonas School (CGS). It is my utmost pleasure and honor to be serving as one of the Deputy Presidents on the Security Council in this year's PSMUN. Having chaired in five conferences, PSMUN will mark my 16th conference in total.

Having been part of the Security Council 9 times as of PSMUN 2023, both as a delegate and a Student Officer, I have to admit that I am very much looking forward to this conference. The topics that will be discussed and debated upon are of utmost importance and of interest, and I sincerely hope PSMUN will be as fun, fruitful, and impactful as possible for all of us involved.

Having said that, if any of you have any questions on the preparation for the conference, topic specifications or anything else do not hesitate to contact me at [kalliopivareli2007@gmail.com](mailto:kalliopivareli2007@gmail.com)

I am looking forward to meeting you all in March,

Kalliopi Vareli

## INTRODUCTION

Kosovo is a partially-recognized landlocked State located in Southeast Europe, in the center of the Balkan Peninsula. It is home to approximately 2 million people, representing a diverse mix of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The majority of the population are ethnic Albanians and Serbs. The capital of Kosovo is Pristina, which is also the seat of government and is located in the center of the country. Kosovo is bordered by Serbia to the north and east, Albania to the southwest, North Macedonia to the southeast, and Montenegro to the northwest.

The journey to independence for Kosovo has been long and complicated, marked by decades of conflict and political, cultural, and constitutional struggles. On February 18th, 2008, Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia, a move that has been recognized by 117 countries, but not by the United Nations. The declaration of

independence was met with opposition from Serbia and Russia, who called it illegal, but the International Court of Justice ruled in 2010 that it did not violate international law.

The events leading up to the separation of Kosovo from Serbia included years of political, cultural, and constitutional struggles between ethnic Albanians and Serbs in the region. The late 1990s saw the escalation of violence and conflict between the two groups, with Serbian forces engaging in ethnic cleansing programs that led to a refugee crisis and a growing humanitarian crisis. In 1999, NATO intervened to stop the violence, leading to the establishment of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

The exact issue in the area as of now is the ongoing tensions between ethnic Albanians and Serbs, including disputes over borders, representation in government, and control over cultural and religious sites. The resolution of this issue is important for stability and peace in the region, and for improving the lives of those who have been affected by the conflict. The effects of the ongoing conflict can be seen in the form of economic and social challenges for those living in the area, as well as the impact it has on regional stability and the broader international community.

It is important to note that the resolution of the conflict in Kosovo is crucial for the stability and prosperity of the Balkans and Europe as a whole. The conflict continues to shape the discourse on conflict resolution, human rights, and self-determination and has far-reaching implications for the region and the world. The resolution of this issue requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of the conflict, promotes reconciliation and cooperation between ethnic groups, and supports the development of a just and sustainable peace in the region.



Figure 1: Map of Kosovo

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Autonomy

“The right of an organization, country, or region to be independent and govern itself.”<sup>1</sup>

### Sovereignty

“The power of a country to control its own government.”<sup>2</sup>

### International Law

International Law is a set of rules set out and outlined by international treaties.

### Secession

Secession, in this case, refers to the separation of a region from a country and becoming independent.

### Ethnic cleansing

“The organized, often violent attempt by a particular cultural or racial group to completely remove from a country or area of a different group”<sup>3</sup>

### Peacekeeping mission

Military operations, usually deployed by international organizations, which strive for maintaining peace and security in an area of conflict.

### Self-determination

In this context, self-determination refers to the right of a region or state to gain independence from a colonizer/ empire/ state. Unlike secession, self-determination is protected by international law.

### Ethnic Group

An ethnic group is a social group that, within a different community, shares a cultural background.

### Sanctions

Sanctions are penalties imposed by people, organizations or countries, to other individuals, organizations or governments. They can be in the form of political and diplomatic blocks, arm or trade embargoes, travel bans or economic restrictions.

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<sup>1</sup> “Autonomy.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/autonomy](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/autonomy).

<sup>2</sup> “Sovereignty.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sovereignty](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sovereignty).

<sup>3</sup> “Ethnic Cleansing.” *Cambridge Dictionary*,  
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ethnic-cleansing>.

## Pariah State

A state considered to be an outcast in comparison to the international community. It is facing global isolation and is excluded from international relations, possibly put under sanctions and even invaded by military forces of other nations at times.<sup>4</sup>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Historical Background

The region known as Kosovo, over the years, has been subject to numerous changes in its status as an autonomous state. The region's drastic change from Ottoman to Serbian, to independent rule has played an immense role in both the issue of Kosovo's independence and conflict in the area.

In 1912, Kosovo was gained by Serbia, during the first Balkan war (1912-1913) from the Ottoman empire, who had authority over it before Serbia. In 1913, the Treaty of London was signed and also recognized Kosovo as a part of Serbia. Yet, it took numerous years for Kosovo to be legally and officially part of Serbia. Namely, in 1918 Kosovo was officially declared part of the Kingdom of Serbia.

Up until 1974, when the Yugoslav Constitution recognized the autonomy of the region now known as Kosovo, it was under Serbian Law, under the Yugoslav Federation. Though, it was not long until President of Yugoslavia Slobodan Milosevic revoked the autonomous rights of Kosovo (in 1989) and re-integrated the region into Serbia, effectively denying Kosovo its sovereignty as a state, under Yugoslav rule.

### Conflict between the Ethnic groups in Kosovo

While analyzing the conflict between the ethnic groups in Kosovo (namely ethnic Albanians and ethnic Serbians) which will be done in the guide, it is as important to firstly understand the cultural and religious identity of each group, and how that has affected the conflict.

Albanians, being majorly Muslim (of the Sunni Islamic branch), consist of the majority of the Kosovar population. Over the years, they have inevitably clashed culturally with ethnic Serbians in the region that, for the most part, are of orthodox Christian cultural backgrounds. Since Serbia considered Kosovo its own land and overwhelmingly Slavic, the orthodox influences of Albanian citizens were considered a part of previous influences, stemming from Ottoman rule. To add to that, since the overwhelming population of Kosovo is Albanian and Muslim, the region has become tied culturally with Islamic traditions and characteristics. With that being said, it is understood that certain Serbian nationalists (such as Slobodan Milosevic, former president of Serbia

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<sup>4</sup> Pariona, Amber. "What Is a Pariah State?" WorldAtlas, WorldAtlas, 1 Aug. 2017, <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-is-a-pariah-state.html>.

under Yugoslavia) would be opposed to the Islamic characteristics of the region, resulting in the uprising of conflict between the ethnic groups.

Subsequently, in 1989, Ibrahim Rugova, the leader of the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, initiated a series of nonviolent demonstrations against the overruling of Kosovo's autonomy by Slobodan Milosevic, president of Serbia within Yugoslavia at the time. This was due to the fact that ethnic Serbians in the region had rejected to acknowledge that the majority of the population were Muslim Albanians, and that the state was adopting Islamic characteristics, because of the historic and religious identity of the area. This was the case as, under Serbian rule, the territory of Kosovo was considered of orthodox Christian and Slavic character.

That inevitably led to conflict between the two ethnic groups. The International community, however, refused to address the issue at first, meaning that the ethnic Serbs' demands could not be met through peaceful, diplomatic means aided by third parties. Following the series of demonstrations and relatively lower scale conflict, the Kosovo Liberation Army was created in 1996 as an attempt to overthrow Serbian and Yugoslav rule in the area, and initiated larger scale conflict that is now referred to as the Kosovo War.



Figure 2: Ethnic distribution of Kosovar citizens

### The Kosovo War

The conflict now known as the Kosovo War, which lasted from 1998 to 1999, was a period of armed conflict between the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), ethnic Serbians, and the Yugoslav and Serbian Government. The Kosovo Liberation Army, or KLA, first

emerged in 1996, staging attacks on Serbian police and politicians that gradually escalated over the period of two years. Both Yugoslav law enforcement and Serbian Police attempted to regain control over the area. Mass killings, sexual assaults, and intense violence inevitably resulted in a massive refugee wave in the Balkan Region.

The above resulted in the creation of an informal coalition (comprising the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy and the Russian Federation), the Contact Group, that demanded an official ceasefire, the withdrawal of any and all troops from the area and the return of refugees to their home country, through the Rambouillet Conference that took place from January to February of 1999.

The Yugoslav president Slobodan Milošević, while agreeing to the demands set out in the Rambouillet Accords, failed to actually implement them, claiming their devaluing of several political and economic benefits Serbia possessed. This resulted in the regrouping of the KLA and brand new attacks, that provoked increased violence from the Yugoslav and Serbian forces, and ended in a program of ethnic cleansing.

In 1999, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) set off air strikes against Serbian military, which lasted 11 weeks (78 days), which further resulted in the escalations of ethnic cleansing with Yugoslav and Serbian troops displacing thousands of people in North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania. In June of 1999, NATO and Yugoslavia signed a peace treaty outlining troop withdrawal, and the repatriation of over a million of ethnic Albanians.

Regardless of the imposition of arms embargoes, the demand for the area's demilitarization, violence persisted. In order to finally cease tension and conflict in the area, UN peacekeeping and administrative troops were deployed through the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo as outlined in resolution 1244 of the United Nations Security Council, which still operates in Kosovo today under revised aims. The general objective of this operation was to observe and aid Kosovo throughout the years following the war, and create positive circumstances for the country's economic, social, and political stability.

### Examining Kosovo's secession under international law

When examining the legality of Kosovo's secession, it is important to also consider the right of self-determination. Self-determination, in this context, refers to how a country determines its own statehood. This is usually used (like the term of succession) in cases of decolonization which is not the case in Kosovo. By the 1974 Yugoslav Constitution ethnic Albanians had the right of internal self-determination, which entailed that they could participate in Yugoslav politics independently. Thus, it is important to note that self-determination is protected by international law.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Zakaria, Trg. "The Right of Self Determination under International Law." *Academia.edu*, 9 Apr. 2017, [www.academia.edu/32348951/The\\_right\\_of\\_self\\_determination\\_under\\_international\\_law](http://www.academia.edu/32348951/The_right_of_self_determination_under_international_law).

“The basic postulate has been that international law neither allows nor prohibits secession. International law has traditionally acknowledged secession subsequent to a factual state of events, which has led to a situation in which the constitutive elements of a State are present rather than stating the conditions of its legality. This legal neutrality has, to a great extent, been influenced by the tension between two opposing principles, self-determination and territorial integrity.”<sup>6</sup>

Focusing on Kosovo’s self-determination declaration and secession though, it is crucial to mention the 2010 International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling. The case of Kosovo’s secession’s legitimacy was brought to the ICJ on October 8th 2008 by the General Assembly in an attempt to reach a conclusion on the issue, following several rounds of UN-operated discussions between Serbian and Kosovan officials. The ICJ finally announced in June of 2010 that Kosovo’s secession from Serbia does not breach international law.

### Current Status of Kosovo as a State

The issue of Kosovo is one of the most important and prominent cases of secession in modern politics. It is a prime example of the clash between western and eastern ideologies when it comes to the issue of independence. Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia in 2008 and since then, it has been recognized by 117 states, but not by the United Nations. Serbia, along with Russia, considers the declaration illegal, while the 2010 International Court of Justice case concluded that it did not violate international law. However, Serbia continues to reject this ruling.

Kosovo's independence is the result of decades of conflict between Kosovo, Serbia, former Yugoslavia, and international organizations, such as NATO. The status of Kosovo, which has changed several times over the years, including Ottoman and Yugoslav rule, has also been impacted by Serbian nationalism and uprisings by Albanian ethnic groups. These tensions have led to unrest in the region and have contributed to the conflict between ethnic Serbs and Albanians. Furthermore, the conflict between Kosovo and Serbia during the 1990s was one of the most prominent issues in the Balkan Region and Europe as a whole.

It is important to note that the conflict has had a profound impact on Europe, the Balkan region, and the international community. The 1999 refugee wave and the growing humanitarian crisis due to ethnic cleansing programs by Serbian forces are just a few examples of the tension in the area. The resolution of the issue is important for promoting peace and stability in the region, which is crucial for both sides.

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<sup>6</sup> Pazartzis, Photini. “Secession and International Law: The European Dimension (Chapter 11) - Secession.” *Cambridge Core*, Cambridge University Press, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/secession/secession-and-international-law-the-european-dimension/0E07E36789B48B6FCD4588F038CD0B5E>.

The current status of Kosovo as a state can be described as follows: Serbia considers Kosovo as its own territory, while Kosovo and 117 other UN nations consider it an independent state. The situation in Kosovo highlights the differences between western and eastern ideologies on the issue of independence. For instance, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, France, among other countries, recognize Kosovo as an independent state, while countries like Russia and China do not.

Kosovo's current social, political, and economic state is also an important aspect to consider. The country's economy has heavily relied on foreign administration within the area, such as the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the NATO-administered peacekeeping mission (KFOR). This has inevitably led to a slower-developing economy, contrasting most other regions and countries in Europe, despite the fact that the use of the Euro and the assistance of interim administrations have significantly contributed to its growth.

Moreover, the conflict between ethnic Albanians and ethnic Serbians within Kosovo based on their religious and cultural differences is still present in the country, resulting in continuous unrest in the region. Tensions have once again risen in Kosovo and Serbia recently between ethnic groups and governments. In August of 2022, ethnic Serbian protesters blocked two passages on the Kosovo-Serbia border due to plans from the Kosovar government for all Serbian citizens to display Kosovo license plates and temporary documents for their stay in the country.

The Balkan region and Europe as a whole have been directly impacted by the conflict in the area. The refugee waves and humanitarian crises, as well as the political and economic uncertainty, are just a few examples of the impact of the conflict. Therefore, it is important, taking into consideration all cultural and historic aspects and characteristics of the region, to provide solutions that promote peace and stability suitable for both sides.

The international community has been trying to find a resolution to the issue of Kosovo for years. Several rounds of negotiations have taken place between the two sides, but no agreement has been reached. The most recent negotiations took place in Brussels, where EU officials have been trying to broker a deal between Serbia and Kosovo. The talks have been stalled due to the differing views and positions of the two sides, but deep roots and these have been the source of tension for many decades, with the recent declaration of independence being just the latest chapter in a long history of strife. To understand why this conflict persists, it is essential to examine the history of the region, the cultural and religious differences between ethnic Albanians and ethnic Serbians, and the economic and political factors that contribute to the ongoing unrest.



## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

### Serbia

Serbia geographically surrounds Kosovo in the north and east. Prior to Kosovo's declaration of independence, the territory was internationally recognized as Serbian. While the country understood the region's need to be viewed as an autonomous province, it rejected the 2008 declaration from the area's officials, and continued to claim it as the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija. Following the move, no relations were established between the two entities, symbolizing the unwillingness of both belligerents to achieve common ground following the war and the subsequent urge of Kosovo to claim total independence. In recent years, however, there has been increased dialogue between the two, with several rounds of negotiations taking place as discussed in the Background Information.

The 2013 Brussels Agreement encapsulates the relations between the two, as the negotiations facilitated by the EU saw Serbia consent to an EU accession process, granting Kosovo and Serbia the right to request for membership in the EU separately. As of February 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2023, talks seem to have reached a level not achieved in previous years, as Serbia's President, Aleksandar Vucic, warned that sustaining a total non-recognition policy against Kosovo may lead Serbia in becoming a European "pariah" state, especially when considering Western aspirations for the Balkan nation to finally recognize Kosovo's independence.<sup>7</sup>

### Albania

Albania is located southwest of Kosovo and has played a significant role in the conflict. Namely about 90% of Kosovo's citizens consider themselves ethnic Albanian and their involvement in the dispute has also been crucial. During the 1999 sweep of Serb military through Kosovan territory, 800,000 Kosovo Albanians were forced to flee their homes and seek shelter in neighboring nations. The majority decided to seek refuge in Albania, and the country's officials quickly responded to the needs of the people.

Thousands of Kosovo-Albanians stayed in refugee camps near the border, while others were redistributed and directed around the country, staying in out-of-season hotels and resorts until an entrusted place to live was found. Yet, according to several reports, the conditions of the camps and resorts was not favorable for the Kosovans. Abuses and killings have been reported in such scenarios, reaching a point where even the BBC visited the area in 2010 to conduct an investigation. In an interview that took place during the investigation, then Albanian deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Ilir Meta, claimed that "Albania is willing to cooperate with the international community for respecting international law, and I think that for every request we will

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<sup>7</sup> Gec, Jovana. "Serbia Could Become 'Pariah' over Kosovo, President Warns." AP NEWS, Associated Press, 2 Feb. 2023, <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-politics-kosovo-government-european-union-e180b7591aeaaadd8781d820c4052116>.

give the right answer”.<sup>8</sup> Thus, even though the willingness of the Albanian government to resolve conflict and aid the Kosovan population in their quest for independence has been questionable, the country as a whole has for a long time been in favor of Kosovo’s independence.

### Russian Federation

Ever since the 2008 Kosovo declaration of independence, Russian officials have been in support of Serbia on the matter. President Vladimir Putin has been documented supporting Serbian decision-making in regards to the dispute in several occasions, stating that any support for Kosovo’s declaration is “immoral and illegal”<sup>9</sup>. Russia claims that supporting Kosovo in the dispute undermines international law, and while there has not been any significant instance of Russian intervention on the matter, it is believed that the country is prepared to provide any assistance to Serbia in its quest to withhold control over the territory.

In March 2014, Russia even used Kosovo's declaration of independence as a justification for the country’s decision to annex Crimea, a move condemned upon by the international community.

### United States of America (USA)

The United States, having adopted a policy exactly opposite to that of Russia on the matter, continuously support the recognition of Kosovo as an independent state. The US government aims to help Kosovo establish a “just and prosperous democracy within Europe”<sup>10</sup>, and has aided in any negotiations that have thus far taken place. The country was and is, of course, involved in the NATO campaign in Kosovo, having supported the airstrikes that took place in 1999.

As previously implied, however, the US has turned to diplomatic discussions and mediation as a way to resolve all conflict. In 2019, then US President Donald Trump even initiated peace talks between Serbia and Kosovo on economic normalization, which eventually allowed for the two nations to restore flights between their capitals for the first time, a crucial step towards their economic but also political reconciliation.

### North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization got firstly involved in the situation in Kosovo in June of 1999, when the NATO-based peace-support operation Kosovo Force (KFOR) deployed a 78-day air campaign in the territory. It was launched to halt and reserve the humanitarian crisis that was then unfolding in the region. The move had mixed

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<sup>8</sup> “Uncovering Albania's Role in the Kosovo War.” BBC News, BBC, 17 May 2010, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8687186.stm>.

<sup>9</sup> Putin: Supports for Kosovo Unilateral Independence "Immoral, Illegal" \_English\_xinhua, [https://web.archive.org/web/20080217221925/http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-02/14/content\\_7604675.htm](https://web.archive.org/web/20080217221925/http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-02/14/content_7604675.htm).

<sup>10</sup> “U.S. Relations with Kosovo - United States Department of State.” U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of State, 7 Sept. 2021, <https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-kosovo/>.

reactions from the international community, but was generally understood to support the Kosovan Albanian population of the region.

Following the war's eventual stoppage, the organization altered the force's objectives and attitude, adopting a mediation-friendly approach in favor of bilateral and multilateral negotiations. In present time, NATO conducts capacity-building initiatives in the region, aimed at improving the overall security and well-being of the existing populations. It has supported all initiatives for diplomatic agreements, including the EU- and US- facilitated talks.

### European Union (EU)

The European Union has played an important role in the efforts made to support the state of Kosovo since 1999. It is believed by European officials that Kosovo shares a common perspective with the organization and are, thus, in favor of the country's inclusion in international relations.

The organization, as aforementioned, facilitated talks between the Serbian and Kosovan governments from 2011 to 2013, that being the first time this occurred following Kosovo's declaration of independence in 2008. After eight negotiation rounds, it was agreed, among other things, to establish border freedom and eliminate the existing trade embargo that was in place.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
1912	The region known as Kosovo is claimed by Serbia from the Ottomans during the first Balkan wars.
1913	The treaty of London in 1913 recognizes Kosovo as a part of Serbia.
1918	Kosovo officially becomes part of the Kingdom of Serbia.
1946	Serbia (including Kosovo), Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia (now North Macedonia), are integrated in the Yugoslav Federation.
1974	Yugoslav Constitution officially recognizes Kosovo's autonomy.
1989	Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic revokes Kosovo's autonomous status.
1998-1999	The Kosovo War escalates between the KLA and Yugoslav/Serbian forces.
24 March, 1999	NATO airstrikes commence.
10 June, 1999	The UNSC signs resolution S/RES/1244.
February 2003	The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is officially disbanded.
February 2008	Kosovo announces its secession from Serbia and its autonomous status as a state.
July 2010	The ICJ announces that the separation of Kosovo from Serbia does not breach international law.
19 April 2013	The Brussels Agreement is signed, by the governments of Kosovo and Serbia.

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

### ICJ 2010 case

In 2008, the UN General Assembly issued a case to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the question of “Is the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo in accordance with international law?”. The conclusion was reached in 2010 after careful examination and written testaments of many member states. The court announced that the secession of Kosovo from Serbia, and its independence did not breach international law.<sup>11</sup> Yet, the final decision of the court did not prompt any decision to be made, rather implying that there are no wrongdoings in Kosovo’s secession. Hence, it did not directly suggest any solution to the issue.

### The Rambouillet Accords

From January to February of 1999 in Rambouillet, France, negotiations were held between Yugoslav Government representatives and a delegation representing the ethnic Albanian population in Kosovo. The resolution proposed through these mediation efforts known as The Rambouillet Accords outlined security measures to be taken in the area, including the withdrawal of military power in Kosovo, and also included the means through which Kosovar citizens can be protected under international accords.

Though, Yugoslavia’s refusal to sign the Rambouillet Accord inevitably led to the negotiations’ failure and NATO’s subsequent military intervention during the same year.

### UNMIK operation in Kosovo

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1999, the United Nations Security Council passed resolution S/RES/1244 (1999)<sup>12</sup>. It outlines and enforces peace and security measures that were put into action after the resolution passed, including withdrawal of all military forces in the area, the verification of the violence, the deployment of UN controlled security forces, the safe return of refugees, and the creation of a stable government. Additionally, this was the resolution that outlined the UNMIK, its use, deployment and operational details.

Therefore, since 1999, the UN has launched an interim mission in Kosovo the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) that had control over the

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<sup>11</sup> “Latest Developments: Accordance with International Law of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence in Respect of Kosovo: International Court of Justice.” Latest Developments | Accordance with International Law of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence in Respect of Kosovo | International Court of Justice, <https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/141>.

<sup>12</sup> “Resolution 1244 (1999) /.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/274488>.

judiciary, administrative and legislative powers in order to help Kosovo sustain their autonomy. After Kosovo's official secession from Serbia in 2008, its primary role has been to ensure that security and peace are maintained in the area, and that the human rights of Kosovo's citizens are maintained and respected.<sup>13</sup> Since the deployment of the mission, the UNMIK is still actively involved in solving smaller scale humanitarian crises in the area.

The mission has been mostly successful, bearing in mind that the Kosovar government was efficiently developed and able to provide, in collaboration with the mission, a stable political, social, and economic environment for its people.

### The Brussels Agreement (2013)

The Brussels Agreement of 2013, or the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations, is a European Union issued agreement, between Kosovo and Serbia. It was signed on April 19<sup>th</sup> of 2013, and it outlines means through which Kosovar citizens will be protected, including an official Kosovar police force. It opened paths for both states involved for their request of an EU membership, mentioned ways through which Kosovo's government can be strengthened (e.g. elections) and mentioned ways that discussions can be further developed. Though none of the two countries have been admitted to the EU yet, in both cases there have been talks regarding their future admission.

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<sup>13</sup> UNMIK, [unmik.unmissions.org/](http://unmik.unmissions.org/).

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

### Decentralization and greater autonomy for minorities

Decentralizing power from the central government to regional and local governments could help address the concerns of minority communities in Kosovo, including the Serbian community. This would involve creating local governments with the power to make decisions on key issues such as education, health care, and local infrastructure. This would give minority communities more control over their own lives and help to reduce tensions between different groups.

### Power sharing arrangements

Another solution could be to establish power-sharing arrangements between the different ethnic groups in Kosovo. This could involve creating a system of governance in which representatives of different communities have equal representation in key decision-making positions, such as the government, the judiciary, and other public institutions. This would ensure that the interests of minority communities are taken into account when important decisions are made.

### Economic and social development

Addressing the underlying economic and social factors that contribute to the conflict in Kosovo is also important. Constitutional reforms aimed at promoting economic and social development in the country could involve investments in infrastructure, education, and job training programs. This would help to improve the standard of living for all residents of Kosovo and reduce the economic disparities that exist between different communities.

### Strengthening the rule of law

Another important solution is to strengthen the rule of law and increase accountability for human rights abuses. This can include creating an independent judiciary, improving the police force, and ensuring that the government is transparent and accountable to the people. Additionally, strengthening the rule of law can also help to create a more stable and secure environment, which can promote economic growth and reduce tensions.

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