



NATO STUDY GUIDE

Agenda Item 1

The Kosovo War

haydarpaşazade '22

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION STUDY GUIDE

Table of Contents

- A. Introduction to the Chairs**
- B. Introduction to the Committee**
- C. Introduction to the Topic/Agenda Item**
- Ç. Background**
 - a. Josip Broz Tito
 - b. Slobodan Milošević
- D. General Overview**
 - 1. Authorities of NATO
 - 2. Timeline
- E. Blog Positions**
- F. Bibliography**

A. Introduction to the Chairs

I am delighted to greet you all at the Haydarpasa Anatolian High School Model United Nations Conference. I am Fikriye Yazar, a 10th grader at Huseyin Avni Sozen Anatolian High School. In the fifth edition of the Haydarpasa Anatolian High School Model United Nations Conference, I am honored to serve as the Student Officer responsible for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Committee.

To conclude my letter, I wish you luck in the committee and hope that we were successful in generating the best possible study guide recommendations for you. You will be expected to finish the work that we started with our help and guidance. Finally, I want to express my gratitude to our Secretary-General, Yağmur Zühal TOKUR, for giving me the opportunity to serve as a Student Officer at such a prestigious conference.

Fikriye Yazar
Student Officer

Distinguished participants,

I, Serra İslamoğlu, am honored to be serving as your Student Officer responsible for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Committee in Haydarpaşa Anatolian High School Model United Nations Conference. I have been studying at Huseyin Avni Sozen Anatolian High School as a 10th grader.

In this study guide, you will find the historical and political atmosphere, the details of the conflict, and the existing situation in Kosovo. I request all of the delegates to review this guide to understand the key points which resolve the issues. I hope this year HaydarpaşaMUN'22 will be a great, memorable experience for all our participants, with negotiating and taking help from diplomacy to overcome.

Lastly, I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Yağmur Zühal TOKUR for giving me this opportunity to experience this esteemed conference.

With sincere appreciation,
Serra İslamoğlu
Student Officer

B. Introduction to the Committee

NATO, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is a collective security arrangement in which NATO's independent member states agree to defend each other against external threats. It was founded during the Cold War as a response to the Soviet Union's threat.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the alliance remained in place and has been involved in military actions in the Balkans, the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa. The NATO headquarters are in Brussels, Belgium, and the Allied Command Operations headquarters are near Mons, Belgium. "Animus in consulendo libre" is the organization's motto (Latin for "A mind unfettered in deliberation").

C. Introduction to the Topic/Agenda Item

Kosovo conflict, (1998–99) conflict in Kosovo between ethnic Albanians and the Yugoslav government (the rump of the previous federal state, consisting of the republics of Serbia and Montenegro). The crisis drew great worldwide attention and was eventually settled thanks to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's assistance (NATO).

In 1989, Ibrahim Rugova, the leader of the ethnic Albanians in the Serbian province of Kosovo, began a program of nonviolent protest against President Slobodan Milošević's abrogation of the territory's

constitutional authority. Miloevi and members of Kosovo's Serbian minority had long resented the fact that Muslim Albanians controlled the demographics of an area revered by Serbs. (Kosovo was the seat of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the site of the Serbs' defeat by the Turks in 1389 and Serbia's victory over the Turks in 1912.) Tensions between the two ethnic groups grew, and the international community's failure to confront the matter aided Rugova's most radical opponents, who claimed that their demands could not be met peacefully. The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) was founded in 1996, and during the next two years, its occasional attacks on Serbian police and politicians rapidly increased.

Ç. Background

Kosovo has existed for many years with its controversial status in the western Balkans. Both Albanians and Serbs based the first settlements in Kosovo on their own origins. The relations of these two communities, which have faced each other historically, have also changed culturally with the conversion of the Albanians to Islam.

The time of the 1st World War and the Balkan Wars of that period changed the political conjuncture and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia which was a new state in the west of the Balkans, a kingdom formed by the Serbian Croatian Slovenian kingdoms and these ethnicities, was established.

In Yugoslavia, the majority of which was composed of Serbs, both the military and economic power of the Serbs and the majority of the Serbs in the dynasty made the Serbs the authority of the country. This domination of the Serbs began to create some unequal treatment within the country. New political arrangements and cultural progress disproportionately strengthened Serb rule and created biased unjust policies. Serbian bias also showed itself in the country demographically. incentives for the Albanians to migrate to different places such as Turkey, and assimilation were policies based on not accepting the Albanian presence in Kosovo. These made the life of Albanians more tough, causing them to migrate. Educational and cultural policies could not be saved from this perspective of the state, and mainly were developments for the Serbian people. Albanian nationalism was beginning to show itself.

Division of these two communities was getting deeper and segregation in society became visible. This diplomatic view, which saw Albanians as a danger, even saw methods such as dismissal of Albanians, forcing them to migrate, and resorting to police terror as possible policies.

a. Josip Broz Tito

After the Second World War, Tito came to the presidency with great popular support and the country would continue its new political life as the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia.

The government focused on uniting the country to heal the wounds of past nationalist uprisings and divisions and to deal with the ravages of war. Thus, improvements took place for the Albanians who were victims of oppressive policies. As a result of this conciliatory policy, there have been changes such as the status of their language as official languages, the introduction of Albanian in education, and equal rights have been provided, and these have not satisfied the Serbs and even increased the tension between them.

One of the changes made in this new political period was the constitutional regulations. With the new constitutional arrangement, autonomy was granted to Kosovo, which meant the right to independence in the constitution, judiciary, central bank, parliament, education and police force, like an independent republic. The Serb population in Kosovo also started to decrease compared to the Albanians. This migration had both economic reasons such as unemployment, poverty, which is excessively high in Kosovo, and the reasons such as the cultural changes mentioned. With these developments, the government tried to manage the growing nationalism and rebellion against Yugoslavia and managed to overcome the independent movements of the Albanians to some extent.

The death of Josip Broz Tito on May 4, 1980 created changes. The racial duality and the changes, inequalities and grievances in the political history, which have long historical remains, have come to the surface again.

The destabilization in the country and the absence of a new powerful political figure created a vacuum in authority, and as a result both Serbs and Albanians were positioned within the context of their own goals. The nationalist stance and discourses of the Albanians showed that they lacked their belonging to Yugoslavia. After 1980, complaints became visible on the streets. Demonstrations and protests began to be seen in Kosovo for different reasons.

b. Slobodan Milošević

The Serbs, on the other hand, perceived many things in Kosovo as an attack on their nation, and these ensured the election of the ultra-nationalist leader of the Serbian communist party, Slobodan Milošević, for the presidency. With the arrival of Milosevic, the boycott policies of the Kosovo Albanians were encountered more frequently and the autonomy given to Kosovo during the Tito period and the authority and independence to determine some issues were returned to Serbia. The abolition of autonomy caused the Albanians to protest.

This situation in the country was destructive in many ways. It created both a political uncertainty and an uneasy and insecure environment for the people, and in addition to these, the country was weakening economically day by day and triggering these issues even more. With the abolition of the autonomy, Albanians became isolated and in 1990 the schools of the Armenians were closed, the Albanians were fired and these places were filled with Serbs. The Albanians organized uprisings and the peaceful protests turned into violence. More than 30 people lost their lives and Yugoslavia increased the measures.

After the collapse of Yugoslavia in 1991, Kosovo became independent with a referendum. The leader of this state, which could not go beyond the political acceptance of Albania, was Ibrahim Rugova. The pressure on the Serbs increased again in Kosovo, and armed attacks were made against the Serbian authorities.

c. Ibrahim Rugova

Rugova remained committed to his nonviolent road to independence as president, even as supporters of military resistance founded the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) to combat Serbian oppression of ethnic Albanians. Rugova was re-elected president in 1998, but as the Kosovo War erupted, he found himself at conflict with the KLA. He was a member of the Kosovar delegation at the abortive Rambouillet talks in 1999, which sought to resolve the conflict. Rugova was taken prisoner by state officials when NATO launched its U.S.-led bombing assault against Yugoslav atrocities in Kosovo. Rugova had lived in the capital Pristina for his entire presidency. Rugova was deported to Rome in May 1999 and returned to Kosovo in the summer of the same year, shortly after the KLA and NATO occupied the province.

Rugova's tactic of passive resistance and non-cooperation with the Serbian authorities had an unforeseen consequence: the opportunity to remove Milosevic's rule through the electoral process was lost. Since 1990, the Albanian Kosovars have abstained from all Serbian elections, in keeping with their declaration of independence. Because they represent at least one tenth of the electorate,¹³ their electoral support in the mid-1990s may possibly have propelled Serbia's opposition to power.

Rugova's pacifist policies were shattered in Dayton. The 'internationalization' of the Kosovo issue was not achieved during the November 1995 conference that resolved the hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Given the difficulties of the peace process, the international community had no desire to add Kosovo to the conference's already packed schedule. As long as there was no actual war in Kosovo, there seemed to be no pressing reason to impose an issue that would almost certainly have jeopardized Milosevic's accord with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

D. General Overview

The message of Dayton was plain to many Albanians in Kosovo: if there was no war, there would be no 'internationalization,' and Serbian persecution would continue indefinitely.

Kosovo's secession would have to be pursued through a new strategy of military insurgency, as Rugova's internationally hailed pacifist approach had failed to garner any international rewards.

Terrorist assaults on Serbian police stations in Kosovo began just months after the Dayton agreements, which was unsurprising.

Rugova's power in the Albanian Kosovar community remained almost unchallenged in 1996. The militant KLA, which backed armed insurgency against Rugova's KDA's pacifist doctrine, was unable to mount anything more substantial than terrorist attacks against Serbia's oppressive system. A genuine guerrilla campaign would necessitate weapons on a scale that the KLA could not afford at the moment. So long as the KLA couldn't create a strong insurgency with a realistic chance of succeeding, it couldn't entice a critical mass of local Albanian clan leaders to flee Rugova and initiate a guerrilla campaign.

For the second time in ten years The Albanian army's storage depots were stolen extensively during the era of instability and lawlessness that followed the collapse of fraudulent pyramid schemes that wiped out the little savings of an impoverished populace. In the months that followed, a large volume of stolen guns crossed the border into Kosovo, changing the situation on the ground. Armed uprisings were becoming more possible. Albania, ironically, aided her Kosovar brethren's separatist campaign by virtue of her own weakness. However, it should be noted that the majority of the munitions utilized by the KLA in 1998–99 were Yugoslav/Serbian in origin.

1. Authorities of NATO

NATO could use force to confront crises or threats that do not directly affect allied territory but could have implications for important national or humanitarian interests (e.g., combating arms proliferation or genocide) if its members so desired, though to what extent remains a point of contention within the alliance. The potential of combined military action should not be contingent on unanimous assent. Even if action is performed by a fraction of allies, an alliance that allows swift and effective responses to crises in and beyond allied territory is preferable to one that requires perhaps unattainable unanimous approval.

2. Timeline

Kaqusha Jashari and Azem Vllasi were compelled to resign from the leadership of the League of Communists of Kosovo on November 17, 1988. The Serbian Assembly proposed amendments to the Serbian Constitution in early 1989, removing the word "Socialist" from the Serbian Republic's title,

establishing multi-party elections, removing the autonomy of institutions in autonomous provinces such as Kosovo, and renaming Kosovo the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija.

Against the proposal in February, striking miners empowered Kosovar Albanians to march in huge numbers.

On March 3, 1989 The Yugoslav President implemented special measures, delegating responsibility for public security to the federal administration.

Early in the 1990s, Kosovar Albanians staged major protests against the special measures, which were abolished on April 18, 1990, and Serbia reassumed responsibility for public security.

The KLA was designated as a terrorist organization by the US State Department in 1998.

The Yugoslav army and the Serb Ministry of Interior police launched an operation to clear the KLA's border on May 31, 1998. Operation Determined Falcon, a NATO show of force over the Yugoslav borders, was NATO's response to this offensive in mid-June.

On 24 September 1998, NATO's North Atlantic Council (NAC) issued a "activation notice," signaling an increased degree of military readiness in Kosovo for both a limited air option and a phased air campaign. On October 13, 1998, the North Atlantic Council issued activation instructions for limited air attacks as well as a phased air campaign in Yugoslavia, which would begin in 96 hours.

The war's first phase, from January to March 1999, saw an increase in urban instability, involving bombs and murders. The current date is 20 March 1999 and there hasn't been any NATO bombardment yet.

E. Bloc Positions

Kosovo conflict, (1998–99) conflict in Kosovo between ethnic Albanians and the Yugoslav government (the rump of the previous federal state, consisting of the republics of Serbia and Montenegro).

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