[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef)

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**Kosovo** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en);[[1]](#cite_note-1) [Template:Lang-sq](/wiki/Template:Lang-sq) [Template:IPA-sq](/wiki/Template:IPA-sq); [Template:Lang-sr-cyr](/wiki/Template:Lang-sr-cyr)) is a [disputed territory](/wiki/List_of_territorial_disputes)[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3) and [partially recognised](/wiki/List_of_states_with_limited_recognition) [state](/wiki/Sovereign_state)[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) in [Southeast Europe](/wiki/Southeast_Europe) that [declared independence](/wiki/2008_Kosovo_declaration_of_independence) from [Serbia](/wiki/Serbia) in February 2008 as the **Republic of Kosovo**. While Serbia recognises administration of the territory by Kosovo's elected government,[[6]](#cite_note-6) it still continues to claim it as its own [Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija](/wiki/Autonomous_Province_of_Kosovo_and_Metohija).

Kosovo is [landlocked](/wiki/Landlocked) in the central [Balkan Peninsula](/wiki/Balkan_Peninsula). Its capital and largest city is [Pristina](/wiki/Pristina). It is bordered by the [Republic of Macedonia](/wiki/Republic_of_Macedonia) and [Albania](/wiki/Albania) to the south, [Montenegro](/wiki/Montenegro) to the west, and the uncontested territory of Serbia to the north and east.

In antiquity, the [Dardanian Kingdom](/wiki/Dardanian_kingdom), and later the Roman province of [Dardania](/wiki/Dardani#Roman_Dardania) was located in the region. In the Middle Ages it was part of the [Byzantine Empire](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire), [Bulgarian Empire](/wiki/Bulgarian_Empire) and Serbia, and many consider the [Battle of Kosovo](/wiki/Battle_of_Kosovo) of 1389 to be one of the defining moments in [Serbian medieval history](/wiki/Medieval_Serbia). After being part of the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) from the 15th to the early 20th century, in the late 19th century Kosovo became the centre of the Albanian independence movement with the [League of Prizren](/wiki/League_of_Prizren). As a result of the defeat in the [First Balkan War](/wiki/First_Balkan_War) (1912–13), the Ottoman Empire [ceded](/wiki/Treaty_of_London_(1913)) the [Vilayet of Kosovo](/wiki/Vilayet_of_Kosovo) to the [Balkan League](/wiki/Balkan_League); the [Kingdom of Serbia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Serbia) took its larger part, while the [Kingdom of Montenegro](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Montenegro) annexed the [western part](/wiki/Metohija) before both countries joined the [Kingdom of Yugoslavia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Yugoslavia) after [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I). After a period of [Yugoslav unitarianism](/wiki/Yugoslavism) in the Kingdom, the post-[World War II](/wiki/World_War_II) [Yugoslav](/wiki/Socialist_Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia) constitution established the [Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija](/wiki/Autonomous_Province_of_Kosovo_and_Metohija) within the Yugoslav constituent republic of [Serbia](/wiki/Socialist_Republic_of_Serbia).

Long-term ethnic tensions between Kosovo's [Albanian](/wiki/Albanians) and Serb populations left the province ethnically divided, resulting in inter-ethnic violence, culminating in the [Kosovo War](/wiki/Kosovo_War) of 1998–99, part of the wider regional [Yugoslav Wars](/wiki/Yugoslav_Wars).[[7]](#cite_note-7) The war ended with a [military intervention of NATO](/wiki/NATO_bombing_of_Yugoslavia), which forced the [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia](/wiki/Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia) to withdraw its troops from Kosovo, which became a [UN protectorate](/wiki/United_Nations_Interim_Administration_Mission_in_Kosovo) under [UNSCR 1244](/wiki/UNSCR_1244). On 17 February 2008 [Kosovo's Parliament declared independence](/wiki/2008_Kosovo_declaration_of_independence). It has since gained [diplomatic recognition](/wiki/Diplomatic_recognition) as a [sovereign state](/wiki/Sovereign_state) by [Template:Numrec](/wiki/Template:Numrec) and Taiwan ([Republic of China](/wiki/Republic_of_China)). Serbia refuses to recognise Kosovo as a state,[[8]](#cite_note-8) although with the [Brussels Agreement of 2013](/wiki/Brussels_Agreement_(2013)) it has accepted the legitimacy of Kosovo institutions. The constituent peoples of Kosovo are [Kosovo Albanians](/wiki/Kosovo_Albanians), who make up majority of the population, and [Kosovo Serbs](/wiki/Serbs_of_Kosovo).[[9]](#cite_note-9) The country is poor by European standards with high unemployment, still not having fully recovered from the past conflict.[[10]](#cite_note-10)