

**Committee:** Security Council

**Issue:** Addressing Security Risks as a Result of the Internal Ethnic Conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Student Officer:** Anna Alexiadou

**Position:** President

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

It is my honour to welcome you all to the 5th Deutsche Schule Thessaloniki Model United Nations. My name is Anna Alexiadou, I am an IB2 student at Anatolia College and I will be serving as the President of the Security Council.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on applying for this year's conference, especially in the Security Council. Regardless of whether you are an experienced delegate or a first timer by the time of the conference, MUN is open to all kinds of students from all around the world and brings them together; via our shared passion for diplomacy and debate. During these three days me, Natasha and James will try to offer you a memorable experience and get you to know delegates from other places, while researching and debating on our, quite challenging I would say, topics.

Being an *MUNer* for more than three years now, and having attended various conferences as an Admin Staff, Delegate, Advocate, as well as a Student Officer, each conference never fails to surprise me, equipping me with a set of skills that will prove to be crucial, regardless of the field of study I am following. To our first-timers and rookie delegates I would like to say, as our MUN advisor always reminds us, MUN is not about the quantity of conferences you have attended, but about what you have gained from each one of them; the essence. So don't worry if you make mistakes or feel overshadowed by more experienced delegates. We have all been there before, so be persistent and keep trying and you have my word, it will be worth it.

You can use this Study Guide as guidance for your research on the first topic of our agenda, namely *"Addressing Security Risks as a Result of the Internal Ethnic Conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina"*. Topics addressing security and peace issues are, in my personal opinion, the most challenging topics in an MUN conference, as they are always cases of multiperspectivity and impact more than one social sector. It calls for a lot of research, preparation and creativity, so as to have a dynamic debate and come up with strong and constructive clauses for our Resolutions. I would encourage all of you to first understand the situation and background of the issue at hand and then proceed with drafting your clauses and position papers.

I am aware that research on this topic is not going to be easy nor straightforward, so if you have any questions regarding the topic, your country's policy or how to prepare, do not hesitate to contact me. I mean it when I say I am

here to help you in whatever way I can, so don't hesitate to take advantage of my email address, which is [20171002@student.anatolia.edu.gr](mailto:20171002@student.anatolia.edu.gr)

Looking forward to meeting each and every one of you,

Anna Alexiadou

## **TOPIC INTRODUCTION**

After the fall of communism in the 1980s, Yugoslavia's republics started seeking independence, one by one. Bosnia's declaration of independence, though, led to a rise of ethnic tensions within the borders. Unfortunately, Bosnia-Herzegovina's multicultural character, due to the three major ethnic groups residing within the borders (Bosnian Muslims, Bosnian Croats and Bosnian Serbs), rendered the pursuit of independence as a unified State impossible, as the Bosnian Serbs declared their own independence as Republika Srpska. Following a series of armed conflicts, NATO and UN interventions, but also the infamous Srebrenica Massacre in July of 1995, the Bosnian War was brought to an end with the Dayton Peace Accords, signed December 1995, which split the country into two semi-independent entities; Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, both with their own governance systems below the main Bosnian government.

With the signing of Dayton, Bosnia acquired and still maintains one of the most complex governance systems in the world. The President of Republika Srpska, Milorad Dodik, is trying to pursue the secession of the entity, further contributing to the slow but steady division of the country. The secession threats only worsened the situation in Bosnia, which was left in ruins after the Bosnian War. Although the conflict has not escalated yet, there are significant threats of another civil war emerging, fueled by nationalism, due to three significantly different ethnic groups having to coexist within the same area. The issue of nationalism can be seen from everyday life to higher forms of authority; From the separate education systems for each of the three ethnic groups, little to no development in the private sector of economy and impunity of politicians convicted of war criminals during the Bosnian War.

When researching this topic it is important to look at sources assessing and evaluating both sides, as well as think of the role of the international community and organisations like the NATO and their capacity to intervene in conflicts. Last but not least, since the topic focuses on "Security Risks" resulting from the Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) internal conflict, the debate will go beyond the question of Republika Srpska's independence and touch upon ways to ensure the safety of innocent civilians in danger, as well as punishment of yet unpunished war criminals.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Referendum

“An event in which the people of a county, state, etc, vote for or against a law that deals with a specific issue : a public vote on a particular issue”<sup>1</sup>

### (UN) Safe Area

“An area of a country at war, etc, where civilians are protected from attack”<sup>2</sup>

### Ethnic Cleansing

War crime; “Attempt to get rid of, through deportation, displacement or mass killing, members of an unwanted ethnic group in order to establish an ethnically homogenous geographic area.”<sup>3</sup>

### Republic of Srpska

Region of Bosnia and Herzegovina, first established in 1992 by Bosnian Serbs and now one of the two entities of the country.

### Bosniaks

The main Bosnian ethnic group, usually Muslim Bosnians.

### International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

“A UN court of law that dealt with war crimes that took place during the conflicts in the Balkans in the 1990s. The mandate of the court lasted from 1993-2017”<sup>4</sup>

### Secession

“The act of separating from a Nation or a State and becoming independent”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/referendum> .

<sup>2</sup> “Safe Area Definition and Meaning: Collins English Dictionary.” *Safe Area Definition and Meaning | Collins English Dictionary*, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/safe-area> .

<sup>3</sup> History.com Editors. “Ethnic Cleansing.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 14 Oct. 2009, <https://www.history.com/topics/holocaust/ethnic-cleansing> .

<sup>4</sup> *United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia*, <https://www.icty.org/>

<sup>5</sup> , *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/secession>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### The Bosnian War (1992-1995)

#### The beginning of the war

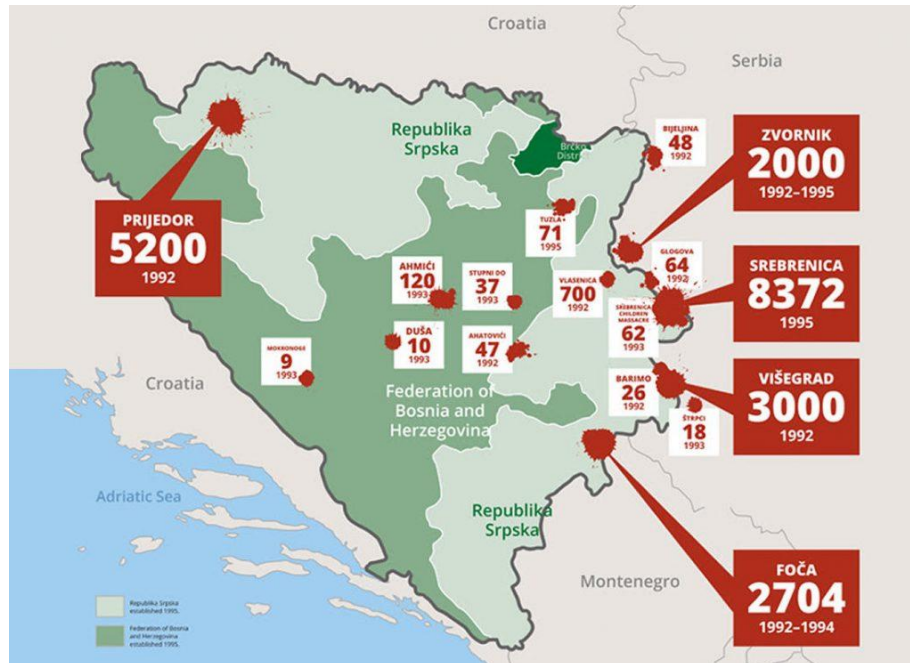
With the fall of communism in 1990, the republics comprising Yugoslavia, a federation founded during WWII started seeking independence, one by one. Bosnia Herzegovina, one of the most multicultural republics of Yugoslavia, consisted of 3 main ethnic groups; The Bosnian Muslims, otherwise known as Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats. Although Bosnian Serb Party Leader, Radovan Karadzic, warned Bosnian government against pursuing independence, in February of 1992 Bosnia held a Referendum, to which Croats and Bosniaks supported, but Bosnian Serbs opposed, supported by the Serbian government of Slobodan Milosevic, proceeding to declare their own independence as “Republika Srpska”.

On the 27th of April 1992, the Social Federal Republic of Yugoslavia officially disassembled and was replaced by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, consisting of Serbia and Montenegro. UN declined the request for the latter Republic to continue their membership as Yugoslavia ([UNSC Resolution 777](#)), so Bosnian Serbs started to take over Serb and Muslim-majority areas of Bosnia, followed by attacks on the capital, Sarajevo. The city remained under siege for approximately 4 years, which indicated the beginning of the Bosnian War; At first, the Bosnian Croats aligned with the Bosniaks against their common enemy, the Bosnian Serbs, but ultimately assisted the Bosnian Serbs in taking over the Croat-majority parts of Bosnia.

#### Negotiations

In the meanwhile, dislocated Bosniaks found refuge in Srebrenica, which was soon [declared a Safe Area](#) by the UNSC. As an attempt to stop the rampage, the [Vance Owen Plan](#) was proposed, which would divide the country into 10 ethnic provinces; 3 Serb, 3 Croat, 3 Bosniak, while the capital, Sarajevo, would remain neutral. The plan was approved by the Bosnia-Herzegovina President, the Croatian President, as well as the Bosnian Croats. On the other hand, despite the Serbian President initially agreeing to the plan, the Serbian military already had control of the two thirds of the country, hence agreeing to the plan would mean losing about 25% of their territory. Despite the Vance Owen plan ultimately not being set forward, Bosniaks and Croats signed the [Washington Agreement](#) in 1994, threatening Croatia with sanctions unless the military stopped the war against Bosnian Muslims.

Even yet, the Agreement did not include the Serbs, which launched a series of attacks in Safe Areas, refusing NATO's ultimatum to withdraw their weapons. In response to this, NATO launched attacks against Serbian air bases. Nevertheless, the worst and by far bloodiest event of the war was the Srebrenica Massacre, including thousands of victims.



“The geography behind the ethnic cleansing”<sup>6</sup>

### The end of the war - Dayton Peace Agreement

The bloodshed in Srebrenica led to a full scale NATO attack against the Bosnian Serbs, while Croats and Bosniaks launched attacks against Serbian controlled land and burned down Serb villages, forcing Serbian civilians to flee to Montenegro and Serbia. The end of the war was indicated with the [Dayton Peace Agreement](#) in 1995, held in Dayton, Ohio and The bloodshed in Srebrenica led to a full scale NATO attack against the Bosnian Serbs, while Croats and Bosniaks launched attacks against Serbian controlled land and burned down Serb villages, forcing Serbian civilians to flee to Montenegro and Serbia. The end of the war was indicated with the [Dayton Peace Agreement](#) in 1995, held in Dayton, Ohio and chaired by Richard Holbrooke, EU Special Representative Carl Bildt and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. According to the Agreement Bosnia Herzegovina would remain a single State, but would be divided into 2 Sections; the Bosniak-Croat Federation and the Republic of Srpska. It also foresaw that the two entities would “fully respect

<sup>6</sup> Cleverly, Francesca. “Ethnic Cleansing in Bosnia.” *Remembering Srebrenica*, 24 June 2021, <https://srebrenica.org.uk/what-happened/history/ethnic-cleansing-bosnia>

the sovereign of one another and settle disputes by peaceful means, while respecting human rights and the rights of refugees and displaced people”<sup>7</sup>

In the following days, in order to ensure the implementation of the agreement, which would put an end to the conflict, a force of 60,000 troops from 25 different nations, including the United States, were set in motion.

### **Present Time**

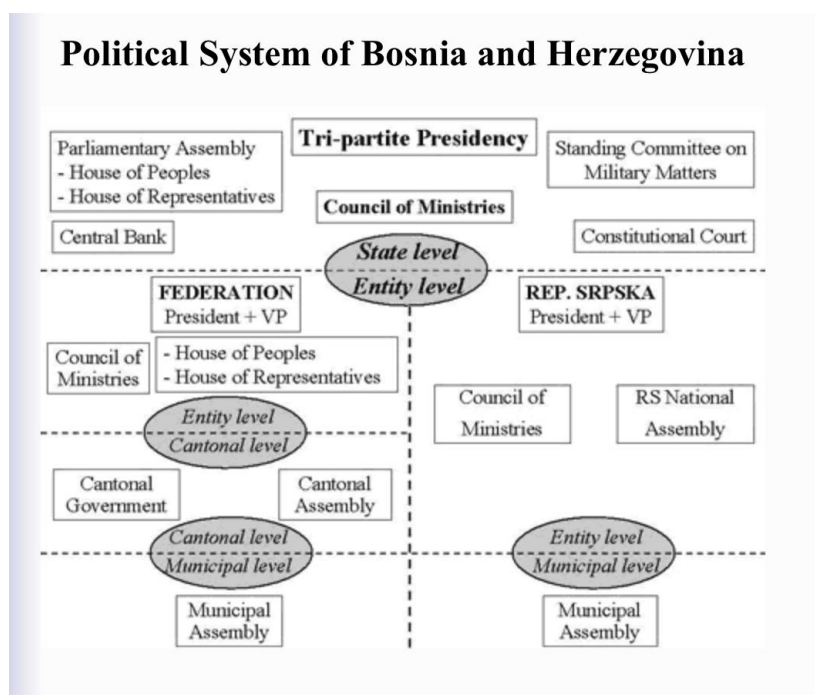
In the present time, the Bosnian state has been especially dysfunctional, while the Republic of Srpska has been gaining more and more political power. Its leader and member of the tripartite, Milard Dodik, has been making various statements on the entities intentions to secede the country. He has also rejected multiple cooperation proposals, as well as any reintegration efforts with the Bosnian State.

### **Bosnian Government**

Bosnia Herzegovina has one of the most complicated governance systems in the world, due to its long hierarchy chain. Since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords in 1996, the State has been divided into two autonomous entities; the Republic of Srpska, populated by Bosnian Serbs) and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, each with a separate president and legal system. Above the two Republics’ governance lies the elected tripartite presidency consisting of 1 Bosniak, 1 Serb and 1 Croat president, which rotates every 8 months. The tripartite may exercise authority over foreign, diplomatic and military affairs, yet many view it as faulty by nature, due to the exclusivity when it comes to ‘self-defined’ candidates, such as people identifying as Roma, Bosnian etc, who subsequently cannot run for Presidents. The current tripartite consists of Sefik Dzaferovic (Bosniaks), Zelijko Komsic (Croats) and Millard Dodik (Serbs).

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/event/Dayton-Accords>



### The Political System of Bosnia & Herzegovina explained<sup>8</sup>

The country also appoints a Head of State, who is the Chairman of the Presidency and establishes the Council of Ministers. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers serves as Head of Government, namely as Prime Minister. It is also important to note that the Parliament is bicameral- composed of two governance bodies; the House of Representatives, consisting of 42 members and the House of People, consisting of 15 representatives, all represented equally by each ethnic group. The State government has authority over matters regarding security, defence, immigration and the economy, while each entity is autonomous to exercise different jurisdiction on a wide scope of issues such as healthcare, education, agriculture, police, labour and internal affairs.

Finally, it is important to refer to the Office of the High Representative; an institution established after the signing of Dayton, whose main responsibilities are to oversee the implementation of the Peace Agreement. The institution also contributes to the accession of the country into the EU, as well as maintenance of Peace and Security within the borders.

### Political instabilities

The signing of the Dayton Peace Accords left Bosnia and Herzegovina in a fragile political and economical state, driven by an overtly complex

<sup>8</sup> SFOR Informer Online: Political System of Bosnia and Herzegovina, <https://www.nato.int/sfor/indexinf/125/p03a/b01031a.htm>

governance system and corrupted politicians. After marking 25 years from the end of the conflict, political tensions sparked once again when Valentin Inzko, the then High Representative, outlawed any condonation, trivialisation or justification of genocide and other crimes against humanity, on the grounds that this is “Likely to incite to violence or hatred”; Any person recognising or giving privileges to individuals convicted with crimes against humanity will have to serve time in jail. It is also important to note that this decision was made through the use of “Bonn Power”, a construct that allows the High Representative to override Bosnian State legislation, if that is for the sake of maintaining peace. Immediately following this change, Republika Srpska started passing multiple laws to declare the independence of different bodies of the entity from Bosnia’s central government. In December 2021, the Republika proposed laws on complete independence from Bosnian Army, establishing their own tax and judiciary system.

Dodik himself has made various statements the past few years, indicating the Serb’s intentions regarding the succession of Republika Srpska, and even its integration into the Serbian State; Dodik wants to replace the Bosnian judiciary, security and intelligence agencies with exclusively Serb-led institutions, all for the sake of strengthening the Republika Srpska.

Other security issues is the slow but steady weaponization of the country; Owning weapons is not uncommon, despite the decreased military training over the past decade. What is more, the upcoming elections are set for October 2022, hence there is a constant fear of weaponisation of the ethnic tensions fueled by nationalism, which could potentially pose a significant threat to the country. Finally, Bosnia’s population is getting older and older, since most of the country’s youth is migrating to neighbouring countries, seeking better life conditions, due to corruption and an inflating economy within the Bosnian borders.

### **Breaching the Dayton Peace Accords**

Although in 1995 the Dayton Peace Accords did put an end to the most violent conflict in Europe post World War II, the Treaty left the country with an extremely complex and fragile governance system. President Milorad Dodik has been making various statements and threats on the secession of Republika Srpska from the Bosnian State, and has already started withdrawing major institutions from the central Bosnian government, replacing them with Serb-only ones, which consists of a serious breach of the Dayton Accords. He also parallels the situation of Republika Srpska to Kosovo, arguing that the international community should view the



secession of the entity as legitimate; “We do not see a single reason why we should not be granted the right to self-determination, the right envisaged in international conventions”. Despite heavy sanctions imposed on him by the United States, the President keeps on pursuing Republika Srpska’s independence from the rest of Bosnia.

This pursuit for independence hinders the reunification of Bosnia and dissolution of internal conflict, as it further encourages ethnic division and segregation. The attention of the international community falls upon the breach of Dayton and the emerging of another civil war between the two entities instead of improving the economy of the country and taking steps towards improving the living conditions of the citizens.

### MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

#### Bosnia Herzegovina

##### Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina

The Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina, mostly comprising of Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats, covers about half of the State’s territory and is further divided into ten cantons. Although Croats and Bosniaks have developed friendly relations, due to all these years of coexisting within the same nation and entity, the ethnic division caused by ethnic segregation poses a huge threat to the Federation; For example, there is no interaction between Bosniak and Croat schools, as well as the two schools have separate curricula in different languages; one of the many factors which fuel nationalism and promote ethnic division, which hinders the political, cultural and economic flourish of the country.

##### Republika of Srpska

Republika Srpska is the second entity which Bosnia-Herzegovina consists of, populated by a great majority of orthodox Christian Serbs and having one representative in the tripartite presidency. It was officially established by the Dayton Peace Agreement signed in 1995. Although Dayton referred to the entities functioning semi-independently, but having a central government lead by the tripartite, the past few years Republika Srpska, led by Milorad Dodik (Serb member of tripartite) has been rendering national laws inapplicable and establishing Serb-dominated judiciary and tax bodies, as an attempt towards declaring independence from the rest of the country. Just a year ago, while the entity celebrated its national day (Creation of Republika Srpska), praises of Ratko Mladic, a convicted war criminal, were reported, together with similar nationalistic actions on behalf of the people. Dodik has

been threatening the international community with secession for over 15 years now, and has faced multiple sanctions from the USA on the grounds of corruption.

### **Croatia**

During the signing of Dayton in 1995, Croatia signed the General Framework Agreement for Peace in BiH, which meant that they had responsibility for maintaining peace and stability within the region, as well as participate in the Peace Implementation Council. In 1992, the leaders of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina decided upon the fact that all Bosnian citizens would receive Croatian citizenship and it is estimated that now approximately 87% of BiH's citizens have Croatian citizenship. This means, as seen in the past, that Bosnians have a huge influence on Croatia's elections. Although when Croatia joined the EU in 2013 its policies towards Bosnia slightly shifted, the two countries maintained friendly relations. Finally, it is important to note the economic partnership between the two counties, with Croatia being BiH's prime trading partner.

### **Serbia**

Since the beginning of the Bosnian War, Serbian-Bosnian relations have not been the best; which continued to be the case until these days. The ethnic division in Bosnia is paralleled with Serbia's refusal to recognise Kosovo, while an increasing defence spending and military strength demonstrations have been observed in Serbia. Serbia's views towards Dodik's secession threats has shifted a lot, together with Serbia's different political parties and Presidents; President Boris Tadic, in office from 2004-2012, stated that he is against the breakup of BiH and "as a guarantor of the Dayton Agreement which brought peace to Bosnia", supports and protects Bosnia's territorial integrity. In 2015, Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic supported Russias veto of UNSC Resolution declaring the Srebrenica massacre as a genocide, claiming that "Russia has prevented an attempt of smearing the entire Serbian nation as genocidal". Nevertheless, after the election of Aleksandar Vucic as President in 2017, Serbia seems to be willing to repair their relations with Bosnia; The President has stated that the State wants to develop a stronger relationship not only with Bosnian Serbs, but also Bosniaks and Croats. It is also important to note that he paid respects to the annual Srebrenica Genocide Memorial.

### **NATO**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was involved in multiple armed strikes during and after the Bosnian War; At first, NATO foreign ministers agreed for the organisation to assist the UN's peacekeeping missions in BiH, along with sanctions under UNSC Resolutions 713 and 757. During 1994, NATO started initiating more air

strikes without UN approval, killing multiple Serbs in the process, while also initiating air strikes against Serbs as a response to the Srebrenica Massacre. After the war, the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) was put in motion to overview the implementation of Dayton, but was soon replaced by another NATO-led force (Stabilisation Force, SFOR) which was also responsible for facilitating the country's reconstruction after the damages of war. Finally, the intervention during the Bosnian War was NATO's "*First major crisis response*", and a few years later in December of 2006 BiH officially became a NATO partner country.

### **Russia**

Russia has a long history with the Balkan countries. During the Yugoslav wars, the country was using its UN status to support Serbia, as part of their wider foreign policy; to slow down the integration of Balkan countries into the European Union and NATO. Apart from Russia's political influence over the Balkans, Russia maintains a particularly close relationship with Serbia and Republika Srpska's Dodik, through funding and political support, pushing Dodik further into pursuing the secession of Srpska. On July of 2015, the country vetoed a UNSC Resolution that would declare the Srebrenica massacre as a genocide, an act which was then supported and praised by the then Serbian President.

### **USA**

The USA has been a major factor since the very beginning of the conflict in Yugoslavia. A great deal of the peace negotiations has taken part in the United States, among which the Dayton Peace Agreement and the Washington Agreement. Along with actions such as strike threats against Serbs if Safe Areas were violated in 1995, USA kept sending multiple peacekeeping troops to Bosnia even after the end of the War. During President Dodik's statements on secession, the Treasury Department of the United States imposed multiple economic sanctions on Dodik, on the grounds of corruption, which he explicitly denied.

## **BLOCS EXPECTED**

### **Bloc one; In favour of Bosnia Herzegovina Unity**

Countries in this bloc view the referendum(s) held by Republika Srpska as an unacceptable breach of Bosnian legal order and are in favour of efforts towards re-unifying Republika Srpska with the rest of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**Bloc two; In favour of independence of Republika Srpska**

Countries in this bloc, such as Serbia and the Russian Federation, will be in favour of holding a referendum regarding the independence of Republika Srpska; Said countries believe that the best way to solve the internal conflict in Bosnia and protect the rights of the civilians will be the complete division of Bosnia; Countries whose policy does not view this secession as a breach of international law and believe that Republika Srpska could function as an independent State, or perhaps as part of another State.

**TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

| <b>Date</b>                          | <b>Description of event</b>  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| February 1992                        | Referendum for independence by Bosnia-Herzegovina  |
| April 12th 1992 - February 29th 1996 | Sarajevo is under Siege by Bosnian Serbs   |
| April 6th 1992                       | Recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina's independence   |
| April 27th 1992                      | Social Federal Republic of Yugoslavia disassembled, replaced by Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia + Montenegro) |
| April 16th 1993                      | The UN establishes Safe Areas in Bosnia, to provide refuge to Bosniak civilians (UNSC Reso 819)                      |
| May 25th 1993                        | The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia is established through UNSC Resolution 827             |
| March 15th 1994                      | The Washington Agreement is signed, to stop Croatian attacks against Bosniaks  |
| 11-25 July 1995                      | Srebrenica Massacre  |
| August 30th 1995                     | NATO bombs Bosnian Serb airbases   |
| November 21st 1995                   | Dayton Peace Accords (end of negotiations)   |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| March 11th 2006    | Former Serbian President and convicted war criminal Slobodan Milosevic dies in his prison cell |
| December 21st 2017 | The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia is officially disbanded          |

## RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

### UNSC Resolution 819

Signed on April 16th 1993, this Resolution established the first Safe Area in Srebrenica, declaring Srebrenica as a Safe Area free from attacks or other hostile acts, while also calling for the series of attacks by Bosnian Serbs to come to an end and withdraw from the area. The Resolution also called for monitoring of Srebrenica and the rest of the declared Safe Areas in BiH by UN Personnel, and arranged transfers for victims of the Serbian attacks. Unfortunately, the Resolution failed to prevent the Srebrenica Massacre from happening.

### Washington Agreement

The Washington Agreement was an agreement of ceasefire between Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, putting an end to the Croat-Bosniak War. The Agreement also divided the territory into ten independent cantons, which comprised the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### Vance Owen Plan

The [Vance Owen Plan](#) was a Peace Plan proposed by the United States during the Bosnian War. It consisted of a roughly sketched map that divided the Bosnian State into ten ethnic provinces; 3 Serb, 3 Croat and 3 Bosniak, along with the neutral capital Sarajevo. The Plan was initially approved by the BiH president and the Croatian president, while also supported by the Bosnian Croats. Nevertheless, the Serbian president urged for agreement but the Serbian military, having already taken control of the two thirds of BiH, agreeing to the Plan would mean giving up about 25% of the territory under their control, hence the Plan was rejected.

### Dayton Peace accords

Signed on November 21st, 1995 in Dayton, Ohio, the Dayton Peace Accords put an official end to the Bosnian War, as well as put in place its current governance system. The Agreement split the country into two entities; Republika Srpska,

consisting mainly of Bosnian Serbs, and the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, consisting of Bosniaks and Bosnian Croats. After the signing of Dayton, a 60,000 troop force, consisting of more than 25 nations, were settled in Bosnia to supervise its implementation. Apart from Dayton, a few days later the General Framework Agreement was signed in Paris, according to which BiH, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had to settle conflicts through peaceful means and recognise each other as equal, while cooperating with UNSC to protect human rights and punish war criminals.

### PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

#### Military intervention

Over the course of years, Bosnia has seen troops of different forces intervening for the sake of Peace Keeping and the dissolvment of the Bosnian War. For example, increased troops from the EU Force in the State (EUFOR), NATO forces and American troops.

#### EU Membership

Some States had supported that Bosnia-Herzegovina's EU membership could potentially secure stability and prevent the Bosnian Serbs' efforts to make Republika Srpska independent. Unfortunately, not only Bosnia's membership is still being discussed, but also due to corruption and political instability no further steps have been taken to bring the country closer to the EU. In conclusion, with Republika Srpska's undetermined status, as well as the huge ethnic division in the country, Bosnia Herzegovina remains a "potential candidate country"

### POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

#### Peace Protection through modernisation

Since one of the biggest causes of this ethnic division is the fuel of nationalism and the, less violent yet ongoing conflict between the three ethnic groups, democratic reformations are a key step to ensure the stability of the State, which will then create a more peaceful environment for diplomatic talks and compromises. Examples of peace protection and unification could include inclusive changes in factors such as judiciary bodies and education, development of the private sector and entrepreneurship, promotion of progressive mindsets and development of new policies tackling secessionist threats.

### Diplomatic Talks

As the High Representative Miroslav Lajcak said; “Republika Srpska does not have the right to secede from BiH, at the same time no one can unilaterally abolish Republika Srpska”; Both the roads towards Republika Srpska becoming independent, as well as entirely unifying with the Bosnian Federation are very long and complex from a diplomatic point of view. Diplomatic talks should be put in place to reconsider the Dayton Peace Agreement and find middle ground which will stem solutions both entities will be in favour of, in order to prevent further conflict.

### Reformations in Economy

Bosnia and Herzegovina’s poor living conditions, brain drain, as well as other arising problems stem from the inflating economy. The disproportionate ratio of public sector to private wealth sector gives further floor to corruption, to which a large percentage of the GDP is lost. What is more, high taxes and low salaries prevent formal employment positions from being established and hence the workplace being monitored and transparent. Other issues such as the huge basis on consumption rather than production, as well as a very low export sector contribute to BiH’s failing economy. Tackling these issues at hand and expanding the private sector would encourage more young people to stay and work for the country, improving its financial status and living standards, and hence working towards the unification of the country.

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