

NATO and the Western Balkans

Niall Mulchinock

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From Neutral Spectator to Proactive Peacemaker

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For my family: Eileen, James and Karina

SELECT CHRONOLOGY

1990

- July 5–6 NATO's London Summit occurs. Alliance publishes the *London Declaration on a Transformed North Atlantic Alliance*
- August 2 Iraq invades Kuwait
- November North Atlantic Council (NAC) Discussion on the destabilising situation in the Western Balkans vetoed by the European Allies

1991

- January–February First Gulf War. NATO's involvement is confined to its defence of Turkish airspace
- June 25 Croatia and Slovenia declare independence
- June–July Ten day war between Slovenia and Yugoslavia. Brioni Agreement brings hostilities to an end
- July War begins between Croatia and Yugoslavia
- Autumn NATO's then Supreme Allied Commander, General John Galvin, develops preliminary plans to end the siege of the Croatian port of Dubrovnik by military force. NATO member states resistant to using any force at this point
- November 7–8 NATO's Rome Summit occurs. The allies agree on a new Strategic Concept to guide the organisation in the years to come
- November Vukovar Massacre in Croatia
- December Disintegration of the Soviet Union

1992

- January UN and EU recognise the independence of Croatia and Slovenia
- February Deployment of UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to Western Balkans
- February–March Referendum on independence in Bosnia Herzegovina. Bosnian Serbs boycott vote

April	Conflict begins in Bosnia after its independence is recognised by the international community.
June	NAC issues statement of concern regarding Yugoslavia at its June ministerial meeting in Oslo, Norway
July 10	NATO foreign ministers agree to establish <i>Operation Maritime Monitor</i> at a meeting of the CSCE in Helsinki, Finland
Mid-July	NATO ships deploy to Adriatic Sea. The core aim of <i>Maritime Monitor</i> is to observe shipping lanes in the Adriatic Sea preventing arms from entering the former Yugoslavia
Summer	Preliminary plans on replacing the UN mission in Bosnia with a NATO operation, developed by the alliance's military authorities
October 9	UN passes Resolution 781, establishing no-fly zone over Bosnia Herzegovina. After this Resolution passes, NATO commences <i>Operation Sky Monitor</i>
November 22	<i>Operation Maritime Guard</i> replaces <i>Operation Maritime Monitor</i> in Adriatic Sea
December	The possibility of out-of-area participation in conflicts occurring outside of the NATO Treaty area is raised at a meeting of the NAC
<i>1993</i>	
January 20	Bill Clinton is inaugurated as the new US President
March	War accelerates between Muslims and Croats in Bosnia
April 12	<i>Operation Deny Flight</i> replaces <i>Operation Sky Monitor</i>
April 22	Meeting between UN and NATO Secretaries-General in Belgium
May 6	Bosnian Serbs reject Vance Owen Peace Plan for Bosnia
June	NATO/WEU <i>Operation Sharp Guard</i> replaces <i>Operation Maritime Guard</i> in the Adriatic Sea
July	In response to more stringent UN Security Council Resolutions, NATO offers close air support to assist UNPROFOR
August 9	The NAC approves options for NATO air strikes in Bosnia Herzegovina. Any decisions on probable air strikes to be taken in consultation with the United Nations
Autumn	Failure of Owen/Stoltenberg peace plan for Bosnia
October	NATO Secretary-General, Dr. Manfred Wörner, travels to Washington and appeals for more direct action in Bosnia
<i>1994</i>	
January 10–11	NATO Summit in Brussels. War in Bosnia central to discussions
February 5	Shelling of Sarajevo marketplace. Sixty-eight civilians are killed
February 9	Emergency session of NAC. The Council declares an exclusion zone around Sarajevo and issues ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs
February 21	Bosnian Serbs comply with the NATO ultimatum
February 28	NATO jets shoot down four Bosnian Serb military aircraft that are violating the no-fly zone
March–April	Bosnian Serbs intensify attacks on UN 'safe area' of Gorazde
April	NATO pinprick air strikes against Bosnian Serb targets in and around vicinity of Gorazde. UNPROFOR troops taken hostage by Bosnian Serb forces

Late April	Further NATO air strikes scrapped as a result of Bosnian Serbs agreeing to move their heavy weaponry back from the hills surrounding Gorazde
August 13	Death of NATO Secretary General, Manfred Wörner. He is succeeded by Willy Claes, a former Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs in October
October 17	Willy Claes, a former Belgian minister for Foreign Affairs, succeeds Manfred Wörner as NATO Secretary General.
November	NATO undertakes air strikes against military forces in Serb-controlled Croatia as a result of attacks on the Bosnian town of Bihac
December	NATO begins to make preliminary plans to extract UN forces from Bosnia if it is required
December	Former US President, Jimmy Carter, brokers ceasefire agreement in Bosnia
<i>1995</i>	
March	Carter ceasefire collapses. Hostilities resume in Bosnia
May	Accelerated NATO bombing in Bosnia as a result of intensified Bosnian Serb attacks on the 'safe areas'. Bosnian Serbs respond by taking 350 UNPROFOR peacekeepers hostage
July	Srebrenica Massacre occurs
July	International Conference takes place in London. NATO given more authority to launch attacks against military targets in the Bosnian Serb Republic
Late July–August	In a number of significant sessions the NAC agrees to sanction a number of targets to be attacked in any large-scale air campaign
August 28	Mortar attack on Sarajevo marketplace leads to the deaths of thirty-seven civilians. Bosnian Serbs held responsible
August 30	Beginning of NATO's <i>Operation Deliberate Force</i>
Mid-September	Conclusion of <i>Operation Deliberate Force</i>
October	Ceasefire agreed in Bosnia
November 21	Agreement reached between various parties at Dayton Ohio to end war in Bosnia
December 14	Dayton Peace Accords signed in Paris
December 15	The NAC approves <i>Operation Joint Endeavour</i> to implement military aspects of Dayton Peace Agreement
December 20	IFOR assumes command of operations in Bosnia
<i>1996</i>	
September	Elections held in Bosnia. Security arrangements for the conduct of elections provided by IFOR
December 20	IFOR mandate expires. It is replaced by SFOR
<i>1998</i>	
January	Beginning of conflict in Kosovo
June	NATO stages exercise <i>Determined Falcon</i>
August	The NAC is presented with a number of options relating to military operations against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
October 13	The NAC approves the activation order and sets a date for air strikes

October <i>1999</i>	Milosevic agrees to allow OSCE observers into Kosovo
January	Racak massacre occurs in Kosovo
January 30	NAC authorises air strikes on Yugoslavia if it is required
February	Rambouillet negotiations occur in France
March–June	Duration of NATO's <i>Operation Allied Force</i>
April	NATO adopts its new strategic concept at its 50th anniversary summit in Washington
June <i>2001</i>	NATO troops deploy to Kosovo after the withdrawal of Serbian forces
January–August	Instabilities in Macedonia
August	NATO deploys a mission to Macedonia to supervise the collection of rebel arms
September 11	World Trade Centre attacked in New York City. Administration of George W. Bush plans to reduce US presence in the Western Balkans with a focus on fighting wars in Afghanistan and later in Iraq
<i>2002</i>	
January	Milosevic trial commences at ICTY in The Hague
December	Berlin Plus Agreement signed
<i>2003</i>	
March	The EU takes over from NATO in relation to operations in Macedonia
<i>2004</i>	
March	Slovenia joins NATO
December	EU <i>Operation Althea</i> replaces the SFOR mission in Bosnia
<i>2006</i>	
March	Death of Slobodan Milosevic
June	Montenegro declares its independence from Serbia
December	Serbia joins NATO's Partnership for Peace programme
<i>2008</i>	
February	Kosovo declares its independence. Protests occur in Belgrade
April	Macedonia prevented from joining NATO at the Bucharest Summit
July	Former Bosnian Serb Leader, Radovan Karadzic, arrested in Serbia
<i>2009</i>	
April	Albania and Croatia become formal members of the Alliance at its 60th anniversary Summit in France and Germany
October	Karadzic trial begins in The Hague
<i>2010</i>	
December	Kosovo holds its first post-independence elections amid accusations of corruption and vote rigging.
<i>2011</i>	
May	Former Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic arrested in Serbia

<i>2012</i>	
May	Mladic trial formally begins in The Hague
<i>2013</i>	
April	Kosovo and Serbia sign historic agreement in Brussels that provides the first formal basis for normalised relations between the two sides
<i>2014</i>	
February	A resurgence of civil unrest in Bosnia. Protests are related to economic issues, widespread unemployment and general dissatisfaction with the political class in Sarajevo who are perceived as corrupt
<i>2015</i>	
May	Instabilities in Macedonia. Tensions relating to the disputed elections of April 2014 along with ongoing disagreements between the elected government and opposition boil over into protests
July	Twentieth anniversary of the Srebrenica Massacre. Commemorations take place in Bosnia and throughout the world
December	At a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels, Montenegro is invited to start accession talks to join the Alliance
<i>2016</i>	
March 24	Radovan Karadzic sentenced at the ICTY in The Hague to 40 years imprisonment

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACE	Allied Command Europe
ACTORD	Activation Order
ACTREQ	Activation Requirement
ACTWARN	Activation Warning
AFSOUTH	Allied Forces Southern Europe
AIRSOUTH	Allied Air Forces, Southern Europe
ARRC	Allied Rapid Reaction Corps
AWACS	Airborne Warning and Control System
CAS	Close Air Support
CFE	Conventional Armed Forces in Europe
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CINCEUR	Commander in Chief, European Command
CINSOUTH	Commander in Chief Allied Forces Southern Europe
CIVPOL	International Civilian Police Force for Kosovo
CJTF	Combined Joint Task Force Concept
COMAIRSOUTH	Commander Allied Air Forces Southern Europe
COMARRC	ARRC Commander
COMKFOR	KFOR's First Commander
CSCE	Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (1975–95)
CSDP	Common Security and Defence Policy of the EU
DPC	Defence Planning Committee
DRC	Defence Reform Commission
EAPC	Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council
EC	European Community
EEC	European Economic Community

ESDI	European Security and Defence Identity
EU	European Union
EUFOR	European Union Force
EULEX	European Union's Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo
EUPM	EU Police Mission
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
FRY	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1992–2003)
FYROM	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
IFOR	Implementation Force
IPTF	International Police Task Force
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
YPA	Yugoslav People's Army
JRDs	Joint Regional Detachments
KFOR	Kosovo Force
KLA	Kosovo Liberation Army
KPC	Kosovo Protection Corps
KSF	Kosovo Security Force
LDK	Democratic League of Kosovo
LPK	Popular Movement for Kosovo
LPRK	Popular Movement for the Liberation of Kosovo
MAP	Membership Action Plan
MNBGs	Multi-National Battle-Groups
MSU	Multinational Specialised Unit
NAC	North Atlantic Council
NACC	North Atlantic Cooperation Council
NAEW	NATO Airborne Early Warning
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NLA	National Liberation Army of Macedonia
NORTHAG	Northern Army Group
OHR	Office of the High Representative (in Bosnia and Herzegovina)
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PFP	Partnership for Peace Program
PIC	Peace Implementation Council
RRF	Rapid Reaction Force
SACEUR	Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe
SACLANT	Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic
SAM	Surface-to-air missile
SEAD	Suppression of Enemy Air Defences
SFOR	Stabilisation Force
SHAPE	Supreme Headquarters of Allied Powers in Europe
STANAVFORMED	Standing Naval Force Mediterranean

UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNPROFOR	United Nations Protection Force
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
USEUCOM	United States European Command
VOPP	Vance-Owen Peace Plan

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