

THE CREATION OF THE STATE OF KOSOVO AND THE ROLE OF US FOREIGN POLICY

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ABSTRACT

Albanian-Serb ethnic conflict has had a direct influence in the overall security of the Balkans, or South East Europe, for the last 150 years. Thus, the international community has always given a relevance to this conflict, but had always fell short on creating a lasting solution to it. Both Albanians and Serbs have been in favor of settling the conflict somehow ever since 1920, especially the Serbian side was always proposing ideas and even demarcations on the ground to try to achieve some kind of lasting peace. Proposals from Belgrade included cantonization, partitioning of Kosovo, and redefining Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, while Prishtina proposals were in favor of international protectorate as an intermediary phase prior to full independence. All these proposals never gained international support nor were they sponsored by major global political and security factors or countries, therefore the stances where far and the situation escalated into large military conflict between Serbian police and military forces and organized Albanian armed resistance. NATO's military intervention ended all armed hostilities and by “Kumanovo Agreement” , signed in June 1999, all Serb military and police forces were forced to leave Kosovo to allow refugees to return to their homes. However, all analyses that deal with the creation of the state of Kosovo as an independent entity must take into consideration the engagement of main global actor today, the USA, and their clearly expressed wishes to create a new subject within international relations in turbulent Balkans. Explaining US stances one by one and explaining concrete moves they have taken, in regard to Kosovo, since the end of “Cold War” until the creation of the new state in the Balkans, one can clearly deduct that there always existed a form of interest for an independent Kosovo, an interest that was, depending on international developments, differently modified presented to the public opinion in every single phase. Being part of broader courses of US Foreign Policy, Kosovo was never isolated nor was set aside as a stand-by issue that can wait. To the contrary, events have proven that even in days of US strongest engagement, through NATO's military mechanisms, the situation in and around Kosovo was viewed in a wider regional and international context, even more as a part of new US entrance strategy into the international scene and future conflicts.

Keywords: US Foreign Policy, Kosovo's independence, new geopolitical reality in South East Europe.