

NATO IN KOSOVO-KFOR MISSION, INTENTIONS, SUCCESSES, FAILURES**URTAK HAMITI, PhD**Iliria College
KOSOVO**ABSTRACT**

After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and the end of Soviet Union in 1991, numerous security challenges were pushing NATO in search of a new mission especially with the ongoing civil war in Yugoslavia. In Bosnia in 1995 and Kosovo 1999 NATO redefined its mission in Europe from protecting its members to deploying troops in non-member countries as peacekeeping forces. In both cases NATO succeeded in preventing any more clashes between warring parties. Lessons learned from Bosnia were implemented in Kosovo where NATO's Multi National Brigades and Missions Central Command were granted full operational independence on the ground as the approach was *security first* while leaving the rebuilding of administration in Kosovo to UN's Mission to Kosovo. NATO has been on the ground in Kosovo for 17 years now and is still present with no exit strategy in sight. Its major successes were halt of ethnic violence between Albanians and Serbs, demilitarization of Kosovo Liberation Army, creation of stability in the country overall, assisting the creation of the Kosovo Protection Corps, later to be renamed Kosovo Security Force. Its major failure was insufficient engagement in northern Kosovo that became source of protracted insecurity in northern Kosovo where majority of the population is Serbian. It has taken years of diplomacy and engagement facilitated by EU and US for Prishtina and Belgrade to reach an agreement on diffusing the situation in northern Kosovo. Agreements have been signed and approved at the Parliaments of Kosovo and Serbia, but implementation of the Agreements on the ground are not being done in time therefore raising ethnic tensions again in Kosovo.

Keywords: KFOR, peace building, security, insecurity, northern Kosovo, law and order.