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Views of International Actors on the Post-Cold War Kosovo Crisis



The Importance of the 1389 Battle of Kosovo in terms of Balkan History and Its Reflections in Recent History

KOSOVO LIBERATION ARMY IN KOSOVO POLITICS

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CONTACT US

 www.divandernege.com

 @ibam_tr

 +90 (530) 765 4472

 @divandernege

 Başakşehir Mh. Şehzade Sk.
No:13 Başakşehir, İstanbul

CONTENTS



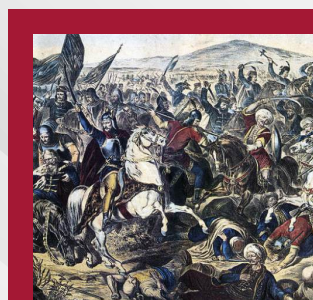
**KOSOVO LIBERATION ARMY IN KOSOVO
POLITICS**

4-5



**VIEWS OF INTERNATIONAL ACTORS
ON THE POST-COLD WAR KOSOVO CRISIS**

6-7-8



**THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KOSOVO
BATTLE OF 1389 IN TERMS OF BALKAN
HISTORY AND ITS REFLECTION ON
RECENT HISTORY**

9-10-11-12

WORLDWIDE NEWS



1

KOSOVO LIBERATION ARMY IN KOSOVO POLITICS



With its historical reputation, the Kosovo region has always maintained its existence as a Decimated area of struggle between Albanians and Serbs. Since the region came under Serbian rule in 1912, until 2008, when it gained independence, the region has witnessed many conflicts and countless people have lost their lives in this conflict environment.

There are strong arguments of the Serbian and Albanian sides on the request to annex the region. Citing these arguments, the parties demanded that the region come under their own administration with certain December intervals. 1, made in 1389. The region, which came under Ottoman rule with the Kosovo war, continued its existence under Ottoman auspices until 1912.

As a result of the Balkan Wars that broke out in 1912, it was incorporated into Serbia, and this situation continued during the time of the Serbo-Croatian-Slovene Kingdom. 2. Kosovo, which was made a region of Serbia in Yugoslavia after World War II, was granted a wide right of autonomy in 1974. However, nevertheless, the region was deprived of the right to secede, which the former Yugoslav Republics had.

After the other rights granted in 1989 were restored by the Belgrade administration, the Albanians published the Declaration of Independence of Kosovo in 1990 and proclaimed their own constitution. As a result of the declaration of independence of the Yugoslav republics (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, North Macedonia and Croatia) in 1992, the Belgrade administration, which did not want to lose Kosovo and was aware of the independence movements taking place in the region, decided to intervene in the region, and in 1995 the Serbian army entered Kosovo. As a rebellion against the violent incidents carried out by the Serbian army in the region, the UÇK was established in 1997 to protect the region against the Serbs.



The UÇK was a resistance organization consisting of Kosovo Albanians. For Kosovo Albanians, it was a path that led Kosovo to independence. Violent events gained momentum in 1998-1999, when violent clashes occurred with the Serbian army and the Serbian army committed numerous massacres of people in the region. NATO intervened in the region on March 24, 1999, citing the increase in violence in the region. Later, the administration of Kosovo was transferred to the UN until the country declared independence in 2008.

After independence, of course, the cadres of the UAC had a big say in the management of the country. However, time did not stop working against the UÇK, as everything worked against it, and the process that began with the trial of the UÇK commanders turned into the expulsion of the UÇK from Kosovo politics. The process we are talking about was first reflected in the press with the arrest of Salih Mustafa, one of the founders of the DRC, on September 24, 2020. Later, the press became a close follower of the successive arrests. On November 4, 2021, former UAC spokesman Yakup Krasniqi and deputy Recep Selimi were arrested.

November 5, 2021, PDK chairman and UÇK's intelligence chief Kadir Veseli and former President Hashim Thaçi were arrested. The fact that Thaci was first summoned to The Hague to testify while still holding the presidential post, and then arrested, had a wide echo in both the national and international press. The detainees were taken to The Hague, and Hashim Thaci resigned after the indictment against him was accepted, stating that he did not want to be tried in court in his capacity as president. With the resignation of Thaçi, an era in Kosovo politics has come to an end. It is known that the current current prime minister Albin Kurti has also been linked to the KLA in the past, but Kurti, unlike Thaci and others, stated that he had a presence in the political wing of the organization, not in the military wing, and suggested that the military wing was the main cadre whose influence in Kosovo politics should be broken. Our hope is that Osmani and Kurti will move Kosovo to a more beautiful future and the relations between Kosovo and Turkey forward.



2

VIEWS OF INTERNATIONAL ACTORS ON THE POST-COLD WAR KOSOVO CRISIS

The Cold War years, 20. it is a period that has marked the average 45-year period of the century and has profoundly influenced world politics, the foreign policies of all world states - international relations - and the cultures of societies. In the post-Cold War period, after the breakup of Yugoslavia, events have taken place in the Balkan geography and surrounding geographies that have profoundly affected this region culturally, politically and socially.

In the process of the breakup of Yugoslavia, the uncertainties in Kosovo caused by extreme Serbian nationalism, the crises caused by Serbian terrorism, are one of these events. In 1989, the President of Serbia, Slobodan Milošević, abolished the autonomy of Kosovo, which had an autonomous status in the Yugoslav system, and attached this region to the central government of Belgrade, which offended the majority of Albanians in Kosovo. Although the will for independence was revealed in the independence referendums organized by Kosovo Albanians who did not accept Serbian domination in 1990 and 1992, this will was not accepted by the Serbian administration and the international community.

After this process, it was seen that the Albanians were in a non-confrontational, passive resistance in Kosovo until 1996. However, the failure to address a solution to the Kosovo crisis in the Dayton Agreement signed in 1995 with the aim of resolving the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina forced the Kosovo Albanians in passive resistance to enter into a heated conflict with the Serbs by establishing the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). The increase in the severity of the hot conflict between Kosovo Serbs and Albanians in 1998 led to the Decentering of the international community's attention to Kosovo.



However, the members of the Contact Group have not managed to put forward a common will for the solution of the Kosovo crisis. As with the Bosnia and Herzegovina crisis, the Kosovo Crisis has also come to the agenda of the UN Security Council, although Russia and China, which support the Serbian theses in Kosovo, have opposed the military action to be organized in Kosovo. In addition, the United States intervened in Kosovo through NATO. After the presence of NATO forces in Kosovo, the Serbs, who were nervous, had to take a step back.

The International Community's View on the Kosovo Crisis

It is possible to see that the international public interest in the Kosovo crisis is greater than the interest in the Bosnian crisis. However, it seems unrealistic to portray the explanation of this interest as the humane policies of the European and Eurasian powers. Kosovo is recognized as their historical homeland for both Serbs and Albanians. In addition, the fact that Albanians are currently the absolute majority in Kosovo is another issue that should be paid attention to. Russia, the absolute balance of the Soviet Union, supported the claim of the Serbs, with whom they were racially related. Considering the historical process, the existence of a strong and pro-Slavic/pro-Russian Serbian state in the Balkans was important for the Russians. On the other hand, Turkey has been looking for ways to solve the crisis from an ethno-demographic and humanitarian point of view, away from nationalist feelings in the region where it existed as the Ottoman State for many years.

The US perspective on the Kosovo crisis was fundamentally different from that of Russia and Turkey. In the eyes of the American administration, Kosovo meant a more strategic region than Bosnia and Herzegovina. The fact that the population of Kosovo is mostly made up of Albanians, and the fact that the Albanian problem that may arise here may negatively affect countries such as Macedonia and Greece, where a significant majority of the Albanian population lives, has made the United States nervous. In other words, it was perceived as a greater threat for the United States that the Albanian uprising would spread to Macedonia and Greece and lead to instability in these countries, rather than the Serbian fascists massacring Albanians. In addition, the Soviet-backed Russia's support for the Serbs in Kosovo led the United States to support the Kosovo Albanians and thus not strive for the balance in the region to be against the Russians and the Serbs supported by them.



In other words, the US administration has seen Albanians as a trump card and a strategic ally for American interests in the ethnic crises in the Balkans. Turkey, on the other hand, has foreseen an urgent international intervention from the very beginning of the process to decipher the crisis between Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo.

Turkey has taken a stand together with Western Europe and the United States in every period of the Kosovo Crisis. Turkey has supported KFOR under NATO command by sending 1000 soldiers.

The Turkish military was deployed to Mamusha, Dragusha and Prizren, where Kosovo Turks lived extensively during this period. On the other hand, Turkey, a NATO member, has supported Albanians with whom it has historical ties. It is even stated that the Turkish Special Forces trained the UÇK soldiers during the crisis and provided financial support to the Kosovo Albanians. After the NATO forces eliminated the hot conflict in Kosovo, in June 1999, a decision was taken at the UN Security Council on the creation of the UN Interim Management Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Under the control of UNMIK, the NATO Peacekeeping Force (KFOR) has settled in Kosovo.

In this context, the United States has established its largest military base abroad in Kosovo. The European Union has also been considered competent in UNMIK's responsibilities other than its military responsibility. In other words, while the US and NATO were the "hard power" in the solution of the Kosovo Crisis, the EU acted as the "soft power". According to the Ahtisaari Plan, which the Finnish diplomat Martti Ahtisaari, the UN Special Representative for Kosovo, presented to the UN Security Council in March 2007, it was proposed to grant Kosovo independence under international supervision and guarantee the rights of minorities in Kosovo. Within the framework of the Ahtisaari Plan, it was envisaged to establish an asymmetric state in Kosovo. Although the veto decision of Russia, which supports the Serbian theses in Kosovo, opposed this plan blocked the way to a solution, this plan for the independence of Kosovo through the United States was moved to the Contact Group, ensuring that Kosovo gained full independence on February 17, 2008. On September 10, 2012, with the end of the surveillance state of the International Management Group in Kosovo over the country, the "full independence" of Kosovo was officially and de facto established.

The Balkan countries of Turkey, Bulgaria, Albania, Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia and Montenegro support the independence of Kosovo. The most important issue of the Kosovo Government is still the effort to gain acceptance in the international public opinion. It will be difficult for a Kosovo that is not accepted in the international community to solve its political, social and economic problems.

3



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KOSOVO BATTLE OF 1389 IN TERMS OF BALKAN HISTORY AND ITS REFLECTIONS ON RECENT HISTORY

Wars begin with the purpose of conquest and liberation, the parties are divided into the aggressive side and the defending side. As a result, both parties are affected positively or negatively. The Ottoman State pursued a policy of conquest in order to advance in the Byzantine and Balkan lands during the establishment period. I. of 1389. The Battle of Kosovo Square is also a result of this policy and has qualities that will make its effects felt even centuries later. The battle stands in an important place in terms of Balkan History and in terms of being the source of developments in Recent History.

Knowing the power vacuum in the Balkans as an opportunity, the Ottoman Empire began to move towards the Balkans in the 1370s. The progress of the Ottoman Empire in the Balkans and I. Murat's Balkan policy disturbed the countries of the region. Bosnia found a solution to this situation by uniting with the Serbs and waging a war against the Ottoman Empire. However, after the defeats in the 1365 Serbian and 1371 Chirmenian Wars, it became clear that there would be no support from surrounding countries, so the Serbo-Bosniak armies united and fought the Ottoman Empire in 1386 in Ploshnik, located near Prokuplje (Urgup kazası) in Serbia, which would later give its name to the war.

In addition to being the first serious defeat suffered by the Ottomans since its foundation, this war slowed down the Ottoman progress until the Kosovo War. In general, sources see the main reason for the Kosovo Pitched Battle as the result of the Ottoman defeat in the Ploshnik War and attribute the gaining of power for the alliance of the states in the region to the same reason (Can Öksüzoğlu, 2014). All these developments have created the necessary reasons for the Kosovo War. Within the framework of these reasons, the historical process of the war will be discussed (Emecen, 2002).

The Kosovo War took place Decisively on the Kosovo Plain between the Allied forces consisting of Bosnian, Croat, Albanian, Bulgarian, Hungarian and Czech soldiers united under the leadership of the Serbs against the Ottomans. The defeat of this war is important for the formation of Serbian nationalism, and the military order that will bring defeat influenced the course of the war. The Ottoman army 1.While Murat ruled, the Alliance troops were led by the Serbian King Lazar, who succeeded the Serbian King Dushan when he died in 1355.

1.While Murat was in the center of the army, his son Beyazid was assigned to the right arm and his son Yakup was assigned to the left arm. In the center of the alliance troops was the Serbian King Lazar, on the right arm of the troops was Vuk Brankovic, and on the left arm was the Bosnian king Tvrtko. Although the exact number of soldiers on both sides is not stated in the records, according to sources, it is known that the Alliance army is outnumbered. The war began with the attack of the Serbian and Bosnian armies.

Shortly after the battle, with the fall of the right wing under the command of Brankovic, the nephew and son-in-law of the Serbian King Lazar, the Bosnian soldiers responsible for the left wing of the Alliance troops began to withdraw from the battlefield. After the King of Bosnia left the war, taking his soldiers with him, the Bosnian people, the Serbs, were declared traitors and unreliable. The battle lasted for 8 hours and was a bloody battle with many casualties, but the most important loss on both sides was the death of the ruler of both countries (Emecen, 2020).

1.There are many different accounts about Murat's death. 1 In general in Ottoman sources.It is written that Murat was martyred with a dagger by the Serbian nobleman Miloš Obilić, who was wounded while walking around the battlefield. According to Serbian sources and legendary in Serbian myth, I. Murat's death is written differently.

The Serbian nobleman Miloš Obilić wanted to become a Muslim and I. Upon Murat's request to be admitted to his presence, when this request was realized, it was stated that he was stabbed to death by Miloš Obilić (Emecen, 2020).



The Ottoman Sultan I.Murat's martyrdom by a Serb has caused Kosovo to become a myth for the Serbs and the Serbs to become enemies of the Turks. Miloš Obilić has been declared a folk hero in Serbia and the Gazimestan monument, built in his memory, is the 1st in Kosovo. It is located directly opposite the mausoleum located at the place where Murat's internal organs were removed and buried upon his death (CANKUZ, 2016). I.Murat was the first Ottoman sultan to be martyred at the front in Ottoman history and was succeeded by his son Beyazid. Lazar's martyrdom in the war strengthened the idea of Serbian nationalism.

It, which took place in 1389. As a result of the Kosovo War, it has a very important place in Ottoman and Serbian history. The importance of the war from the Ottoman point of view is that the resistance of the feudal lords was broken and the Turkish domination in Northern Serbia was established after the descent to the south.



In addition, in the long term, it prepared the ground for the Ottomans to settle in the southern parts of the Balkans and for the changes that would occur in the economic, social and ethnic structure of the region. 1. After the Kosovo War, the Turkish people settled definitively in the Balkans (Emecen, 2020). For the Serbs, the consequences and effects of this war are of much more critical importance. The Serbs, with the defeat they suffered in this war, entered the Ottoman sovereignty, which will last for 500 years. The most important reason why the war has an important place in Serbian history is due to the laying of the foundations of Serbian nationalism.

On the other hand, it is a fact that during the development of Serbian nationalism, these mythological stories were recreated by the Serbian Orthodox Church in accordance with the new conditions (TASAR, 1999).

The battle defeat is described in Serbian mythology in the form of the defeat they chose with their own desires on earth to achieve the divine empire. After this defeat, the Serbian people rose to the rank of a God-chosen people. Kosovo, which the Serbs consider their homeland, has gained great importance.

According to Serbian mythology, the Serbian King Lazar saw in a dream before the end of the war that he had to make a choice between defeating the Turks as a result and Decimating the earthly or otherworldly empire that he would have with his defeat. He made his choice on the side of the otherworldly empire. Although the alliance troops were outnumbered, they explained their defeat against the Ottomans by linking them to the same legend. That is why the Serbs were rewarded by being the chosen people in the face of this admirable sacrifice (TAŞAR, 1999).

The fact that the war coincided with Vidovdan day, which is an important date for the Balkans as a day, is one of the important developments that led to the Kosovo Saga of the Serbs. June 15 according to the Caesar calendar or June 28 according to the Gregorian calendar corresponds to the date of 1389. The Serbs before adopting a pagan belief even in the period when Christianity the feast of the solstice, which means they have vidov from this date after the adoption of Christianity, the feast of "Saint Vit" to be celebrated as the day continued. I. The fact that the Kosovo War coincided with the 28th of June according to the Gregorian calendar allowed the Serbs to write an epic over this defeat (BERKTAY, 2019).

This Decadence was adopted among the masses, especially in Serbia in the 1800s. Since 1878, the date when Serbia achieved full independence from the Ottoman Empire, the Kingdom of Serbia has begun to celebrate the Kosovo Epic at the official level. Serbian nationalists have tried to bring some important events to coincide with this date. Perhaps the most important of these and the one that comes up when we examine the effects of Serbian nationalism on recent history is 1. The assassination of Franz Ferdinand, the Crown Prince of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and his wife, who went down in history as the event that triggered the World War, by a Serbian nationalist in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914 (BERKTAY, 2019).

After this assassination, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, while the Russian Tsardom, which was the protector of the Serbs, waged war against Austria-Hungary. He supported the Russian Tsardom in England and France. The Ottomans, who saw the Russians as their arch-enemy, started a war against the Russians and ignited a great war that affected the whole world (Eurasia, 2015).

EDITORS

Kosovo Liberation Army - **Şeyda Sultan DEMİRTAŞ**
In Kosovo Politics

Views Of International Actors On - **Ramazan GÜRLER**
The Post-Cold War Kosovo Crisis

The Importance Of The Kosovo Battle Of - **Yasemin ULUTAŞ**
1389 In Terms Of Balkan History And
Its Reflection On Recent History

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