

Outline of Instructional Plan for this Resource

The Theme: Globalization has created a world moral code defined by the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* that were accepted by members of the United Nations that is now imposed on all nations, leaders, and people.

Introduction

There are many aspects to globalization, which means that we accept close ties with the people around the world. This includes free trade and open competition of workers around the world with those from your own community. This could mean that local factories may close as workers in another country work for a fraction of the wage paid locally and raw resources from other parts of the world may be much cheaper.

In the same way, a resource like oil may increase in value significantly because of international demand and Alberta benefits as the royalty for oil extracted in the province sells for much more.

Another implication of globalization is that all nations of the world increasingly agree on what the basic human rights should be. This can be seen as agreements about what constitutes a moral code that we will all live by. If there are violations of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* most nations in the world agree that those who are responsible must be held accountable and face trial in an international court.

The Resources

The West Balkans Edukit provides many unique and focused resources and content that will effectively guide the student through a study on the history of the people of the West Balkans, the creation of the Yugoslavia and the period of conflict that brought about the republics in the region.

Students will have the opportunity to survey the history of the West Balkans up to the present by reading the content in the Edukit. Issues dealing with the human rights abuses during the war years are explored in the text. The students will find what they need to complete most of the activities with some additional information they can find on the Internet.

Curriculum Placement

The activities have been designed to address the “Values and Attitudes,” “Knowledge and Understanding,” as well as the “Skills” elements in the Grade 10 Social Studies curriculum. The issues addressed are the role of human rights in the global community.

The curriculum placement of the content and the activities are described in the document that you can download from the Teacher’s Zone. The curriculum fits for the content and the activities, is only fulfilled when all of the content and activities have been used.

Included Resources

When the students have reviewed the online content about the West Balkans other resources have been provided in the Teacher’s Zone. These resources include:

Sources for History of West Balkans (List of Internet sites)

- *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
- **Organizations Dedicated to the Protection of Human Rights**
- **RESOLUTION 994 (1993)**
- **RESOLUTION 1011 (1993)**

These resources can be downloaded and shared with the students. As the students complete their assignments they may want to use a number of photographs. There is a photograph gallery provided in the Edukit. These pictures can be used as they have been cleared for copyright in educational activities.

Communications Technologies

There are ten activities for you to download in the Teacher's Zone of this Edukit. These activities have been designed to provide the student with several different ways to present their findings. These presentations include the creation of a website, blog (type of web page), booklet, display panels, power point, newsletter, and posters, but none of these activities demand that the student have the technical ability to produce an online webpage, blog, or Power Point presentation as they do these activities as posters or pages. These activities address the technological skills in Communications Technologies as described in the Grade 10 curriculum for Alberta as they must be aware of the technology, work online and find the information they need from the Internet.

If some students know how to create a webpage or blog and want to do so in some of these assignments they may, but for those who do not have the technical abilities already the assignments ask the students to layout web pages as they would create them online, but to present the assignment on paper or as posters.

There are a series of URLs provided in the various assignments for students to visit various websites to research topics. Added to the directions to exact websites there is also a section in these assignments that instructs the students to carryout web quests using a search engine like www.google.ca. These instructions include how to effectively use the search engines to get the results the students want.

Background Information for Teachers

Introduction

In this Edukit Grade 10 students will have the opportunity to explore the issues of globalization, and human rights using the example of the West Balkans. To effectively address the issues of globalization and human rights in the West Balkans the students need a comprehensive background that is accessible and understandable. The content in this Edukit does this. The content that has been provided for the students in this Edukit is provided in the following. The text examines the development of the culturally diversified region we now know as the West Balkans, the development of national desires, the wars, and the coming of peace to the new nations that now exist in the area. Through examining the history, students will have many useful examples of the effects of globalization, human rights violations, and the role of the world in bring peace to places of conflict.

Place

The “Balkan” is a Turkish word for mountains and has become the name for the region where the Carpathians also known as the Transylvanian Alps are. This mountainous region is made up of the countries of Romania, Albania, Slovenian Croatia, Bosnian Federation, Serbia, Montenegro, and Macedonia. The Balkans has a long coast line along the Adriatic and the Black Seas. It is situated where over hundreds of years people migrated and Empires over lapped, bringing with it a history of invaders, some of which stayed and others retreated without leaving a trace. The result has been the creation of a complex mixture of peoples who over the centuries have experienced periods of peaceful co-existence and times of conflict.

People

There were two different original peoples in the Balkans that can be dated back to about 1000 BC. The tribal group known as the *Illyrians* occupied the western regions while the *Thracians* were in the east. Following these original groups were several other peoples that came into the region.

The Slavs arrived in the Balkans and other regions around the modern countries of Poland, the Czech Republic, the eastern section of Germany, parts of Russia and the Ukraine in the first century. By the sixth century the Slav people had fully occupied the middle and lower Danube basins and crossed the river to start settling in the south. The migration of the Slavs continued in the seventh century and they settled as far as southern Greece. In Greece they assimilated within the local population.

The group known as the Slovenes were found with their own distinctive language in the northwest part of the Balkan Peninsula. The Slovenes were conquered by Charlemagne in 778, became Roman Catholics and adopted the Latin alphabet. Those who occupied the area southeast of Slovenia were known as the Croats and became Roman Catholics. They adopted the Latin alphabet, and were fully absorbed by the Hungarians by 1120.

The group known as the Serbs exist in close proximity to the Croats and there was not an exact line on the map, which separated them. They were different groups as the Serbs were members of the Eastern Orthodox Church and used the Cyrillic alphabet. They are found in the regions that are east and south of the Croatian territory.

The Montenegrins are found in the south and belong to the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church, and use both the Latin and the Cyrillic alphabets. The Macedonians are in the southeast and have a language that is like that used by the Bulgarians and Serbo-Croats.

Turks Arrive

In an effort to expand their empire, the Turks under their leader Sultan Murad I invaded and won a major battle on *Maritsa* River in 1371 to begin the gradual process of taking control of the Balkans. The Battle of Kosovo Polje in June 1389 between the Ottoman (Turks) and a force made up of Serbs, Bosnians, and Albanians ended in a draw and the retreat of the Ottoman army. This set back for the Turks was temporary as they returned to gradually take the regions of the Balkans a part at a time until they had control by the late 1480s. Bosnia fell in 1463 and Herzegovina fell in 1482 to the Ottomans, leaving only Montenegro outside Turk control and free until the end of the First World War in 1918.

Although the Balkans were controlled by outside powers like the Turks and the Hungarians the Slav people continued to have very strong ties to their own groups as an identified groups. Added to these feeling were the new ideas of Liberalism, which developed in the eighteenth century promoting political equality, rights to freedom, and representative government. Added to these were ideas of nationalism supporting the formation of nations defined by ethnic identities. All these ideas came together to begin national movements in the nineteenth century in the Balkans as the people wanted to free themselves from outside governments that controlled their lives to form nations of their own.

Balkan Uprisings

In 1804, the first Serbian uprising resulted in the killing of local Ottoman officials in Belgrade. The leaders asked to negotiate with the Sultan in Turkey, but the request was turned down and brought about a popular uprising. With disorganization and infighting among the rebels, the Turks regaining control. A more organized uprising took place in 1815 that resulted in the Turkish Sultan giving the Serbs a more independent status as a principality. However the Turks kept a large garrison in Belgrade.

These early slave nationalist movements started with a nation-state concept called Illyria, which would lead to a federal union named Yugoslavia. In the 1840s, some countered the idea of a federation with the idea of reinstating the Medieval Serbian empire that would have existed if the Turks had not invaded. This was in conflict with the desires of the other groups in the Balkans like the Croatians, Macedonians, and Montenegro, which all had their own national ambitions.

Recognising Balkan States

A treaty was drawn up in June and July 1878 at the Congress of Berlin to address the national desires of those in the Balkans, but the solution presented as many problems as it solved. The treaty from the Congress of Berlin established Romania, Serbia, and Bulgaria as independent nations and gave Montenegro to Greece. At the same time, the treaty gave Austria-Hungary control of Bosnia and Herzegovina and what later became Serbia. None of the new Balkan states were satisfied with the amount of territory they were given.

Balkan Wars

The result of the discontent in the Balkan states following the Congress of Berlin led to the two Balkan wars of 1912 and 1913. The Balkan states formed a series of alliances with other governments in 1912 allowing a military alliance strong enough to challenge Turkey. In March 1912 Serbia and Bulgaria signed a mutual protection agreement, while Bulgaria and Greece signed another in May. Montenegro completed agreements with Serbia and Bulgaria in October 1912.

With these agreements in place Montenegro attacked Ottoman forces on 8 October 1912, and was joined later by other Balkan states. A victory was achieved by May 1913. The peace settlement was drawn up in the Treaty of London, which allowed Serbia and Montenegro to increase their territory and reduce the size of the Ottoman Empire.

The Second Balkan War began in June 1913 when Bulgaria attacked both Serbia and Greece in an effort to change the division of Macedonia, but ended with the defeat of Bulgaria with the armistice in July and the Treaty of Bucharest in August 1913, in which Macedonia was partitioned and Albania was created.

The First World War

The First World War came about as a result of a series of events and alliances among the countries of Europe. A war seemed inevitable on 28 June 1914 in Sarajevo when Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir of the Austro-Hungarian throne was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist. The Austro-Hungarian government demanded that the Serbian government turn over all those who were involved in the assassination, but this demand was refused, resulting in the declaration of war by the Austro-Hungarian government on Serbia on 28 July 1914. Serbia's ally Russia announced the mobilization of its army. The Austro-Hungarian ally, Germany declared war on Russia on August 1, which caused Russia's ally, France to declare war on Germany on August 3. Germany quickly invaded Belgium to attack France, but Britain had treaties with both France and Belgium and declared war on Germany on August 4. It followed that Britain's colonies and dominions like Canada were at war as well.

After the first attack of the Austro-Hungarian forces the armies from Serbia and Montenegro had several successes, but after several months of fighting the fortunes for the Balkan armies turned and the Austro-Hungarian forces occupied Serbia and Montenegro. In January 1916 Montenegro conceded defeat while the Serbian army retreated to Albania, then to the Greek Island of Corfu.

While the Serbian forces were in Corfu they received assistance from France and Britain as they prepared to enter the war again. The Serbian army re-entered the war in 1917 on the southern front and were able to attain a series of victories, bringing about the liberation of Serbia by November 1918. The Serbian army continued on and occupied Bosnia and Herzegovina and moved into Voivodina.

The Common South Slav State

On 1 December 1918 a common state was formed in the Balkans called the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and was ruled by the Serbian dynasty of Karadjordjevic. The name of the country was changed in 1929 to the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. This country remained in existence until the beginning of the Second World War. Throughout its existence the Kingdom

had many internal problems as the many different groups in their population fought for their interests.

The Second World War

The Yugoslav government signed a treaty in March 1941 to join the alliance of Germany, Italy, and Japan in the war, but news of this event caused a massive revolt with people taking to the streets. This brought about a military coup and the new government annulled the agreement with the Germans. This sparked an immediate reaction from Germany's leader, Hitler who had Belgrade bombed early on 6 April 1941 along with an attack by his army without declaring war on the country. After a short period of resistance the Yugoslav Royal Army was defeated.

The Germans established puppet governments in Croatia, and Belgrade, while Italy occupied Montenegro.

The resistance against Germany and Italy was underway and on 7 July 1941 Communists carried out an armed rebellion against the occupiers of their country. Josip Broz Tito (Tito) led the Communist Partisan Movement. The Communist leaders held a conference in November 1942 at Bihać in Bosnia Herzegovina and formed the Anti-Fascist Council for the National Liberation. In November 1943 another conference was held and the group declared themselves to be the government of Yugoslavia. The Communist Partisan Movement with the help of the Russians fought the German, Italians, Croatian Ustashas (pro-Fascists), and Serbian Chetniks (old royalists) until October 1944 when they were able to liberate Belgrade.

After World War II

After the Communist Partisan Movement led by Tito played a central role in liberating Yugoslavia, it took control of the country after the Second World War. Tito led the Communist party as it established a socialist state in 1945, naming it the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia. It was renamed the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia later.

Tito had a complicated society to govern as the population of Yugoslavia included a mix of cultural, language, and religious groups that all had to work together to make the nation function. There were Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, and Muslims speaking different languages. The official language of Yugoslavia was declared to be Serb-Croat, with both the Latin and Cyrillic alphabets being used. Yugoslavia had six republics and two provinces, eight major ethnic groups within twenty-four distinct ethnic groups over all.

To maintain control of Yugoslavia, Tito developed and enforced a plan he called "Brotherhood and Unity." This plan demanded that purges be carried out among the Serbs, Montenegrins, Croats, Muslims, Slovenes, Macedonians, and Albanians of those who were nationalistic and did not support the greater Yugoslavia. Those who were purged faced with being sent to jail or exile. As well, citizens of Yugoslavia were encouraged to marry others from different cultural, religions, or ethnic groups. In 1974, Tito responded to the strong local demands for more independence by changing the constitution and making Yugoslavia a confederation. Each republic had a veto over political and economic decisions made at the federal level.

Tito's YugoSlavia

In April 1980 Tito died and a joint presidency took his position, but the mounting national debt, political and economic instability led to the break up of Yugoslavia. By early 1991, nationalism

among the various groups in Yugoslavia led many to form their own republics like Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia.

Although Tito had been very successful in holding the various national groups together to form Yugoslavia he achieved it through the extensive use of rights violations, imprisonment of political foes, and creation of a sense of terror in the general population. Tito violated many human rights as he carried out policies like imprisoning over 7,000 individuals who spoke out against his government or policies on the barren island of Goli Otok. Media were not allowed to travel there which allowed atrocities against the political prisoners.

Tito was dealing with a much divided population that had a long history of infamous tribal conflicts and ancient antagonisms, which was especially intense in the Kosovo Province. Kosovo is where the Serbians claimed the heart of the Medieval homeland, but an Albanian majority made up 90 percent of the population and claimed to be the original inhabitants. They trace their heritage to the *Illyrians* that inhabited the area around 1000 BC.

YugoSlavia Dissolves

The war in Yugoslavia officially began in 1990. Slovenia in the north became an independent nation in 1991 following a ten day war that quickly removed the Serb army from their territory. Slovenia had strong ties to the West, a strong economy, and stable democratic government that allowed the country to develop international relationships that led to membership in the United Nations in 1992, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union in 2004.

When Croatia made it clear that it also was going to create a new nation, military action began as Serb generals led the Yugoslav army against the new Croatian army. With the opening of war, Yugoslavia faced massive human rights violations. The wide spread violation of human rights reached its most intense levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

By 1992, the war that had been fought between Croatia and Serbia turned to Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was the most ethnically diversified republic. The Croats and Serbs had already agreed to divide Bosnia and Herzegovina between them before this stage of the war began.

The efforts of the Serbs failed and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was removed as a member of the United Nations in 1992.

Although the focus turned to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Serb army remained in parts of Croatia. There was sporadic and intense fighting for several years, but it was not until 1998 and with the help of the United Nations the last of the Serb army left.

Economic Sanctions

Economic sanctions are international agreements to restrict trade with any nation that they want to stop from acting in an unacceptable manner. It is generally accepted as a diplomatic tool that will pressure the offending country to cease what it is doing. It is expected that that when leaders are faced with the hardships created by sanctions they will be more cooperative.

Economic sanctions can include many elements that include restrictions on what can be sold to or bought from the offending nation. Sanctions can also include restrictions on who can travel to or

from a country. Sanctions may also include the limitation of the transportation of good through a particular nation.

When economic sanctions are imposed on a country that are many expectations about what effect they have. For example, when the population of a country suffers the hardships of sanctions it is hoped that they will act to replace the existing government. However, the history of economic sanctions has shown that they do not bring rapid and immediate results. When considering the effectiveness of economic sanctions, one must measure their effectiveness according to what role they play in the larger situation.

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Economic Sanctions

The European Community responded to the increasing violence and instability in Croatia late in the spring of 1991 and in Bosnia Herzegovina by deciding to implement economic sanctions against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This action was followed by a meeting of the Security Council of the United Nations in September 1991 because the increasing conflict in the Balkans states was a threat to international peace and security. By December there was a plan to send peacekeepers to the Balkans. A peace plan was accepted by Slobodan Milosevic, partly a result of the economic hardships already caused by economic sanctions. The peace plan was not accepted by the Serbian leaders in Croatia and Bosnia where the same pressure had not been felt.

When the first economic sanctions were imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in May 1992, the country had already suffered many years of economic downturn. As the sanctions came into effect both the public and the government of Yugoslavia were optimistic that they would not last long and would not have a significant effect.

The Results of Sanctions

The significance of the sanctions became clear four months later when industrial production fell by 40 percent. The government did not change its policies and continued to spend as it had before the sanctions. To finance their efforts the government ran an increasing deficit and printed more money.

The economic crisis came to a climax by the middle of 1993 when inflation was at a rate of 4667 percent. The Yugoslavia government took action by ending its excessive printing of money, reduced the deficit, imposed taxes on the people, reissued new currency, and allowed products to be sold for their value. These changes improved the situation for a period in Yugoslavia.

Sanctions and Peace Talks

The effects of the sanctions was seen during the peace talks in 1993 when the leaders agreed to support a peace plan to bring the war to an end, but the plan failed as the Assembly of the Republics of Srpska rejected it. This rejection of the peace plan brought increased economic sanctions. In 1994 Milosevic placed increasing pressure on the Bosnian Serbs. Milosevic imposed his own economic sanctions on Bosnia Herzegovina to pressure the Bosnian Serb leadership to accept the peace plan.

The imposition of sanction by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the Bosnian Serbs in 1994 brought a partial lifting of sanctions on Yugoslavia by the UN. This weakened the Bosnian Serbs and helped in part the Croats to reclaim territories they were occupying.

It was clear that the sanctions added to the pre-existing economic difficulties in Yugoslavia caused the Serbian president Milosevic to give up his plan to creating a pan-Serbian homeland. Although the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia imposed sanctions on the Bosnian Serbs in 1994, the peace plan remained stalled.

The 1995 NATO intervention using air strikes brought the final surrender of the warring groups, but it was the only time in history that surrender was attained with only the use of air strikes.

Other Economic Tools

The role of economic tools was seen during the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia election in the fall of 2000 when President Slobodan Milosevic was defeated by Vojislav Kostunica who had the support from the international community. It was clear that if Kostunica won the election there would be significant international aid for Yugoslavia's reconstruction.

It was clear that international sanctions had an effect on the leaders during the war and that the promise of economic aid at the end of the war brought democratic change.

Conflict in Kosovo

Serbia's leader, Slobodan Milosevic cancelled the human rights and autonomy of Kosovo as a self-governing province in 1989. Milosevic wanted to restore Kosovo as the heart of the Serbian state as it had been during Medieval times. Central to Milosevic's plan was to remove the 90 percent of the population that were Albanian and replace them with Serbians.

Although Kosovo had lost its self governing powers it had a legislative assembly until it was dissolved in 1990 by Serbia. In response, the Albanian legislators declared the independence of Kosovo.

Kosovo had its own multiethnic parliament, police force, judiciary, and school system Milosevic wanted to replace this with a Serbian system. He introduced a series of policies to achieve this that included financial incentives, loans, land, and jobs. At the same time the Albanians faced police pressure and loss of jobs by summary removal. Serbs replaced Albanians in the police service, public services, and industry. With a policy of a signed loyalty oath, 1,854 doctors and health care workers lost their jobs when they. All Albanian language media were closed resulting in the loss of 1,300 jobs. In the same way over 25,000 Albanian teachers were fired. Estimates set suggest that over 70 percent of Albanians lost their jobs in Kosovo by 1992.

Albanians responded by remaining in Kosovo and boycotting all Serbian run institutions and setting up schools in private homes and buildings. Doctors set up their own clinics, and university classes were held on private property.

President Ibrahim Rugova

Another act of defiance against the Serbians was the election of the Albanian writer Ibrahim Rugova as their president. The Albanians of Kosovo also set up their own government, but Serbia declared the election illegal.

The Serbian domination continued and in 1993 over thirty Albanians were arrested and charged by the Serbians with setting up an armed revolt. This Serbian action continued in 1995 when their

court sentenced sixty-eight Albanians up to eight years in prison for establishing their own police force.

In 1996 the Serbians signed an agreement that allowed Albanian students to return to mainstream education. But, in the same year the secretive group called the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) began a campaign of bombing Serbian police and forces in their effort to win independence for Kosovo.

Widening Conflict

Throughout 1997 and into 1998 the KLA carried out bombings against Serb targets. These actions brought a reaction from the Serbs that included the killings and the burning of homes of many Albanians in the Drenica region of Kosovo.

Ibrahim Rugova, refused to compromise and demanded complete independence for Kosovo.

By April the international community, with the exception of Russia a historical ally of Serbia, agreed to impose economic sanctions against Serbia because of the ongoing violence.

Although there were peace talks taking place between the Serbian and the Albanian representatives in Kosovo the fighting continued with a massive Serbian offensive in August. The KLA stronghold of Junik fell on August 16.

The Serbian offensive continued in September with reports of civilians being massacred. This prompted a United Nations Security Council resolution demanding a ceasefire. By October 1998 NATO called on foreign nationals to leave Yugoslavia in preparations for air strikes. With this threat, Yugoslavia agreed to allow international diplomatic observers to enter the region to monitor the ceasefire.

The international monitors arrived late in 1998 and reported that both the Albanians and Serbs were violating the ceasefire agreement. In January 1999 evidence surfaced that the Serbian forces have carried out an execution of over forty Albanian civilians.

Attempted Peace Talks

Responding to international outrage the leadership from Serbia, Kosovo, and the KLA agreed to have peace talks, but these negotiations failed in March 1999. The international observers left Kosovo and the Serbian forces moved rapidly by shelling the edges of Pristina, the capital of Kosovo on March 22.

On March 24, NATO began air strikes on Serb targets in Yugoslavia increasing in intensity each day. However the Serbian forces continued in their efforts committed one of the most extreme atrocities in the village of Meja on April 27. Between two hundred and three hundred men between the ages of 18 and 65 were taken from their families and systematically shot.

From March to June 1999 about 860,000 Albanian refugees left Kosovo and arrived in the neighbouring countries of Albania and Montenegro.

On 27 May 1999 the UN War Crimes Tribunal formally indicted Milosevic for crimes against humanity.

On June 3, the Serbian parliament agreed to a plan that was made by representatives from Russia, the European Union, and the United States. Serbia was to withdraw its troops from Kosovo and NATO bombing would end. NATO would provide a peacekeeping force. This plan was also approved by the UN Security Council.

The NATO bombing ended in Yugoslavia as the Serbian troops withdrew from Kosovo on June 10. Russian troops arrive in Kosovo on June 12 as NATO troops started to move into Kosovo from Macedonia. An agreement is reached to allow 3,000 Russian troops remain in Kosovo as peacekeepers under German, French, and American control.

The Bosnian Conflict

The motivation for the war in Bosnia was found in Nineteenth century nationalism and memories of the intense fighting of the Second World War. Tito's multiethnic, Communist Partisans were successful over the Croatian Ustashe and the Serbian royalists known as the Chetniks.

The driving force in the war that erupted in Bosnia was the desire on the part of the Croats and Serbians to eliminate the multiethnic nature of the republic and split the territory between them. Many Bosnians wanted to retain the traditional multiethnic nature they had always known when it also declared its independence on 3 March 1992.

In April 1992 Serbia and Montenegro joined together under the leadership of Slobodan Milosevic to declare their independence as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and was made a member of the United Nations. On 22 May 1992 the new independent republics of Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina became members of the United Nations (UN).

Politically Bosnia and Herzegovina's population became fractured along ethnic lines with the rise of the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) led by Redovan Karadzic who was a pan Serbian nationalist. Supporting the SDS was the Bosnian Serb armed militia (BSA) that supported Bosnian Serb desires. The Bosnian Croat Defence Council (HVO) acted as a militia to support and protect Bosnian Croats.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina the Muslim and Croat population agreed to vote in favour of independence. This coalition out numbered the Serb population. In response the Bosnian Serbs boycotted the vote as they wanted to be a part of a larger Serbia. They also argued that the constitution stated that decisions like independence had to be made with a consensus. The Serbs inability to influence the referendum on the independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina provided the justification for war against the other ethnic groups.

“Ethnic cleansing”

The war in Bosnia and Herzegovina began in the spring of 1992 and witnessed the death of over 200,000 and the injury of over 200,000 citizens, which included 50,000 children. These numbers of dead and injured were the result of concentration camps, and the massacres of civilians. The attacks brought about the exodus of 2.5 million civilians from Bosnia and Herzegovina regardless of their ethnic background.

The declaration of independence in Bosnia and Herzegovina brought war and the rapid occupation of over half the territory by the Serbs. “Ethnic cleansing” followed in all the territories claimed by each ethnic group. In the years after the war in 1995 leaders and military leaders of several ethnic groups were indicted by the Hague war crimes tribunal.

The Croats and the Serbs went beyond a war that would lead to the occupation and control of Bosnia and Herzegovina to a horrific process called “Ethnic cleansing” where the participants set out to remove other ethnic groups in the areas they occupied.

Peacekeepers for Sarajevo

The UN moved quickly with 1,000 peacekeepers arriving at the airport in Sarajevo to supply humanitarian aid. In July the Croats declared one fifth of Bosnia and Herzegovina the independent state of “Herceg-Besna.” The Serbs and Croats continued to fight over the last third of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992.

As it became clear that there were massive human rights violations in Bosnia and Herzegovina early in 1993 the Council of Europe passed resolutions that defined what was happening and demanding that it end. The United Nations investigated crimes against humanity and prepared to prosecute those involved.

In April and May 1993 the United Nations declared that Sarajevo, Tuzla, Bihać, Srebrenica, Zepa, and Gorazde as safe areas to protect the Muslim population.

Government and Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina had a majority of Muslims as did the army it set up. Hostilities between the ethnic groups intensified in September 1993, when the Bosnian army killed dozens of Croat civilians at Uzdol. This action brought accusations by the HVO that the Bosnian army had carried out many more atrocities than what had been reported and moved armed troops into the Uzdol area to protect the Croats there. The fighting caused thousands of Croats to leave their homes and flee to Croatia or parts of Bosnia protected by the HVO. In Fonjnica the Bosnian army killed two Franciscan friars. The army also was seen openly looting Croat shops in Vares.

As the war continued to degenerate into local conflicts there were many complexities that included an alliance between the Muslims and the Serbs to fight against the Croats in Herzegovina. In north western Bosnia, rival Muslim groups fought each other. In another case in central Bosnia the Croats and Serbs united to fight the Muslims.

Surveys after the war showed that 60 percent of the houses that once stood in Bosnia and Herzegovina were destroyed with half the schools and about a third of the hospitals being burned to the ground. A waste land of destroyed roads, power plants, water systems, crops, vineyards, and industrial plants was all that was left. Toxic pollutants were dumped in rivers, and the fields had been seeded with land mines.

The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The events of 1995 in Bosnia and Herzegovina demonstrated that United Nations peacekeeping required more than UN troops having a presence in troubled regions.

The United Nations declared that Sarajevo, Tuzla, Bihać, Srebrenica, Zepa, and Gorazde were safe areas to protect the Muslim population in the spring of 1993. By 1995 the Serbs were no longer respecting the UN forces as they continued their efforts to remove all other ethnic groups. In response to the continued aggression of the Serbs, NATO forces carried out some air strikes

against them. The response from the Serb forces came in May 1995 when they took 350 UN peacekeepers hostage and threatened to kill them if there were any further air strikes.

On 22 May 1995 the commander of UN peacekeepers in Srebrenica asked to have a substantial increase in the number of his forces or to remove the peacekeepers to allow for NATO air strikes. His requests were denied. The Serbs increased their action against Srebrenica by stopping international convoys of supplies and increased their artillery strikes on the area.

Attacks increased on Srebrenica and the UN commander asked for air support from 6 to 9 of July. This request was rejected as were the requests from Muslim defenders to have their surrendered arms back. Bosnian Serbs increased their attacks, including taking a Dutch peacekeeping post and taking over two dozen troops hostage. At the same time Muslims began to flee from the area.

On July 10 there were a number of limited air strikes against the Serbs, but this ended as soon as the Bosnian Serbs stopped attacking. The Muslim population moved in close to the UN positions for safety as the Serbs refuse to retreat.

On July 11, the Dutch dropped bombs on the Serb forces, which brought a threat that another attack would result in the killing of Dutch peacekeepers that they were holding as hostages and the shelling of the refugees. Unable to act, Ratko Mladic, the commander of the Bosnian Serbs entered Srebrenica and demanded that all weapons be handed over.

During the night thousands of Muslim fighters attempted to escape, but were shelled by the Bosnian Serbs. The next day, the Serbs began bussing tens of thousands of Muslims out of Srebrenica, separating the men and boys from the rest. By July 13, there were reports that mass killings of Muslim males by the Serbians. To release captured Dutch peacekeepers from the Serbs, thousands of Muslims that had entered the UN encampment were handed over to the Bosnian Serbs. Reports of the mass killings of these Muslims reach the UN forces in the days that followed. The final number of massacred at Srebrenica was over 7,500 people.

By July 16 the Dutch were able to negotiate with the Bosnian Serbs to leave the area. The Dutch were to leave without their weapons or supplies.

Identifying Responsibility

On November 16 indictments were brought against the Bosnian Serb commander Ratko Mladic and the leader Radovan Karadzic by the International War Crimes Tribunal. These charges included genocide, crimes against humanity and violations against the laws and customs of war at Srebrenica.

Radovan Karadzic, the former senior commander of the Bosnian Serbs was found guilty of genocide in absentia by the International War Crimes Tribunal and received a sentence of forty-six years in prison.

On 19 April 2002 the Dutch government resigned after a report stated that it was in part responsible for the events at Srebrenica because the Dutch troops were too lightly armed to carry out the task they had been given.

This stage of the hostilities ended on 21 November 1995 when the warring groups initialled a peace treaty at Dayton, Ohio, which was finalized in Paris on 14 December 1995. This agreement brought about a definition of the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina with a national multiethnic

government. There were two equal sized republics, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Serb based Republika Srpska.

Peace Keeping and Stability

To maintain the peace and to allow the building of the new Bosnia and Herzegovina the NATO led the international peacekeeping force called IFOR, which was made up of 60,000 troops. A smaller group also led by NATO called the Stabilization Force or SROR replaced IFOR. This force was replaced by the European Union peacekeeping force called EUFOR in December 2004.

The military forces and paramilitary groups of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia moved in 1998-99 to expel the Albanians in Kosovo by force, which provoked an extraordinary response from the international community. NATO began bombing targets in Serbia and stationed a force named KFOR in Kosovo to protect the local population.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia election in the fall of 2000 saw the defeat of President Slobodan Milosevic and the election of Vojislav Kostunica. By 2001, Milosevic was arrested and transferred to the International Criminal Tribunal at The Hague where he was tried for crimes against humanity.

With the new leadership, the country was allowed back into the UN as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. With this membership in the UN the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) continued. After talks that lasted from 2002 until February 2003, Serbia and Montenegro agreed to be a loose federation of republics that in the future could become independent after a referendum.

Internet Sources for history of West Balkans:

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/bk.html>

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/yi.html>

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/hr.html>

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/si.html>

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/yugotimeline1.html>

<http://idl.stanford.edu/104/lectures/notes06.html>

<http://encyclopedia.laborlawtalk.com/Bosniaks#History>

http://encyclopedia.laborlawtalk.com/Eastern_Orthodoxy#History

<http://www.answers.com/topic/history-of-bosnia-and-herzegovina>

<http://www.kakarigi.net/manu/briefhis.htm>

<http://www.answers.com/topic/history-of-bosnia-and-herzegovina>

<http://www.un.org/Overview/unmember.html>

<http://www.lib.msu.edu/sowards/Balkan/lect25.htm>

<http://www.answers.com/topic/history-of-bosnia-and-herzegovina>

<http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~bosnia/NATOun/NATOchro.html>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/675945.stm>

<http://www.answers.com/topic/history-of-bosnia-and-herzegovina>

<http://www.justiceforall.org/kosova-history.asp>

<http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.croatianrelief.org/images/sarajevo6.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.croatianrelief.org/menu/allphoto.htm&h=282&w=529&sz=54&tbnid=zanm94y0qQ8J:&tbnh=68&tbnw=128&start=19&prev=/images%3Fq%3Ddestruction%2Bof%2BSArajevo%26hl%3Den%26lr%3D%26sa%3DN>

<http://www.croatianrelief.org/menu/allphoto.htm&h=282&w=529&sz=54&tbnid=zanm94y0qQ8J:&tbnh=68&tbnw=128&start=19&prev=/images%3Fq%3Ddestruction%2Bof%2BSArajevo%26hl%3Den%26lr%3D%26sa%3DN>

<http://www.croatianrelief.org/menu/allphoto.htm&h=282&w=529&sz=54&tbnid=zanm94y0qQ8J:&tbnh=68&tbnw=128&start=19&prev=/images%3Fq%3Ddestruction%2Bof%2BSArajevo%26hl%3Den%26lr%3D%26sa%3DN>

<http://www.croatianrelief.org/menu/allphoto.htm&h=282&w=529&sz=54&tbnid=zanm94y0qQ8J:&tbnh=68&tbnw=128&start=19&prev=/images%3Fq%3Ddestruction%2Bof%2BSArajevo%26hl%3Den%26lr%3D%26sa%3DN>

<http://enrin.grida.no/htmls/bosnia/bosnia2002/landmines.html>

Map:

<http://www.cftech.com/BrainBank/GEOGRAPHY/CentBalkans.html>

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

In today's modern world, the developmental gap between peoples, nations and countries is getting bigger and bigger. On one end, the pace of living and development of western world is growing faster and faster, and on the other end, the deterioration of living conditions and struggle to survive of other peoples and nations is also growing faster. In the midst of this struggle for survival, usually the conflicts are born. Conflicts between people can have many faces and characters and can be caused by many factors. The most evident one is the poverty, poor living conditions, unfairness and denial of human rights.

The issue of human rights has been discussed and challenged since the beginning of human civilization. Throughout the history human rights have been regulated and protected, but also violated by many nations, and peoples, mostly as a result of a democratic on one hand, or non-democratic political establishments or events on the other (democratic regimes, non-democratic regimes, dictatorships, military coups, armed and violent conflicts and wars on small and large scales).

After many such experiences throughout the human history, people have come together and established the United Nations and its various bodies, where all the world countries equally participate in making decisions to prevent disasters caused by the humans, and wars in the world and help each other secure a prosperity and future for their peoples. One such initiative resulted in the "UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS" brought to light in 1993 by the UN General Assembly. This Declaration is: *"a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction."*

The Declaration has 30 Articles, 29 of which regulate various human rights (check www.hrweb.org/legal/udhr.html to find the complete document).

There is a brief summary of basic human rights identified in the Declaration:

Article 1: Right to be free and equal in dignity and rights, and act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood

Article 2: Everyone is entitled to all rights regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status

Article 3: Right of life, liberty and security

Article 4: No one will be held in slavery or servitude and efforts shall be made to eliminate the slave trade wherever it exists

Article 5: Nobody will suffer torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Article 6: All people shall be seen as a person before the law everywhere

Article 7: Right of recognition before the law and equal protection against discrimination

Article 8: All people have the right to get an effective outcome in their nation's courts for violations against their basic human rights

Article 9: No one can be arbitrarily arrested, detained or exiled

Article 13: Right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Right to leave any country, including own, and to return to own country

Article 15: Right to nationality

Article 16: Right to marry of full age with free will and consent and have a family, regardless of race, nationality or religion

Article 17: Right to own property

Article 18: Right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and freedom to express and manifest religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance

Article 19: Freedom of opinion and expression

Article 20: Freedom to peaceful assembly and freedom to belong to an association

Article 21: Right to take part in government, right to equal access to public services, right to vote

Article 22: Right to social security, economic, cultural and social rights, right to work and freedom of choice of employment, equal pay for equal work, right to join trade unions

Article 23: the right to employment, equality in treatment when employed, the right to protection when unemployed.

Article 24: Right to rest and leisure even for reasonable amounts of time during the work day and to receive pay for holidays

Article 25: The right to an acceptable standard of living and special rights to Mothers and children to protect their standard of living

Article 26: Right to education; elementary education is compulsory

The Declaration is officially signed and recognized by all the UN Members. There are many other UN documents that regulate various issues of human rights in more specific way. Such documents are, for example:

- Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Covenant Against Torture
- Covenant Against Genocide
- The Geneva Conventions
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
- Charter of United Nations

Check www.hrweb.org/legal/undocs.html for details on each of these documents.

RESOLUTION 994 (1993)¹¹

on the massive and flagrant violations of human rights in the territory of the former YugoSlavia

1. The Assembly declares its profound consternation at the massive and flagrant violations of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and at the perpetration of crimes against humanity such as the murder of innocent victims, concentration camps, torture, the systematic rape of women belonging to minority groups, and in particular to the Muslim population, as a deliberate means of destroying these minorities, "Ethnic cleansing" and the deportation of entire populations.
2. The re-emerging currents of xenophobia and racism and racial and nationalist ideologies in Europe are endangering human rights to a degree not witnessed in western Europe since the second world war; this in turn affects the fundamental values of democracy and the rule of law and may have fateful consequences both inside and outside Europe.
3. The Assembly considers that the Council of Europe's most important and urgent task, in the light of its vocation and experience, is above all to provide legal enforcement mechanisms in the field of human rights, something the Council of Europe, alone among European international organisations, is in a position to do.
4. The Assembly refers to the work of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and in particular to the reports on the human rights situation in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, drawn up by Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki as Special Rapporteur, as well as to the work of the commission of enquiry to establish war crimes in Yugoslavia that has been set up by the United Nations Security Council. It welcomes the decision of its Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to create an *ad hoc* sub-committee on the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia.
5. Accordingly, the Assembly:
 - i. launches a solemn appeal to all parties involved in the conflict in the territory of the former Yugoslavia to respect the Geneva conventions on humanitarian law ;
 - ii. condemns most strongly the massive and flagrant violations of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, committed mainly by the Serbian militia in Bosnia-Herzegovina ;
 - iii. strongly supports the efforts of the international agencies working to restore peace in the former Yugoslavia and in particular the International Conference on Peace in Former Yugoslavia ;
 - iv. reaffirms its determination to exclude national delegations of member states or states whose parliaments enjoy special guest status, if these states are shown to break the embargo against Serbia and Montenegro.

[1] *Assembly debate* on 3 February 1993 (26th Sitting) (see Doc. 6743, report of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Rapporteur : Mrs Haller).

Text adopted by the Assembly on 3 February 1993 (26th Sitting).

The second resolution is Resolution 1011, from September 1993, and refers to the situation of women and children in the former Yugoslavia:

RESOLUTION 1011 (1993)^{LI}

on the situation of women and children in the former YugoSlavia

1. The Assembly refers in particular to Order No. 486 (1993) on the protection of human rights and the joint declaration of its Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee and Unicef (United Nations Children's Fund), adopted in Geneva on 24 June 1993.
2. The conflict in the former Yugoslavia is marked by Ethnic cleansing and barbarous violence against civilians, in particular women and children. The elementary rules and principles of the laws of war and the protective provisions of humanitarian law have been systematically flouted and violated.
3. The international community has been powerless to provide an appropriate response, although the United Nations decision to set up an international court expresses its unwavering determination not to leave unpunished the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the conflict.
4. Humanitarian action has shown its limitations; however, in spite of the difficulties encountered, an attempt has been made to offset the international community's shortcomings. Just tribute should be paid to the remarkable work performed by the various humanitarian organisations such as the UNHCR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), Unicef, ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) and the NGOs (non-governmental organisations), and also to their staff, those women and men who devote themselves to helping others, often at the risk of their own lives.
5. The current lack of subsidies means that this action may have to be discontinued, despite the increase in and diversification of the demand for humanitarian relief. Steps must be taken to continue to ensure the survival of civilian populations and also to treat the trauma caused by war, to reconstruct the vital infrastructure which has been destroyed and to give the population, especially the children, prospects of a future comprising something other than violence, hatred and revenge.
6. In the last ten years, 90% of victims of armed conflict have been civilians; over one and a half million children have been killed, four million suffer from disabilities resulting from war, and a reported five million live in refugee camps. Moreover, in the conflict of the former Yugoslavia it is once again the women and children who are the main losers in the war. They have suffered and witnessed barbaric acts and are liable to pass on a hatred which has devastated them. The rights of the child, a recent achievement of the international community, have been trodden underfoot.
7. The Assembly, therefore, urges the governments of the member and non-member states grouped together in the Council of Europe:
 - i. to take the requisite action on the declarations made at the New York World Summit for Children in 1990, by subscribing to the principle of

"First Call for Children", according to which meeting the essential needs of children must be a top political priority when resources are allocated and must be taken fully into account when various policies are devised, and to undertake, as appropriate, to ratify and apply the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

- ii. to express their support for this principle at the summit of heads of state and government (to be held on 8 and 9 October 1993 in Vienna) and to focus their discussions at the next Conference of European Ministers responsible for Family Affairs (Paris, 13-15 October 1993) on this central issue;
- iii. to undertake to protect children from the scourge of war and to condemn the barbaric practice in recent armed conflicts of using women and children as targets and human shields, as well as the widespread use of antipersonnel mines, particularly those resembling toys, of which the main victims are children;
- iv. if the conflict in the former Yugoslavia continues, to take, in consultation with specialised organisations and NGOs, the immediate measures needed to ensure that the children and women of Bosnia-Herzegovina are given the food, water, heating, medical care and treatment and psycho-social help which are vital for their survival, that is to say, to ensure in all cases freedom of access for humanitarian relief and to secure observance for "havens of peace and safety" for the children;
- v. to accompany the measures imposing embargoes and other sanctions on the warring parties with the humanitarian arrangements needed to protect the lives and health of the most vulnerable group of civilians, especially children;
- vi. to introduce, at a European level, a co-ordinating structure to provide information on immediately available medical facilities (for example, the number of beds reserved for emergency treatment for children in each country) and to develop mutual assistance between hospitals in order to promote the rebuilding of hospitals, donations in kind and personnel support in the former Yugoslavia;
- vii. to ensure that rape victims, both women and children, receive the necessary medical care, psychological support and legal aid, not least in host countries;
- viii. to provide the appropriate emergency medical, psychological and educational aid for children who have witnessed or suffered cruelty, inhuman or degrading acts or the loss of their loved ones;
- ix. in the facilities for accommodating displaced persons, and refugee camps in particular, to help the women to feel useful by providing them with opportunities to engage in occupations and receive education and vocational training and allowing them to retain their active role, notably in performing their everyday family duties and housework;

- x. to supply the children of the former Yugoslavia affected by the conflict with a minimum of education and the educational and play material (books, toys, etc.) which is vital for children's development;
 - xi. to develop, particularly for children, programmes of education in peace, tolerance and democracy;
 - xii. to assist in the initial and further vocational training of local personnel, especially those responsible for children, and to give them the moral support and psychological help needed for overcoming the burnout syndrome.
8. The Assembly launches an urgent appeal to the governments of the states grouped together in the Council of Europe and to the European Community to contribute financially to humanitarian relief, to relax the conditions placed on the grant of subsidies allocated to the various humanitarian organisations at work in the former Yugoslavia and to increase the size of the subsidies, so that needs can be effectively met.
 9. It invites the governments of Council of Europe member states to make optimum use of the instrument constituted by the Council of Europe's Social Development Fund by means of a special aid account, so that immediate practical steps can be taken to meet the manifold needs emerging from the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.
 10. The Assembly also invites governments not to overlook the risk that similar conflicts might break out in or around Europe, to continue discussion on humanitarian action in cases of armed conflict and to devise a concerted European strategy, so as to take timely steps to develop and reinforce, in every country, all the peace forces in society.
 11. The Assembly invites the international community to review and adapt the humanitarian law governing the protection, in cases of armed conflict, of civilians, notably women and children, in keeping with human rights and the rights of the child.
 12. Finally, the Assembly condemns the inhuman actions of all the warring factions, and calls upon Bosnians, Croats and Serbs to behave like civilised persons and not like animals, and furthermore demands that the principles of international humanitarian law be strictly observed by all concerned in every respect.

[1] Assembly debate on 28 September 1993 (47th Sitting) (see Doc. 6903, report of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, Rapporteurs: Mrs Robert and Mr Daniel).
Text adopted by the Assembly on 28 September 1993 (47th Sitting).

The above documents clearly indicate the severe violations of all basic human rights during the conflict between former Yugoslavian countries. These do not need any further comments.

Organizations dedicated to the protection of human rights

In order to be able to implement the rules of the above documents and to assure their application through out the world, there are many organizations world-wide whose main mandate is protection of human rights. Such organizations are:

Amnesty International : <http://www.hrweb.org/resource.html#AI#AI>

Amnesty International/International Secretariat <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Amnesty International USA : <http://www.amnestyusa.org/>

Committee to Protect Journalists : <http://www.cpj.org/>

Human Rights Watch : <http://www.hrw.org/doc?t=Balkans>

Lawyer's Committee for Human Rights : <http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/index.html>

Physicians for Human Rights : <http://www.phrusa.org/>

Check the following web sites for more information on other human rights organizations and initiatives:

UN and Government Human Rights Sites : [**http://www.hrweb.org/resource.html**](http://www.hrweb.org/resource.html)