

**The significance of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo to Peace, Security & Prosperity**

Essay

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The historical evolution of the last two millennia has shaped the European continent into a mosaic of nations and languages, diversity that in many instances has led to violent conflicts that culminated with the two World Wars. Despite this linguistic, political or religious diversity, the citizens of today's Europe share values such as peace, democracy, respect for the law and human rights. In order to promote and maintain this status, there were established different organizations whose activities and actions represent a major factor in the horizon of local and global stability and peacekeeping. To get a better overview of why and how these coalitions have made a change, in the following material three main aspects were taken in consideration: conflict situations, multi-lateral cooperation and lifelong protection. These topics cover a wide range of matters but this paperwork is elaborated in such manner to emphasize the effective role played by international groupings and to be a guideline for those socially active individuals interested in promoting global peace and stability.

5 key-words were chosen to summarize the whole composition of this essay-based work:

- ❖ conflict
- ❖ cooperation
- ❖ interoperability
- ❖ monitoring
- ❖ future

# **1. Table of Contents**

<b>1. Table of Contents.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Introduction.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Contribution to a long-lasting peace.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.1 Why the Conflict Draw International Attention?.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.2 Shifting from confrontation to cooperation.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3.3 Future Mission of Regional Stability.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4. Conclusion.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5. Annexes.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5.1 List of Abbreviations.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5.2 List of Figures.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5.3 List of Literature.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6. Affidavit.....</b>	<b>11</b>

## 2. Introduction

1974 was the year when Yugoslav constitution declared Kosovo an autonomous province within Serbian territory. Under Slobodan Milosevic's rule, ethnic tensions between Serb and Albanian Kosovars worsened, and, in 1990, the province's autonomy was repealed. Violent conflicts followed and erupted into civil war in 1998-1999. NATO's forces intervened, and the UN Security Council established UNMIK to serve as an interim administration for the territory. In 2008, Kosovo declares independence but it's just partially recognized by some Europe's major powers and the United States. In present between Albanian majority and Serbian minority remains a fragile relation in the climate of a still problematic overall security position.



**Figure 1:** The Kosovo's Flag<sup>1</sup>



**Figure 2:** UNMIK's logo<sup>2</sup>

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1 Homepage of Wikipedia. The Flag of Kosovo Page. URL: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag\\_of\\_Kosovo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Kosovo)

2 Homepage of Balkan Investigative Reporting Group. About UNMIK Page. Donor and partners page. URL: <https://birn.eu.com/donors-and-partners/unmik/>

### 3. Contribution to a long-lasting peace

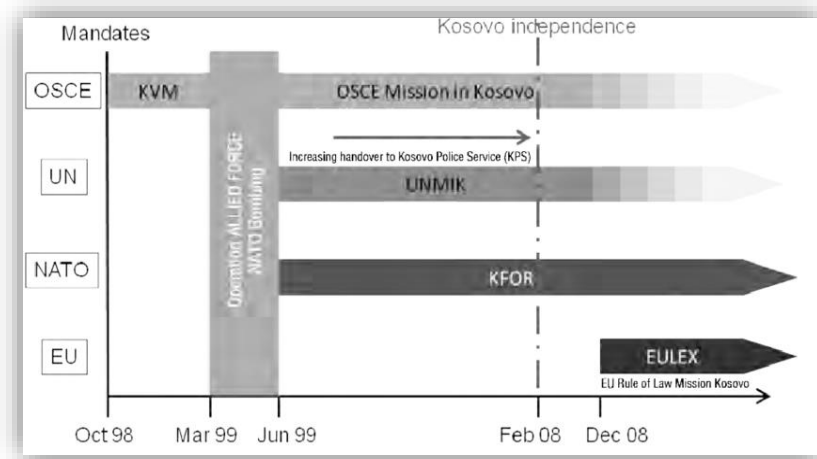
Beyond the so prevalent historical and factual events that took place in this region, it is necessary for everyone to discern the value and the importance of this state in the geopolitical space of Balkans and international affairs. Kosovo is a good example of how worldwide mechanisms have successfully bonded together in a complex operation of humanitarian aid, state-building and peacekeeping. Even if nowadays the youngest European country still struggles and faces difficulties in developing a healthy democratic system (which is yet normal for a newborn former eastern bloc country), the outcome of United Nations, NATO and European Union's joint efforts is undeniable. All these being said, let's take a closer look on how this whole process more specifically went for all the actors involved in.

#### 3.1 Why the Conflict Draw International Attention?

As the local regional tensions have increased to the point of bloody encounters, the prestige of NATO and its values became less trustworthy. Thus, intervention in Kosovo and the creation of a peaceful multi-ethnic democracy turned out to be a reliable solution in order to restore the West's lack of confidence in its capabilities. Deployment of KFOR can be seen as a first step in the journey of reestablishing a secure region through mutual institutional actions "*The operation derives its mandate from United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) and the Military-Technical Agreement between NATO, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbia.*" as it is remarked on the NATO website. Pursuant to the previous resolution mentioned UNMIK was launched to help establish a Kosovar government with lawful authority and capacity, done after 2008's declaration of independence.<sup>3</sup>

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3 Homepage of Taylor & Francis Online. Journal of Intervention and State-building Page. Introduction : Kosovo's Symbolic Importance Page. URL: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17502977.2019.1663986?scroll=top&needAccess=true>. Passim



**Figure 3:** Timeline of the Various Multinational Missions in Kosovo.<sup>4</sup>



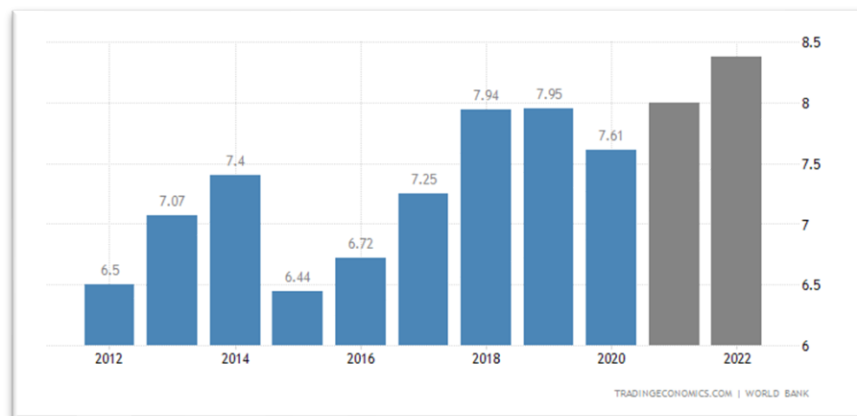
**Figure 4:** The perspective of international support in Kosovo.<sup>5</sup>

4 Homepage of Research Gate website. Picture from Lessons Learned from U.S. Government Law Enforcement in International Operations Page. URL: [https://www.researchgate.net/figure/1-Timeline-of-the-Variou-Multinational-Missions-in-Kosovo-The-United-States-did-not\\_fig1\\_235016816](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/1-Timeline-of-the-Variou-Multinational-Missions-in-Kosovo-The-United-States-did-not_fig1_235016816)

5 Picture from Homepage of Balkkani.info website. URL: <https://ballkani.info/sa-trupa-ka-nato-ne-kosove-dhe-nga-cili-shtet-ka-me-se-shumti-keto-jane-statistikat/>

### 3.2 Shifting from confrontation to cooperation

The presence of the military personnel will never be enough to sustain a proper stability environment, that's why it's vital to perceive Kosovo's conflict settlement as a dynamic process between UN's civilians or police staff and local communities and authorities. Each of UN's partners helped at different scales UNMIK, each on its sector: NATO's activity enlarged and assisted in relocation missions, medical aid, border patrol, protection of patrimonial sites and even determined insurance in the context of national elections <sup>6</sup>; European Union mainly by launching in 2008 EULEX that takes over police, justice and characteristic services from the UN's responsibility. EU also contributed in normalizing the cold relationship between Pristina and Belgrade through well-adjusted diplomatic dialogue that concluded therefore with an agreement steadily sustained by KFOR.<sup>7</sup> In other words, UN succeeded in restoring basic justice, safety and security to Kosovo. The UN also laid down the essential institutional bounds upon which justice and assurance could be forwarded to Kosovar residents with the help of military officers, volunteers, diplomatic corps, leaders and other operatives that were able to accomplish their tasks.



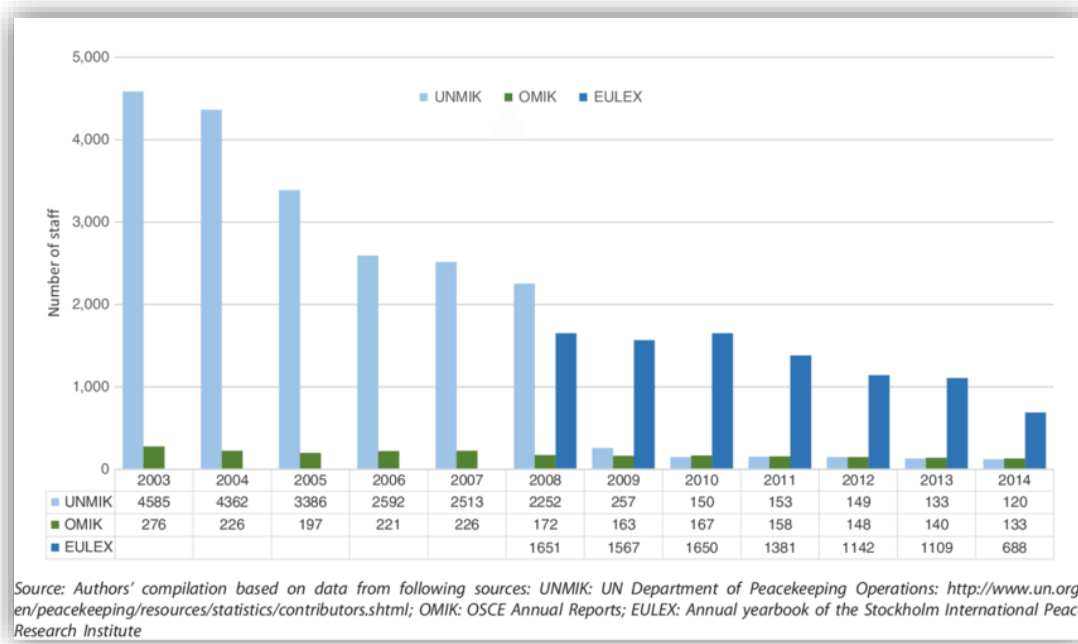
**Figure 5:** Kosovo GDP during the last decade<sup>8</sup>

6 Homepage of NATO webpage. Legislative elections in Kosovo Page document. URL: <https://www.nato.int/docu/update/2001/1112/e1117a.htm>. Passim

7 Ibid. NATO marks fifteen years of providing security in Kosovo Page. URL: [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news\\_111055.htm?selectedLocale=en](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_111055.htm?selectedLocale=en). Passim

8 Picture from Trading Economics webpage. URL: <https://tradingeconomics.com/kosovo/gdp>

### 3.3 Future Mission of Regional Stability



**Figure 6:** Number of staff engaged in Kosovo missions <sup>9</sup>

The multi-dimensional evolution of Kosovo’s position on the global political and cultural stage over the last decade determined its stakeholders to slowly reduce their involvement in internal affairs of the country and also to transcend from a supervising forum to an assistance and partnership forum. Consequently, the tasks and direct problems have been modified to the actual reality with the help of international collaborators’ agencies and initiatives such as *UN Action Plan for The Western Balkans: Sustaining Peace through Trust-Building, Dialogue and Reconciliation*, relevant for UNMIK’s further causes. Unfortunately, despite some confident improvements, Kosovo face general issues like domestic violence, corruption and the intransigent factions in the North.

<sup>9</sup> Picture from the source depicted in by the author’s compilation. URL depicted in.



## 4. Conclusion

Frozen conflicts are a real threat to the global prosperity mission that could easily revert into active conflicts. This eternal problem of human society needs to be treated as a main task on governmental high representatives' agendas. Getting to a serious reassessment of missions in this framework will ensure they are qualified to sustain peace. The United Nations' approach expressed in virtue of UNMIK demonstrates that such operations are effective in manipulating and undertaking peacekeeping initiatives.

Along with its partners and local authorities United Nations pointed out to the entire world their contribution to assuring a peaceful climate in Kosovo region, not mainly as a pride act, but more to implement the universal human rights, additionally with respect to exposed minorities, liberal form of governance and the equality of all citizens before the law. The lessons from Kosovo in such a way are a essential component in the horizon of a prosperous future for the next generations.



**Figure 7:** Unity in diversity – support beyond borders <sup>10</sup>

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10 Homepage of NATO website. Kosovo crisis Page. URL: <https://www.nato.int/kosovo/repo2000/better.htm>

## 5. Annexes

### 5.1 List of Abbreviations

- Passim
- Ibid.- ibidem, the same place

### 5.2 List of Figures

- Figure 1- The Kosovo's Flag – page 4
- Figure 2- UNMIK's logo - page 4
- Figure 3 Timeline of the Various Multinational Missions in Kosovo - page 6
- Figure 4- The perspective of international support in Kosovo - page 6
- Figure 5- Kosovo GDP during the last decade - page 7
- Figure 6- Number of staff engaged in Kosovo missions - page 8
- Figure 7- Unity in diversity – support beyond borders – page 9

### 5.3 List of Literature

- [Flag of Kosovo - Wikipedia](#) [03-10-2022]
- [UNMIK - BIRN](#) [03-10-2022]
- [Full article: Introduction: Kosovo's Symbolic Importance \(tandfonline.com\)](#) [03-10-2022]
- [Timeline of the Various Multinational Missions in Kosovo. The United... | Download Scientific Diagram \(researchgate.net\)](#) [03-10-2022]
- [Sa trupa ka NATO në Kosovë dhe nga cili shtet ka më së shumti? Këto janë statistikat - Ballkani.info](#) [03-11-2022]
- [NATO Update: Legislative elections in Kosovo - 17 November 2001](#) [03-11-2022]
- [NATO - News: NATO marks fifteen years of providing security in Kosovo, 13-Jun.-2014](#) [03-11-2022]
- [Kosovo GDP - 2021 Data - 2022 Forecast - 2000-2020 Historical - Chart - News \(tradingeconomics.com\)](#) [03-11-2022]
- [NATO & Kosovo: Kosovo one year on - Could it have been done better?](#) [03-11-2022]

## 6. Affidavit

I declare that I have written the present essay independently and on my own. I have clearly marked any ideas borrowed from other sources as not my own and documented their sources. The essay does not contain any work that I have handed in or have had graded as a previous scientific paper earlier on.

I am aware that any failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts or words as if they were my own – even if I summarise, paraphrase, condense, cut, rearrange, or otherwise alter them.

I am aware of the consequences and sanctions plagiarism entails. Among others, consequences may include nullification of the essay and exclusion from participation in the PSP Forum High School Student Writing Competition. These consequences also apply retrospectively, i.e. if plagiarism is discovered after the essay has been accepted and graded. I am fully aware of the scope of these consequences.



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Alba-Iulia, Romania in March 2022