



# Power Report: Bosnia

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# Context

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- Bosnia (Bosnia and Herzegovina) formed after the collapse of the former republic of Yugoslavia
- Triggered the start of the Bosnian War
- NATO involvement helped end the war, with airstrikes that helped turn the tides for the Croat and Bosniak armies to gain territory back
- Dayton Accords officially ended the conflict
- Bosnia is currently a candidate for NATO and the EU

# Timeline

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- Late 1990s: communism in former Yugoslavia loses popularity to ethnic nationalism
- Feb 29, 1992: referendum on future of Yugoslavia begins & Serbian wedding shooting
- March 3, 1992: Bosnia and Herzegovina declare independence
  - Supported by Muslims and Croats, whereas was opposed by the Serbs who were loyal to Yugoslavia
- April 6, 1992: widely considered to be the first official day of conflict after U.N. recognizes Bosnia as a sovereign nation
- May, 1992: U.N. imposed sanctions on Serbia for backing insurgent Bosnian serbs
- January, 1993: War now breaks out between Croats and Muslims
- April, 1993: U.N. deploys protection forces
- Feb 28, 1994: Serbs begin to attack U.N. and NATO forces
- March 2, 1994: U.S. brokers end of Muslim-Croat conflict with the Washington Agreement

# Timeline Continued

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- November 13, 1994: Arms embargo on Bosnia lifted, allowing effective U.S. aid
- July 9, 1995: Bosnian Serb President (Karadzic) orders capture of Srebrenica
- July 11, 1995: Srebrenica (a U.N. safety zone) is captured, ensued by horrendous war crimes including the genocide of over 8,000 Muslim males and the systemic rape of Muslim women
- July and August, 1995: Airstrikes help Bosnian government reclaim ground against the Serbs
- November, 1995: Dayton Peace Accords officially marks the end of the war

# The Dayton Accords

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- Bosnia split into two sections
  - Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Croat and Muslim
  - Republic of Srpska: Serb
- U.N. and U.S. send in peacekeepers and continued humanitarian aid
- Negotiations lead by Holbrooke (chief U.S. peace negotiator) and Christopher (state secretary)



# Justification

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- Started as humanitarian aid, shifted once 7,000 civilians were executed
- Domestic pressure to take a lead on the atrocities being committed
- Better stance for the Clinton administration, as there was domestic pressure to intervene
- Brokering peace was an intermediary work that did not endanger U.S. lives, however it's argued not enough was done

# Relation to international mandates

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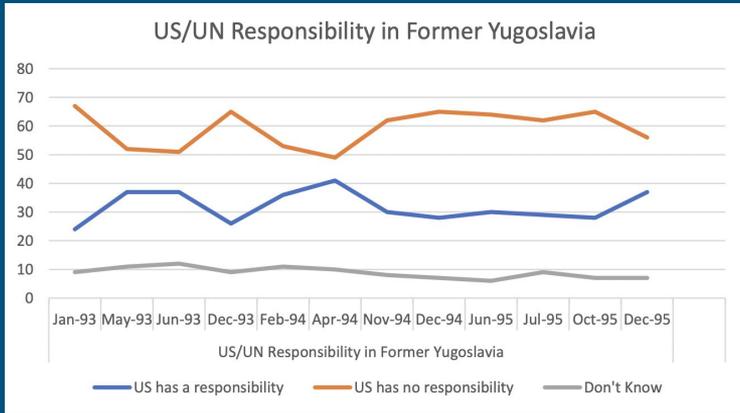
- The U.N. worked to provide humanitarian aid, along with the United States
- All actions supported and well within jurisdiction
- Dayton accords were a temporary fix to a long term problem



# Reactions

## Domestic

- Generally, the public was not keen on involvement
- However, domestic pressure increased as more horrors began to occur



## International

- International support for humanitarian aid, but ultimately nothing more until the fall of Srebrenica
- US pressured for air strikes or armed forces, which European nations were opposed to because it was their troops, not U.S. troops
- Until Srebrenica, international consensus was peacekeeping until Washington took a tough stance

# Effective Use of Power?

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- Yes
  - Specifically in terms of hard power
  - Economic stimulation of approximately 17 billion since 1995
  - Use of military forces to help defeat the Bosnian Serbians
- Hard power: diplomacy and support of UN/NATO airstrikes
- Soft power: forging Dayton accords to sow peace
  - Not as effective
- Successful in stability, not so much for persistent problems
  - No American troops have been killed during their support from 1995-2006
  - However, economic and cultural tensions still exist, with the ever present threat of another war looming
  - Generally the Dayton Accords are still well received across all ethnic groups

# Power Explored

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## Hard Power

- Use of diplomacy in organizing the Dayton Accords
- Economic sanctions on Serbia, embargos in Bosnia
- Support of NATO and U.N. airstrikes

## Soft Power

- Dayton accords to influence peace by separating Bosnia into two states
- Economic stimulation into cultural site restoration and communities

# Implications

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- Use of humanitarian aid during civil wars (precedent for invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan)
- Brokering agreements for warring states
- Involvement with potential allies, when to supply troops

1. Did the United States do enough? Should the Clinton administration have acted sooner?

2. How does United States involvement in Bosnia compare to other accounts of genocide?

3. So far, many instances of hard power have been seen through military force. What are the pros and cons of using diplomacy as a form of hard power, specifically in Bosnia?

4. To what extent should public opinion matter, especially when it comes to ethnic conflict?