

## Topic: The Breakup of Yugoslavia

The committee convenes on March 3rd, 1992.

### I. Background information

On March 3, 1992, the Bosnian Parliament formally declares independence from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, following a referendum on February 29 and March 1, in which the majority of voters supports secession. This pivotal decision marks the beginning of a new chapter for Bosnia and Herzegovina but also triggers violent clashes between loyalist and separatist groups, exacerbated by the waning influence of Serbia in the region. As Yugoslavia dissolves, Bosnia's secession further destabilizes an already fragile political and social environment.

Bosnia, situated at the heart of former Yugoslavia, becomes a focal point for ethnic tensions due to its diverse demographic composition: Bosniaks (Muslims), Croats (Catholics), and Serbs (Orthodox Christians). While the declaration of independence is supported by Bosniak and Croat leaders, Bosnian Serb leaders, backed by Serbia, strongly opposes the move and begins organizing armed resistance. The self-proclamation of Serbian-controlled territories within Bosnia and Herzegovina formalizes this opposition, laying the groundwork for future conflicts. At the same time, Croat leaders, despite supporting independence, are pursuing territorial ambitions that adds further complexity to the situation.

The international community begins recognizing the independence of several former Yugoslav republics, and by 1992, Bosnia and Herzegovina gains recognition from many states, including members of the European Community. However, internal conflicts and the delicate balance among its ethnic groups leads to prolonged instability. The United Nations, monitoring the situation closely, establishes the UNPROFOR peacekeeping mission in neighboring Croatia to address regional insurgencies. Despite the diplomatic efforts of the EC peace conference held in February, as of now, UN peacekeeping forces have not been deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina, leaving the region vulnerable to escalating tensions and violence.

## II. Countries represented

### Entities within Yugoslavia:

**Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY)** - the central government, primarily dominated by Serbia and Montenegro after Slovenia and Croatia declared independence in 1991. It was opposed to the breakup and aimed to preserve Yugoslavia.

**Croatia** - declares independence in 1991, fighting primarily against the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) and Serbian militias for territorial sovereignty.

**Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina** - declares independence in 1992

**Republika Srpska**- a Serb-dominated entity within Bosnia, it fought for autonomy or union with Serbia, often against the Bosnian government and Croat forces.

**Republic of Serbian Krajina** - a self-proclaimed Serb entity in Croatia, fighting to maintain ties with Serbia and resist Croatian independence.

**Croatian Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia (CRHB)** - a Croat-dominated self-proclaimed entity within Bosnia, allied at times with Bosniaks but also fought against them.

**People's Movement of Kosovo** - advocated for Kosovo's independence from Serbia, but their activities were not militarized during the initial breakup

**Slovenia** - declares independence in 1991, fighting a brief war (the Ten-Day War) against the JNA before effectively leaving the conflict.

**Montenegro** - initially remains aligned with Serbia as part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

**Macedonia** - declares independence in 1991 with little violence, although it faced disputes with Greece over its name.

**Vojvodina Autonomist Movement** - advocates for greater autonomy within Serbia, largely staying out of the larger conflicts of the 1990s.

**Republic of Western Bosnia** - a self-proclaimed Bosniak entity allied with Republika Srpska, opposing the Bosnian central government.

## Entities outside Yugoslavia:

**European Community** - plays a significant diplomatic role, recognizing the independence of Slovenia and Croatia and later mediating peace agreements.

**Albania** - supports Kosovo Albanians and Bosniaks during the conflict.

**USA** - initially hesitant to intervene but later plays a major role

**Russian Federation** - supports Serbia and Republika Srpska diplomatically and politically.

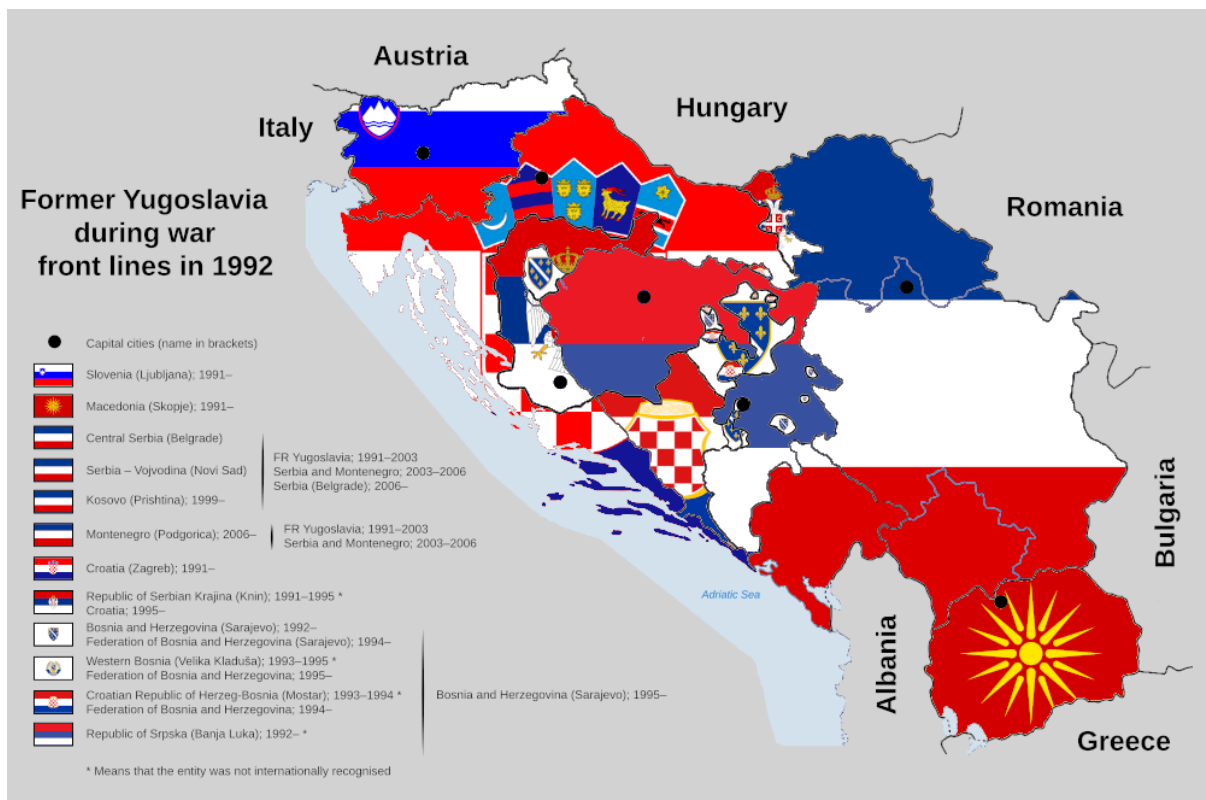
**Bulgaria** - recognizes the independence of former Yugoslav republics early but avoids direct involvement.

**Greece** - opposes Macedonia's independence under its chosen name but otherwise seeks to maintain stability in the region.

**Hungary** - focuses on protecting its ethnic Hungarian minority in Vojvodina and supported Croatia diplomatically.

**Italy** - supports European diplomatic efforts and provided humanitarian aid.

**Turkey** - supports Bosniaks and Kosovo Albanians, emphasizing its historical and cultural ties.



### **III. Some Useful Sources:**

[https://peacekeeping.un.org/mission/past/unprof\\_b.htm](https://peacekeeping.un.org/mission/past/unprof_b.htm)

<https://arhivyu.rs/en>

[https://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/History of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Primary Documents](https://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/History_of_Bosnia_and_Herzegovina:_Primary_Documents)

<https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/display/document/obo-9780199791279/obo-9780199791279-0118.xml>

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/mission/past/unprofor.htm>