

**Houston Area
Model United Nations
Crisis Committee**

Kosovo Intervention



**Crisis Director | Joshua Pietsch
Houston Area Model United Nations 51
February 6 & 7, 2026**

Note to Delegates

Hello Delegates,

My name is Joshua Pietsch and I am a freshman economics major at the University of Texas at Arlington. I am so excited to be your Crisis Director for NATO: Kosovo Intervention!

This committee has you going through a pivotal time in NATO's history as the alliance begins to shift towards taking a bigger role in global conflicts. The organization began to see itself not only as a mediator for conflicts but also as a force that could intervene if necessary. NATO already has a precedent of intervening in the conflicts of Yugoslavia, but in Bosnia it was with UN approval after it had already been ruled a genocide. As you enter this committee think about not only the consequences of your actions, but the consequences of inaction.

A couple of tips as you approach this committee: Research, research, research! This topic has a lot of nuances and your characters have many different interests to balance, so having a good understanding of it all will set you up for success in committee; Try to step out of your comfort zone, and use unique methods to approach the problems you'll face in this committee; Most importantly however, have fun! If you have any questions about the committee please feel free to reach out!

Joshua Pietsch

CD for NATO: Kosovo Intervention

HAMUN 51

joshuapeach25@gmail.com





Kosovo Intervention

Crisis Director | Joshua Pietsch

Houston Area Model United Nations 51

February 6 & 7, 2026

Background

Kosovo under Tito's Yugoslavia

The history of this conflict can primarily be drawn back to the creation of communist Yugoslavia under Josip Tito after World War II. As Tito sought to consolidate power in the country, he snuffed out all forms of nationalism from all ethnicities in Yugoslavia. This included splitting the larger Serbian Socialist Republic by creating two Socialist Autonomous Provinces of Vojvodina and Kosovo. During this time, Albanian Nationalists were heavily persecuted and silenced, however progress was made in gaining autonomy slowly. In 1974 a change in the constitution gave Kosovo many of the privileges the other republics had, like a seat on the federal presidency and its own assembly.



Map of Yugoslavia 1970. (SR; Socialist Republic) (SAP; Socialist Autonomous Province)

Kosovo after Tito

After Tito's death in May 4th 1980, power in Kosovo still resided with the Communist Party, but it the assembly became dominated by ethnic Albanians. Tito's death also brought a long period of economic and political instability. It started in 1981, when a student protest at the University of Pristina spread throughout Kosovo, only ending after the Yugoslav government declared a state of emergency and sent in the army. The protest led to some Serbs leaving Kosovo and moving to Serbia, leading many Serbs in the Yugoslav government to create plans to reduce the power of the Albanians in Kosovo

HAMUN



The Rise of Slobodan Milošević

Yugoslavia toiled through the rest of the 1980s with occasional bursts of ethnic conflict, that slowly increased interethnic tensions across the country, but it wouldn't fully implode until the rise of Slobodan Milošević. He was a middling politician for most of his career, but after expressing support for Serbians in Kosovo his popularity amongst Serbian nationalists rose dramatically.

He used this backing to win the presidency of Serbia in 1989, and immediately used his power to crack down on Kosovo autonomy. In March 1989 he declared an "anti-bureaucratic revolution" in Kosovo by stripping the province of many of its privileges, as well as imposing a curfew and state of emergency. He claimed these measures to be necessary to protect Kosovo's Serbs from Albanian harassment.

This culminated with 118 Albanian delegates of the 180-member Kosovo Assembly gathering in front of the barred parliament and declaring Kosovo an independent republic in Yugoslavia. Days later the Serbian Assembly voted to dissolve the Kosovo Assembly and took full control of the province.



Milosevic giving his famous Gazimestan speech; June 28 1989

The Republic of Kosova

In September of 1991, ethnic Albanians held an unofficial referendum on independence in which they voted overwhelmingly in favor. They established the Republic of Kosova, a proto-state entity the began to create parallel institutions not recognized by Serbia. As the Serbian government fired basically all ethnically Albanians from government, many join the Republic of Kosova. The government ran its own taxes, hospitals and schools with relative success from exile.

The Brewing Conflict in Kosovo

Tensions only grew in the years between the start of the conflict, as Serbs fleeing the violence from Croatia, and Bosnia ended up settling in Kosovo and forcing out ethnic Albanians with the help of the Serbian government. This only deepened the hatred between the two groups and set the stage for War in 1998.



Kosovo Intervention

Crisis Director | Joshua Pietsch

Houston Area Model United Nations 51

February 6 & 7, 2026

Timeline

Fallout From the Yugoslav Wars

The Balkans has long been a flash point for conflict in Europe, however the collapse of Yugoslavia has brought new complications to this centuries old warzone. As new nations have attempted to emerge from the chaos, they have often alienated minority groups living in their territory, forcing mass migrations, and often times resulting in inter-ethnic violence. The new wave of violence in Kosovo is a result of these migrations and attacks. As Serbs fled from conflict in Croatia, Slovenia, and especially Bosnia, many decided to take up residence in Kosovo. These settlers were propped up by the Serbian government and only contributed to the greater economic inequality between ethnic Albanians and Serbians

Outbreak of War

On April 22nd 1996, 4 simultaneous attacks happened against Serbian security personnel across Kosovo. The KLA (Kosovo Liberation Army), claimed responsibility and brought itself into the forefront of the fight for Kosovo's independence. The KLA was a separatist militia that believed in greater Albania, an expanded Albanian state that would encompass parts of Kosovo, Macedonia, and Montenegro. In 1998 the attacks intensified, centering around the Drenica Valley and slowly began taking territory and small settlements like.

The Serbian Response

In April of 1998, Serbia held a referendum on intervening in Kosovo and it was rejected decisively. Despite this Serbian forces still engaged in border raids, and shelled towns thought to be KLA strongholds. September would prove to be the turning point in the conflict, as after successive KLA in the regions around Pristina, and evidence of war crimes had been discovered by the UN force monitoring the situation, drawing the ire of NATO.

HAMUN



NATO Starts to get Involved

In June of 1998, President Bill Clinton declared a state of emergency due to the threats imposed on national security and US foreign policy by Serbian forces in the Kosovo War. In September the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1199, expressing grave concern at the indiscriminate use of force Serbian forces had been using. In October of 1998 NATO gave orders for limited airstrikes on Serbian forces, however they were withdrawn after the OSCE confirmed Serbia's compliance with the UNSC resolution 1203.

Greater Atrocities Discovered

At the start of 1999, the OSCE was discovering more and more evidence of war crimes being committed by Serbian forces. On January 15th, the OSCE received reports of civilians being killed in Račak. What the team found would later be used as evidence of war crimes against Milošević, and other top officials. When the Račak massacre began to top news headlines across the world, international pressure only ramped up. The Western World turned up its pressure campaign while countries like China and Russia chose question the validity of the claims.

The Present Situation

With conflict only growing, and reports of ethnic cleansing coming in, it seems that NATO is on a direct path to conflict with Serbia. Many countries in the West feel strongly about this, as they feel atrocities on this scale haven't been seen since the Second World War. However many countries in the east and global south don't feel too strongly on an issue like this and are more worried about NATO's mandate to infringe on another countries sovereignty. Unlike their intervention in Bosnia, there is no UN approval for any use of force against Serbian forces. For NATO this puts them into a tough spot as the world is watching to see whether the defensive alliance will attack another country who hasn't attacked them. What precedent will that set for other global powers? How can NATO claim moral superiority when it has no claim to action in Kosovo?. NATO must decide whether to continue to try diplomacy, or take action to prevent another genocide.



Graves of those killed in the Račak massacre



Committee Brief

NATO has long stood as a defensive alliance and bulwark to communism in Europe. With its main geopolitical rival of the Soviet Union gone however, the international community must help shape NATO's decisions as it tries to find a new role in the world order.

In Bosnia the alliance already established itself as a force for peace in helping the UN stop the ethnic violence between the Bosnians and Serbs. This time is different however, as fewer countries in the international community are on board with NATO intervening, with China and Russia standing as supporters of Serbia. Without UNSC approval any actions taken by NATO will likely be seen as an overreach of power, and a violation of Serbia's sovereignty. Can the international community allow NATO to violate another country's sovereignty unilaterally?

Although, it's up to the countries within NATO, as well as NATO high command, to decide what course the organization should take on this issue, the international community and other parties of non-interest to the war must make their opinions about NATO's changing role heard; can NATO violate another country's sovereignty? Does/should reasonable suspicion of genocide prompt imediate action that supercedes the beurcrtic processes of the UN? Will NATO use this opportunity to set a precedent of future foreign interventions? If extant, is this precedent good? These are all questions that delegates should consider when entering in committee.

Your Goals

- Stop, as fast as reasonably possible, the humanitarian crisis and violations of fundamental rights occurring in Kosovo by the use of 'appropriate means'
- Request edits and amendments, as you see fit, to any ceasefire agreement between the KLA and Serbian forces
- Use the situation to steer NATO's post-soviet evolution in a diplomatically advantageous direction
- Maneuver in a way that will not create undue diplomatic tension

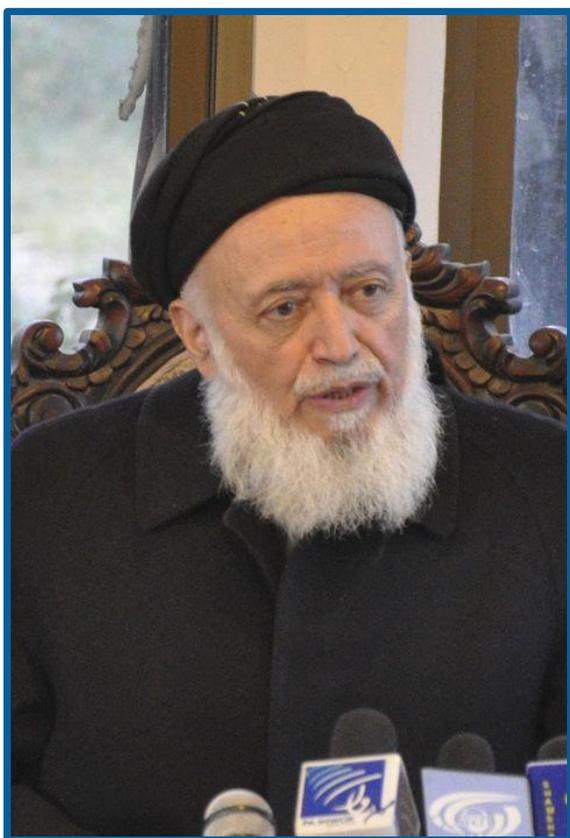


Characters



Ljubčo Georgievski

Ljubčo Georgievski was the prime minister of the relatively new country of North Macedonia, created in 1991. He served under and later broke from the “Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity.” He was also suspected to be a Bulgarophile, inflating ethnic tensions in the already unstable region.



Burhanuddin Rabbani

Burhanuddin Rabbani was the western-backed, president-in-exile of the war torn Afghanistan. Rabbani’s domestic influence in 1999 is debatable, with his government not even controlling the capital, Kabul. Rabbani had risen to power in Afghanistan after establishing himself as an extremely pro-islamic bulwark against communism and soviet influence in the country.

Characters



Rexhep Meidani

Meidani was the president of Albania and previously served as the general secretary of the Albanian Socialist Party, the chair of the Board of the Albanian Center of Human Rights, and was a dean at the University of Tirana. Meidani, as the president, did not hold significant legislative power or domestic influence but he served as the mouthpiece for the Albanian people and primary, albeit weak executive.



Ali Mahdi Muhammad

Ali Mahdi Muhammad was the internationally recognized president and figure head of Somalia after being appointed at a diplomatic conference in neighbouring Djibouti. Ali Mahdi had limited ability to control affairs outside of the capital, Mogadishu, and spent a significant amount of energy fighting for control of southern Somalia. Ali Mahdi also had a contentious relationship with the west given the scale of UN operations in the country.

Characters



Muhammad az-Zanati

Az-Zanati is the general secretary of Gaddafi's Libya—and although the government's leader on paper—is second, in practice, to the Brotherly Leader and Guide of the Revolution, a position currently held by Gaddafi.

Az-Zanati, during his tenure, would (along with his ambassadors) be Gaddafi's means of communicating his vision for Africa with the rest of the world.



Vladimir Putin

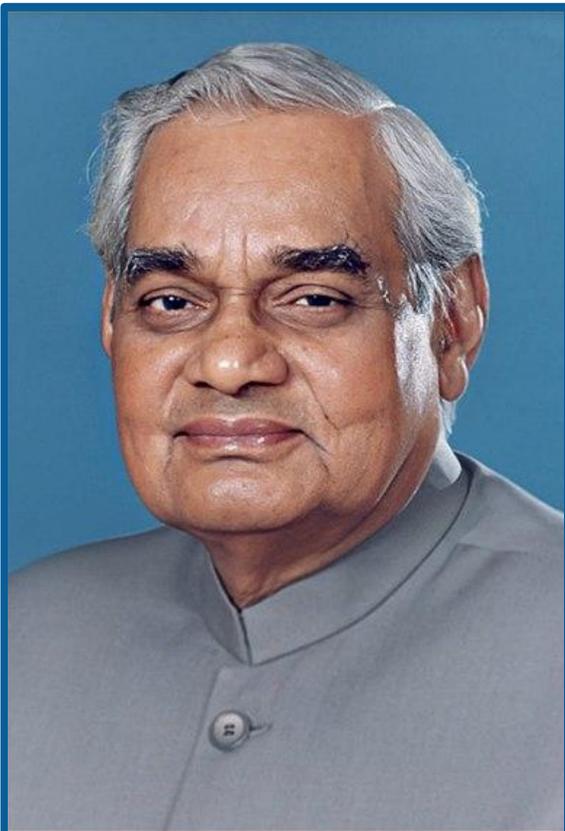
Putin is a former KGB agent and a political upincomer in the post-Soviet political scene being appointed as the head of the Russian Federal Security Service just 8 years after he was a mear adviser to the mayor of St. Petersburg. In 1999, it was believed that Putin is due for another promotion, with some even speculating he may be Yeltsin's replacement. His notoriety for strongarm policies have afforded him a lot of respect and political mobility domestically.

Characters



Boris Yeltsin

Yeltsin, who was influential in Gorbachev's Glasnost—and who some argue was a contributing factor to the collapse of the USSR—was the president of Russia. Yeltsin is not popular in Russia; trying, and failing, to navigate the westernization of a country whose internal politics threaten to tear it apart while overseeing the final stages of the novel full-scale desocialization of a major economy.



Atal Bihari Vajpayee

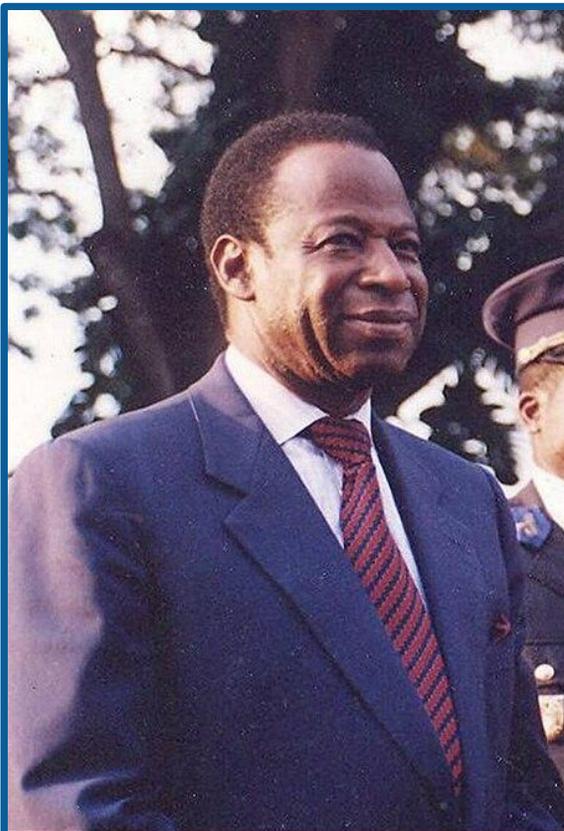
Vajpayee was the prime minister of India, the founder of the conservative BJP party, and a volunteer and major coordinating member of the National Volunteer Corps militia, to which he owes much of his early political success to. Vajpayee was a profound nationalist often referencing India's contributions to civilization building and championing ideas of Indian supremacy and a need to return to traditional cultural values.

Characters



Igor Ivanov

Ivanov was the newly appointed foreign minister of Russia, serving under Yeltsin. A prominent soviet diplomat, his career in the soviet government started when he joined the foreign ministry in the early 70s before serving as the ambisitor to Spain from '83 to '91. Ivanov had been a vocal opponent of all NATO action in Yugoslavia.



Amara Essy

Easy is the former president of the UN General Assembly and, in 1999, is the minister of foreign affairs for Côte d'Ivoire. Essy had been a vocal proponent of pan-africanism and a staunch critic of Gaddafi's strong influence in sahara- and sahel-state politics. Essy had also been a center of contention within western politics, being the French choice for secretary general, as opposed to the american choice and current secretary general, Kofi Annan.

Characters



Rodolfo Severino Jr.

Hailing from the Philippines, Severino was the secretary general of ASEAN. Severino started his international political career serving as a Filipino ambassador to the United States and China in the '70s before serving as the Consul general of the Filipino Consulate in Houston in 1979. Severino's ties to the international scene are extensive and he was renowned for his impartial nature and support for democratic solutions.



Zhu Rongji

Zhu Rongji was the premier of China where he served as head of government and the third most powerful man in the country. Rongji is a former electrical engineer and businessman and has had a major role in the CCP's economic policy since the mid '50s. Rongji's economic and political ideas have seen him repeatedly ousted from the party and 'reeducated' in the Maoist era; Rongji often championed relationships with the western world.

Characters



Jia Chunwang

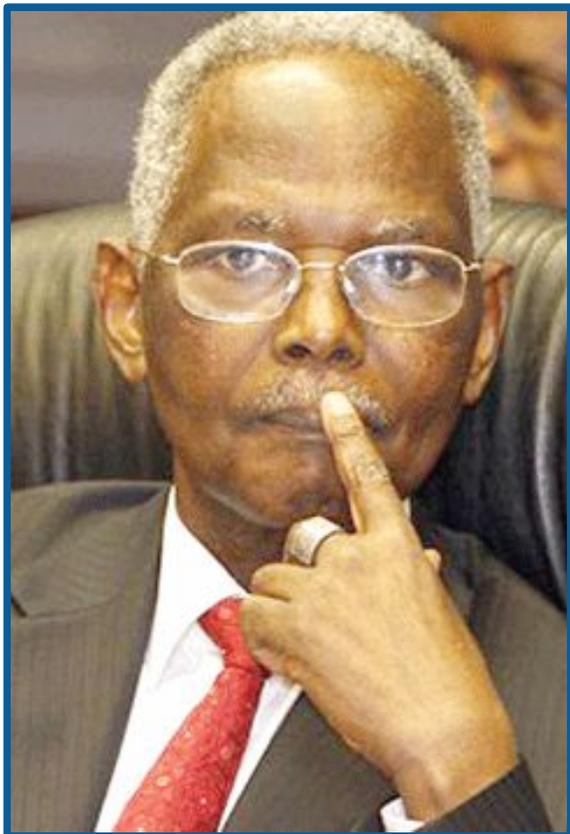
Jia Chunwang was a nuclear physicist and head of the Chinese Ministry of State Security, their espionage organization. Chunwang had championed and orchestrated major moves in Chinese foreign policy including working with the CIA in Afghanistan c. 1990 and the normalization of sino-russian relations post USSR. Chunwang is well known for his role in dramatically increasing the size of the MSS, helping China assert its growing power



Ahmed Asmat Abdel-Meguid

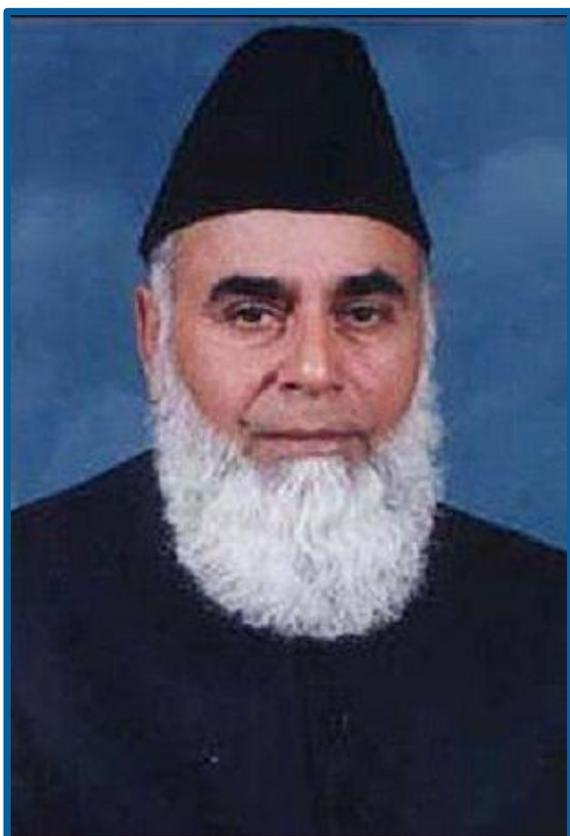
Abdel-Meguid was the secretary general of the Arab League, making him the figure head for the internal coordination and collaboration of the Arab states. Abdel-Meguid is also the former Minister of foreign affairs for Egypt where he oversaw Egypt's role in the Persian Gulf War as well as their subsequent role in the Damascus Declaration.

Characters



Rilwanu Lukman

Rilwanu Lukman of Nigeria was a mining engineer and the secretary general of OPEC. Lukman had held political positions concerning 3rd world economic development since 1984. Lukman had orchestrated his fair share of diplomatic and economic compromises, his most notable being that between Saudi Arabia and Iran regarding oil price fixing in early 1999.



Muhammad Rafiq Tarar

Muhammad Rafiq Tarar was president of Pakistan serving under the PML-N (center-right) party. Tarar did not serve as head of government and notably signed the 13, 14, and 15th amendments to the Pakistani constitution limiting presidential power. Nevertheless, Tarar was influential in Pakistan's continued nuclear development, adoption of more robust civil protections, and the expansion of education across large parts of the country.

Characters



Bertie Ahern

Bertie Ahern was the Taoiseach, or PM, of Ireland. Although his administration had been shaken by scandal, Ahern had risen to prominence due to his role in crafting the Good Friday Agreement, temporarily ceasing hostilities between Ireland and the United Kingdom. Ahern carefully positioned himself, and his party, to be seen as the only peaceful way forward for the Irish revolutionary spirit.



Tang Jiaxuan

Tang Jiaxuan is a former Chinese diplomat to Japan and current Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Communist Party. Jiaxuan presided over China's growing westernization in the late '90s and early '00s as the country was beginning to change its foreign outlook after the unforeseen fall of the USSR.

Characters



Leonid Kuchma

Leonid Kuchma was in his second term as president of Ukraine. Kuchma had a tenuous relationship domestically and internationally. He championed the rapid westernization of Ukraine, seeing integration with the EU as necessary for the country but also led large crack downs on the press. Some speculated the he even assassinated political opponents to stay in power.



Kim Dae-jung

Kim Dae-jung was an economist, business owner, and president of South Korea. Kim spent a large part of the '70s fighting for democracy in spite of the dictatorial regime in South Korea at the time. Kim had a failed assassination attempt against him, had been kidnaped by the KCIA, and had be sentenced to death before being granted clemency. Kim championed free-market policy with social safety nets. Kim has also been a vocal proponent of easing tensions with the north

Characters



Keizō Obuch

Keizō Obuch was a former Minister of Foreign Affairs and, in 1999, is the PM of Japan. Obuch was renowned in Japanese media as frail, ineffective, but well intentioned. One of his major priorities—along with attempting to relieve the country of the financial stress caused by the lost decade—was signing a peace treaty with Russia to officially end World War II. Both of these goals would not be accomplished.



Kamal Ganzouri

Ganzouri was the PM of Egypt and was renowned for his focus on Egypt's international & economic development. Ganzouri was very legislatively active with some of his most notable work being infrastructure projects and other attempts to raise the standard of living and geographic diversity of his country. Ganzouri had also eased tensions with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, this was arguably the only time where Egypt was in good standing with those international financial institutions.

Characters



Fahd of Saudi Arabia

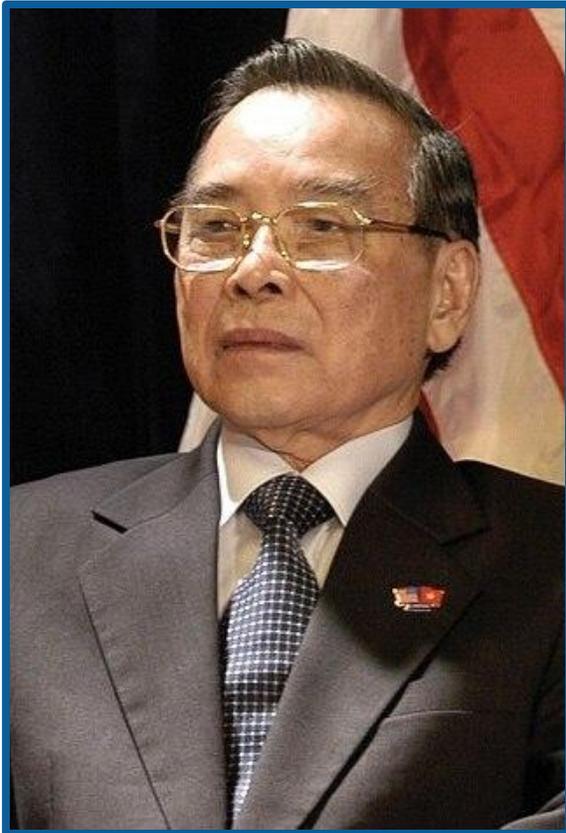
Fahd of Saudi Arabia was the absolute monarch of the titular country. Some estimate that upwards of 5% of the country's national income was given to foreign interests. Fahd was a major supporter of Iraq in the war against Iran, the Bosnian Muslims in the Yugoslav Wars, and the Nicaraguan Contras. Fahd also kept a strong relationship with the US but kept distance on various diplomatic issues like Saudi participation in various retaliatory strikes and recognition of Israel. Fahd was a notable supporter of the UN.



Sam Younger

Sam Younger was a humanitarian activist and Chair of the British Red Cross. Younger had previously worked as managing director of the BBC World Service where he was responsible for news delivery to underserved populations around the globe. It's reasonably safe to assume the Younger is concerned with limiting the destruction and loss of human life, if at all possible.

Characters



Phan Văn Khải

Phan Văn Khải was the PM of Vietnam and is renowned for his technologically/economically oriented leadership of the country. He was the first vietnamese prime minister to be professionally trained having studied economics in the USSR. His encouragement of private development and cultivation of better relationships with the west led to a substantial rise in living standards for his people.

Sources

1. *Interviews - William Cohen | War In Europe | FRONTLINE | PBS.* (n.d.). Wwww.pbs.org. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/kosovo/interviews/cohen.html>
2. *05/99: Erasing History: Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo.* (2025). Archive.org. https://web.archive.org/web/20161221112555/https://1997-2001.state.gov/www/regions/eu/r/rpt_9905_ethnic_ksvo_exec.html
3. NATO. (2024, October 21). *Kosovo Air Campaign (March-June 1999).* NATO. https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_49602.htm
4. United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. (2017). *Final Report to the Prosecutor by the Committee Established to Review the NATO Bombing Campaign Against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia | International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.* Icty.org. <https://www.icty.org/en/press/final-report-prosecutor-committee-established-review-nato-bombing-campaign-against-federal>
5. Britannica. (2018). Kosovo conflict. In *Encyclopædia Britannica.* <https://www.britannica.com/event/Kosovo-conflict>
6. Allcock, J. B. (2019). Slobodan Milosevic | Biography, Facts, & Trial. In *Encyclopædia Britannica.* <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Slobodan-Milosevic>
7. Allcock, J. B., & Lampe, J. R. (2018). Yugoslavia | History, Map, Breakup, & Facts. In *Encyclopædia Britannica.* <https://www.britannica.com/place/Yugoslavia-former-federated-nation-1929-2003>
8. *Kosovo - History.* (n.d.). Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Kosovo/History#ref283792>
9. Britannica. (2018). Kosovo conflict. In *Encyclopædia Britannica.* <https://www.britannica.com/event/Kosovo-conflict>
10. Pedlow, G. (n.d.). *The Evolution of NATO's Command Structure, 1951-2009* (pp. 12–13) [Review of *The Evolution of NATO's Command Structure, 1951-2009*]. Retrieved October 21, 2025, from file:///C:/Users/stell/Downloads/evolution%20of%20nato%20cmd%20structure%201951-2009.pdf
11. Office of the Historian. (2019). *Milestones: 1993–2000 - Office of the Historian.* State.gov. <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1993-2000/evolution-of-nato>

Copyright Notice

The contents of this document and any supplementary material are the sole intellectual property of Houston Area Model United Nations.

It may not be reproduced, republished, or used without the express written permission of Houston Area Model United Nations. Please email staff@houstonareamun.org with any questions.



