

**VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL MODEL
UNITED NATIONS**
March 27, 2021



YUGOSLAV WARS

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Letter from the Chairs (Harry Patel and Rebecca Abiantoun)

Crisis Director and the Crisis Staff : Parker Atkin and Prathiv Raj Ramesh Babu

Letter from the Chair and the Crisis Director:

Dear esteemed delegates,

Welcome to VIMUN VIII! My name is Harry Patel (he/him) and I will be serving as your chair for this Crisis Committee. I am currently a sophomore in high school and live in Toronto Canada. MUN has been an action-packed, rewarding, and insightful aspect of my high school experience so far, and I sincerely hope that we can deliver that same experience to you over the committee sessions. If there's a piece of advice that I can give to you prior to this conference, it would be that we are extremely open to answering any questions or concerns that you have before, during, or even after committee, and that we're ecstatic to see you attending whether it's your first or 10th conference! Happy MUNning!

I am Parker Atkin (she/her), a current Senior in High School from Massachusetts in the United States, and I look forward to working with you as your Crisis Director for this Crisis Committee! Crisis Committees lack formal resolutions; instead, they rely on directives for direct action taken in the committee, as well as backroom actions taken by each delegate in the form of notes to the Crisis Team. There are two primary forms of directives: Public and Non-Public.

When you submit a non-public directive, you will outline the actions taken in the directive, and your goals in taking the actions. If the Crisis Team determines your actions to be feasibly carried out, they will determine the effects of your actions, including whether your goals are achieved or not. The Crisis Team looks for three elements in a non-public directive: Is the action possible? (Could it be realistically done?) Is the action relevant? (Will it impact the committee?) Is the action conducive to the Committee? (Will it be enjoyable for all delegates to work with?) If the action you outline is all three, you

can expect that we consider your action completed, and will include the relevant effects either by notifying the involved parties, or including them in one of our crisis updates.

When you submit a Public Directive, the Crisis Team will determine if your directive is ready for introduction. If it is, you can move to introduce a public directive during time for points and motions. If your public directive is voted for, the effects you outlined in the document will come about. When the Crisis Team is evaluating a Public Directive, we're checking for all of the criteria for a non-public directive, as well as general support for the ideas outlined in the directive. (Public Directives take a lot of time to go over, so we won't waste valuable committee time on directives that don't have any sponsors!)

This committee takes place during the various wars that took place in the former Yugoslavia from 1991-2001 and there's a lot we're hoping you will be able to accomplish!

We want to take this opportunity to remind you all that position papers for this committee are due by March 25th 11:59 PM EST, to be eligible for awards. Position papers have to be sent via PDF or Microsoft Word Document format to the official VIMUN email address. When submitting, the position papers should be titled "CharacterName" (e.g., George H. W. Bush). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out via email.

We trust that over the committee sessions you have a newfound appreciation for the power of diplomacy, negotiations, and creativity. Please feel free to email us at v.imodelun@gmail.com if you have any questions about the conference or the committee. See you soon!

Best,

Harry Patel and Parker Atkin

Chair and the Crisis Director | Crisis Cabinet

Letter from the Co-Chair:

Dear delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to VIMUN 8! My name is Rebecca Abiantoun and I'll be co-chairing Crisis Cabinet. I'm currently a high school student at The English School in Bogotá, Colombia, and my MUN journey began when I was in sixth grade by attending national MUN conferences as a delegate. This year, I decided to join the MUN club of my school and since then, I have had the opportunity to enrich my knowledge as a delegate and staff member.

Since I started to participate in MUN conferences as a delegate, I always admired the chair and co-chair members considering that they not only have a huge responsibility, but they are also in charge of the dynamic of the committee, as well as the participation, motivation, and enjoyment of the delegates. In this order of ideas, I'm glad to have the opportunity to be your co-chair of the Crisis Cabinet and I'll be aware of any help, question, or doubt that you have.

I hope that you have an amazing experience in VIMUN 8 and remember that you are capable of achieving anything that you set your mind to.

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and I wish you the best of luck!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Abiantoun

Co-chair | Crisis Cabinet

FORUM: Crisis Cabinet

ISSUE: Yugoslav Wars

Definition of Key Terms

Yugoslavia

Also known as the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was a country located in Southeast and Central Europe. The country was excited in the aftermath of the second world war and dissolved in 1992 after the Yugoslav Wars. The country was consisted of six socilasit republic which were Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia. Belgrade was the capital of the country. Moreover, two autonomous provinces were included within Serbia: Kosovo and Vojvodina.

Introduction to the topic

Yugoslav Wars

The Yugoslav Wars were a series of conflicts which happened between the years 1991 to 2001. The wars were mostly ethnic conflicts, wars of independence and even insurgeries, all happening in the former Yugoslavia. These conflicts eventually led to the breakup of the Yugoslav federation which happened in the year 1992. They mostly ended with peace treaties which involved international recognition of the new states however regrettably, the war had a tremendous human cost and caused a great deal of economic damage to the region. The Yugoslav wars are now considered as Europe's deadliest conflicts since the Second World War due to the amount of war crimes. These war crimes include but are not limited to genocide, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and rape. As a whole, it has been estimated that 14,000 people were dead during the Yugoslav wars. There have been six main wars which eventually dissolved Yugoslavia. The six main wars are as displayed in the table overleaf.

Ten-Day War	1991
Croatian War of Independence	1991-1995
Bosnian War	1992-1995
Kosovo War	1998-1999
Insurgency in the Preševo Valley	1999-2001
Insurgency in the Republic of Macedonia	2001

The History of Yugoslavia

Before analyzing the Yugoslav wars, it is important to know some information about the formation of the country. At the end of the first world war, Yugoslavia was created from the Kingdoms of Serbia and Montenegro, and the Austria-Hungarian Empire. At that time, the country was named the "Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes" but this name eventually changed to the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The Kingdom of Yugoslavia existed until the year 1941. At that time, Yugoslavia was occupied by Axis powers of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy in the second World War. During those years, the Axis powers (Germany, Italy and Japan) installed their own governments which eventually ended the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. After that, in the year 1945, Yugoslavia was re-established as a socialist state after the Allied victory in the second world war. This time, Yugoslavia was a federation of six republics that were Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia. Throughout Yugoslavia's existence, ethnic tensions were always an inseparable issue linked to the country.

Despite all the tensions, the first president, Josip Broz Tito was able to keep everything under control since he always promoted "Brotherhood and Unity" between all the republics. Throughout his career, he always tried to suppress nationalism even by the use of force. The president died in 1980 which marked the beginning of the end of Yugoslavia. Right after the death of Marshal Tito, the economy of the country got worse and tensions began to rise and more importantly, nationalism grew among the individual republics. Moreover, Communism started to fall around the world. All these events eventually led to the Yugoslav Wars.

The Beginning of the Wars

In 1968, Slobodan Milošević became the president of Serbia. The President and his allies were highly uncomfortable with the two autonomous provinces that were included within Serbia; Kosovo and Vojvodina since he didn't have any control over the politics of these provinces. As a result of these disagreements, supporters and allies of Milošević started a large set of protests which are more commonly known as the Rallies of Truth. These protests overthrew the political leaders in Vojvodina, Kosovo and Montenegro. The leaders were later on replaced by the allies of Milošević. The other republics, particularly Slovenia started to criticise the actions taken by Milošević. Serbia managed to abolish the province of Kosovo in the year 1989. It is important to note that the province consisted of 80 percent ethnic Albanian and about 10 percent Serbs who were the minority. These events eventually lead to the Kosovo miners hunger strike. During that time, more than 1300 Albanian miners went on a strike.

Croatia and Serbian Independence

At that time, the last meeting of the League of Communists happened and during that meeting, tensions rose between the leaders of Slovenia and Serbia regarding the structure of Yugoslavia. The two leaders had a very different point of view. The Slovenian leader was calling for more autonomy for each individual republic. However, on the other side Serbian leader was calling for an increase in centralized government. After major disagreements between the two parties, the Slovenian leaders left the congress as a protest. After that, the leaders of Croatia and Macedonia followed the Slovenian leaders and left the congress. As a result of the actions taken in the congress, multi-party elections happened in all the republics of Yugoslavia and the Croatian people voted for the establishment of the Croatian Democratic Union party under the leadership of Franjo Tuđman. It is important to note that Croatia was mostly composed of ethnic Croats however a large minority of Serbs also lived in that region who were concerned regarding the new government since the last time Croatia was an independent state, the government carried out genocide campaigning against ethnic Serbs.



As a result of the concerns, a rebellion started in the Serb-majority town of Knin, during which the key roads were blocked throughout Croatia. As a result, the Croatian Special Force sent helicopters in order to resolve the issue by force. The issue that was the most concerning was that the Yugoslav Army Fighter jets flew alongside the helicopters to force them to turn around. It could be seen that the conflict wasn't just a local Serbian rebellion since the Yugoslav National Army assisted them by providing the rebels with weapons. The rebellions happened in many more areas and Serbs were able to take control of the Serb-majority town which were all seeking to join Serbia. After all the events, the Republic of Croatia and Slovenia both declared their independence on June 25th, 1991. Until this point, the wars were mostly between Croats and Serbs but the Yugoslav Wars officially started when Slovenia declared their independence.

Ten-Day War

After the Republic of Slovenia officially declared their independence, the Yugoslav army travelled to the country in order to ask them to reconsider their independence. The Ten-Day War started two days after Slovenia declared their independence. The war happened between Slovenia and the Yugoslav Army but fortunately, the casualties of this war are relatively lower than the other Yugoslav wars. The war ended after ten days, when an agreement called the Brioni Agreement was signed by Slovenia, Croatia and Yugoslavia since all the parties were ready for further negotiations in order to resolve the issue in a peaceful manner. As a result, Yugoslavia withdrew their army from Slovenia however they were planning a massive attack on Slovenia, with the help of tanks and air forces. At that time, the military power could easily take control of Slovenia. It is important to note that Serbia's authorisation was needed however they refused since Slovenia mostly consisted of ethnic Slovenes and it wouldn't make a difference for Serbia if Slovenia left.

Croatian War of Independence

The story was very different regarding Croatia since there were many Serbs living there, however the Croatian president had stated many times that he would "defend every inch of Croatia". At that time, the



Serbian nationalists were trying to take control of dozens of towns and villages however the main conflict escalated in the border town of Vukovar. In order to de-escalate the tensions, the Yugoslav Army sent forces to the borders between Croatia and Serbia and has stated that the forces will remain neutral, however the Army was helping the Croatian Serbs to take control of more and more villages in Croatia, some of them being fully populated by Croats. As a result of the tensions, the European Community invited the presidents of all the republics to the Hague in order to come up with possible peace treaties. During that meeting, the Croatia President stated that *“Croatia has every right to secede from Yugoslavia.”* The president of Serbia soonly responded that *“If Croatia has the right to secede, then Serbs living in Croatia have the right to join Serbia.”*

At that time, Lord Carrington, the European Community peace negotiator, questioned the President of Serbia and wanted to see if they are willing to accept the independence of Croatia, subject to the human rights of Serbs who are living outside of the borders of Serbia and surprisingly, the answer was yes. Lord Carrington was willing to create a peace treaty among the parties. However, the written version of the treaty had a huge difference with the verbal agreement. The agreement was willing to make all six republics independent and needed 5 votes to pass. Slobodan Milošević said no since it wasn't his goal to dissolve Yugoslavia, however all the other nations voted yes which was surprising since Montenegro was one of the biggest allies of Serbia. It has been later found that Italy had offered Montenegro an aid program for them to accept the agreement. Serbia was not at all in favor of the agreement and as a result, it started to blackmail Montenegro. They have stated that Montenegro will either send a letter to the European Community stating that they have changed their plan or they will be outed to the public as a traitor to Yugoslavia.

Independence of Macedonia

With 4 votes in favor and 2 votes against, the plan broke down however, at the same time, Macedonia started to hold a peaceful referendum on independence. The results of the referendum were 95 percent in favor. At that time, Macedonia was the only republic that was able to peacefully break away from Yugoslavia.

The end of the Croatian War of Independence

Right after that, in Vukovar the Croatian Defense Force was able to hold the town for 87 days. After that, it fell to the Yugoslav Army and as a result, the Serbs were able to

hold nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Croatia lands. Later on, in January 1992, a ceasefire agreement named the Sarajevo agreement was signed between the two parties, the Croats and the Serbs.

The current situation in the committee and the Bosnian War

It is important for the delegates to note that this crisis cabinet is a historical cabinet, meaning that the events that have happened after the following description are not considered in the committee session.

The biggest and the bloodiest war in Yugoslavia was the Bosnian War. At that time, Bosnia and Herzegovina could be considered as the most multicultural republic, consisting of three main ethnic groups, the largest one being the Bosniaks or the Bosnian Muslims. Large minority of Serbs and a small minority of Croats also lived in the country. At that time, the leader of the Bosnian Serb leaders warned the government to not pressure any forms of independence, however Bosnia and Herzegovina held a referendum regarding independence in February 1992. Most of the Serbs boycotted the vote however 99.7 percent of the voters who were mostly Bosniaks and Croats. After the murder of a Serb civilian in Bosnia done by a Bosniak tensions rose and Serbs started to block the roads in the capital city Sarajevo and many parts of the city came under the military occupation of the Bosnian Serbs. Soon after, the Serbs started to declare their independence in Bosnia and Herzegovina as the “Republika Srpska”. The Bosnian Serbs also started to launch many attacks on Sarajevo.



After that, the Croatians also started to take control of the Croat majorities in Bosnia. However, after some time, they didn't just take control of the Croatia towns and they soon proclaimed the Croatia Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia. Right now, tensions are rising in Bosnia and Herzegovina and deadly attacks are happening and NATO is getting

involved in the situation. More people are getting killed everyday and there is a need for an agreement. The future of the world is in your hands delegates!

Character Descriptions:

It is important to note that in this committee, delegates will be representing characters instead of countries. You can find your character description here:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- ❖ **Alija Izetbegović** : The president of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1990 and 1996.
- ❖ **Haris Silajdžić** : The foreign minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1990 to 1993 and served as the prime minister between 1993 and 1996.
- ❖ **Sefer Halilović** : The Chief of Staff of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ARBiH) from 1992 to 1993.
- ❖ **Jovan Divjak**: The commander of ARBiH forces in Sarajevo at the beginning of the war (1992-1993) and later served as deputy commander of the ARBiH Headquarters.
- ❖ **Atif Dudaković**; The commander of the Bosnian 5th Corps.
- ❖ **Mustafa Hajrulahović**: The commander of the Bosnian 1st Corps and later intelligence chief in the Bosnian government.
- ❖ **Naser Orić** : lead the ARBiH 28th Division and commanded the defenses of Srebrenica.
- ❖ **Blaž Kraljević** : The commander of Croatian Defence Forces (HOS). Bosnian President Alija Izetbegović appointed him to be a member of Bosnian Army's Headquarters.

AP Western Bosnia

- ❖ **Fikret Abdić**: The president of AP Western Bosnia.

Croatia

- ❖ **Franjo Tuđman** was the president of Croatia from 1990 until his death in 1999.
- ❖ **Gojko Šušak** was the Croatian Minister of Defense from 1991 to 1998.
- ❖ **Stjepan Mesić** was general secretary of HDZ and the first prime minister of Croatia in 1990. He became speaker of the Croatian parliament in 1992 but stepped down and left HDZ in 1994 because of their policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- ❖ **Anton Tus** was a Croatian Army general and the first Chief of the General Staff of Croatia's armed forces from 1991 to 1992.
- ❖ **Janko Bobetko** was a Croatian Army general and Chief of the General Staff from 1992 until his retirement in 1995.

- ❖ **Ante Gotovina** was a Lieutenant General in the Croatian Army and commander of Croatian forces during Operation Storm and Operation Mistral 2.
- ❖ **Mile Dedaković** was the commander of the 204th Vukovar Brigade and the city of Vukovar's defenses during the 1991 Battle of Vukovar.

Herzeg-Bosnia

- ❖ **Mate Boban** was the president of Herzeg-Bosnia from 1991 to 1994 following the Washington agreement.
- ❖ **Dario Kordić** was the political leader of Bosnian Croats in Central Bosnia and a HVO military commander.
- ❖ **Jadranko Prlić** was the prime minister of Herzeg-Bosnia.
- ❖ **Valentin Ćorić** was the interior minister of Herzeg-Bosnia.
- ❖ **Bruno Stojić** was the minister of defense of Herzeg-Bosnia.
- ❖ **Milivoj Petković** was the commander of the Croatian Defence Council (HVO).
- ❖ **Ilobođan Praljak** was a Major General in the HVO and commander of the Croatian forces around Mostar.

NATO

- ❖ **Manfred Wörner** was the Secretary General of NATO from 1988 to 1994.
- ❖ **Jeremy M. Boorda** was the Commander in Chief of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Allied Forces Southern Europe from 1991 to 1994.

United Nations

- ❖ **David Pennefather** was the Commander of the United Nations Rapid Reaction Force during the Bosnian War.

Republika Srpska

- ❖ **Radovan Karadžić** was the President of the Republika Srpska from 1992 to 1996. He was also the founder and first leader of Serbian Democratic Party (SDS).
- ❖ **Biljana Plavšić** was the Vice President of the Republic of Srpska from 1992 to 1996. Following the war she succeeded Radovan Karadžić as the 2nd President of the Republic of Srpska in 1996.
- ❖ **Ratko Mladić** was the commander of the Republic of Srpska Army (VRS).
- ❖ **Stanislav Galić** was the commander of Serbian forces in and around Sarajevo from 1992 to 1994.
- ❖ **Dragan Obrenović** was a senior officer and commander in the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) and later the Republic of Srpska Army (VRS).
- ❖ **Milan Lukić** was a commander in the paramilitary group "White Eagles" and was a prominent figure in the 1992 takeover and subsequent ethnic cleansing of eastern Bosnia.

Republic of Serbian Krajina

- ❖ **Milan Martić** was a military and political leader of the Republic of Serbian Krajina.
- ❖ **Milan Babić** was the 1st President of the Republic of Serbian Krajina, and later served as the last Prime Minister of the Serbian Krajina.
- ❖ **Mile Mrkšić** was a general in the JNA and later the Commander in Chief of the Military of Serbian Krajina (SVK).
- ❖ **Goran Hadžić** was the 2nd President of the Serbian Krajina the leader of the Serbs in eastern Slavonia

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

- ❖ **Slobodan Milošević** was the President of Serbia from 1989 to 1997. Later he served as the 3rd President of FR Yugoslavia from 1997 until his overthrow in 2000.
- ❖ **Momir Bulatović** was the President of the Republic of Montenegro from 1990 to 1998 and then Prime Minister of FR Yugoslavia from 1998 to 2000.
- ❖ **Milo Đukanović** was the Prime Minister of the Republic of Montenegro from 1991 to 1998 and the 2nd President of Montenegro from 1998 to 2003.
- ❖ **Borisav Jović** was a close ally and advisor of Slobodan Milošević and served as the Serbian member of the collective Presidency of Yugoslavia during the late 1980s and early 1990s. He served as the Vice President of the Yugoslav Presidency from 1989 to 1990 and then as the President of Yugoslavia from 1990 to 1991.
- ❖ **Jovica Stanišić** was head of the State Security Service (SDB) from 1992 to 1998.
- ❖ **Veljko Kadijević** was the Minister of Defence in the Yugoslav government from 1988 to 1992.
- ❖ **Blagoje Adžić** was a general and Chief of the General Staff of the JNA from 1989 to 1992.
- ❖ **Života Panić** was a prominent JNA general and was the last acting minister of defense and army chief of staff in the Yugoslav government. Commander of JNA forces in the battle of Vukovar.
- ❖ **Vojislav Šešelj** was the founder of the nationalist Serbian Radical Party and its paramilitary "White Eagles" that served in both Bosnia and Croatia.
- ❖ **Željko "Arkan" Ražnatović** was the commander of the Serb Volunteer Guard paramilitary, also known as "Arkan's Tigers" that fought in both Croatia and Bosnia. He was also the biggest organized crime figure in the Balkans during the 90s.

Russian Federation

- ❖ **Boris Yeltsin** was the first president of the post-Soviet Russian Federation from 1991 until his resignation in 1999.

Slovenia

- ❖ **Milan Kučan** was the first President of Slovenia.
- ❖ **Lojze Peterle** was the first Prime Minister of Slovenia.
- ❖ **Janez Janša** was Minister of Defense of Slovenia.
- ❖ **Igor Bavčar** was Minister of Interior of Slovenia.

United States

- ❖ **George H. W. Bush** was the 41st President of the United States from 1989 to 1993.
- ❖ **James Baker** was the United States Secretary of State from 1989 to 1992 in the early stages of the Yugoslav Wars.

Questions to Consider

1. What is the stance of your country regarding this issue?
2. Did the Yugoslav wars directly have an impact on your country? If so, in which form and how did it affect your country?
3. What are some steps that need to be taken by the international community in order to prevent more casualties and destruction? How can we prevent new wars such as the Bosnian and the Kosovo war from happening?
4. Is your country heavily dependent on any side of the argument?
5. Is there a place for peace talks to happen between the sides of the argument? If so, what is the role of the United Nations regarding it?

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