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Explaining the Yugoslav Catastrophe: The Quest for a Common Narrative

Balkans Working Group

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Kosovar refugees fleeing their homeland. (Courtesy [UN](#))

Date
April 19, 2005
9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Location
U.S. Institute of Peace
1200 17th St., NW
Washington, D.C.

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Nationalist politicians and media fueled Yugoslavia's bloody dissolution. Today the region's peoples remain deeply divided by contradictory accounts of what happened.

- What are the great controversies that divide Bosniaks, Croats, Serbs, Slovenes and Kosovars?
- To what extent can the region's scholars bridge the divide by forging a single, yet multilateral narrative?
- What obstacles and other challenges must they confront?
- What kind of an impact can such an approach have on the peace-building process in the Balkans? Elsewhere?

Speakers

- **Judy Barsalou**, U.S. Institute of Peace
- **Mile Bjelajac**, Institute of Contemporary History, Belgrade
- **Darko Gavrilovic**, University of Banja Luka
- **James Gow**, King's College, London
- **Ylber Hysa**, Member, Kosovo Assembly
- **Charles Ingrao**, Purdue University
- **Dusan Janjic**, University of Belgrade
- **Matjaz Klemencic**, University of Ljubljana
- **Julie Mertus**, American University
- **Rodger Potocki**, National Endowment for Democracy
- **Drago Rokсандic**, University of Zagreb
- **Gale Stokes**, Rice University

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Of Related Interest

-  [Explaining the Yugoslav Catastrophe](#)
USIPeace Briefing, January 2006 (Text summary of this event).
-  [USIP Balkans Program](#)
-  [Serbia at the Crossroads Again](#)
Special Report, 2004
-  [Kosovo: Status with Standards](#)
Newsbyte, April 15, 2004
-  [International Judges and Prosecutors in Kosovo: A New Model for Post-Conflict Peacekeeping](#)
Special Report, November 2003
-  [Kosovo Decision Time: How and When?](#)
Special Report, February 2003
-  [Simulating Kosovo: Lessons for Final Status Negotiations](#)
Special Report, November 2002
-  [Kosovo Final Status: Options and Cross-Border Requirements](#)
Special Report, July 2002
-  [Kosovo: The Road Ahead: Remarks by Prime Minister of Kosovo Bajram Rexhepi](#)
Archived Audio, 2002
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The Scholars' Initiative:

-  [Charles Ingrao's Remarks](#)
(With introductory remarks by Judy Barsalou and Rodger Potocki)
26 min - 7MB
-  [Gale Stokes's Remarks](#) 11 min - 3MB
-  [Drago Roksandic's Remarks](#) 10 min - 2MB
-  [Matjaz Klemencic's Remarks](#) 12 min - 3MB
-  [Charles Ingrao's Remarks](#) 10 min - 2MB
-  [Darko Gavrilovic's Remarks](#) 7 min - 1MB
-  [Mile Bjelajac's Remarks](#) 11 min - 3MB
-  [Q&A session with the panel](#) 40 min - 11MB

Kosovo & the ICTY:

 [Julie Mertus's Remarks](#)

(With introductory remarks by Dan Serwer, read by John Crist)

10 min - 2MB

 [Dusan Janjic's Remarks](#) 11 min - 3MB

 [Ylber Hysa's Remarks](#) 10 min - 2MB

 [James Gow's Remarks](#) 22 min - 6MB

 [Q&A Session](#) (Moderated by Daniel Serwer) 47 min - 13MB

Roundtable Discussion: Problems & Prospects

 [Roundtable Discussion](#) 60 min - 18MB

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