

Team 5 Report Bullet Page

What role did the International Community play in the Yugoslav crisis in the early 1990s? This team discusses the role of:

1. international organizations (UN, NATO, OSCU, EC/EU, WEU)
 2. key world powers, some non-aligned and smaller EC/EU and neighboring states
 3. the so-called “CNN effect” on influencing public opinion in the West
- Whereas it is unclear whether the bloody demise of Yugoslavia have been prevented if the International Community had reacted sooner, the IC *does* bear responsibility for the violent breakup since it did not seek to facilitate a peaceful transformation of Yugoslavia, but rather attempted to support the old order.
 - Most of the team is particularly critical of U.S. policy, which was inconsistent from the beginning.
 - The team provides a narrative of the dissolution of Yugoslavia from the Slovene “Ten-day War” to the Croatian war and the development of the crisis in Bosnia, with particular attention to the actions of the International Community.
 - Despite domestic political pressure to recognize the secession of Slovenia and Croatia, the team found no evidence that the German government encouraged Yugoslavia’s dissolution during the first half of 1991.
 - Germany did, however, push hard for recognition during the last quarter of 1991.
 - The International Community’s effectiveness was undermined by excessive caution, the absence of common strategy, and infighting within the UNMBiH.
 - UN personnel merit special criticism on several accounts for
 - complicity in the assassination of Bosnian Prime Minister Hakija Turajlic
 - tolerating the siege of Sarajevo
 - the hostility of Generals Mackenzie and Rose toward the Bosnian government
 - falsely claiming that the Bosniaks were shelling themselves