

*Kosovo under Milošević, 1990-1999***BULLET PAGE**

- Milošević's decision to reconstitute Serbia as an ethnic state led to the virtual elimination of Kosovo's autonomy
- The Milošević regime acted unilaterally, employing coercion and other unconstitutional means in "de-federalizing" Kosovo and abolishing the provincial assembly.
- The Milošević regime responded to mass demonstrations and strikes in Kosovo by firing an estimated 20,000 Albanian public employees.
- While pluralism was taking root in Kosovo, the resulting confrontation widened the gap between Kosovo's Albanian and Serbian communities.
- Government restrictions and funding cuts deprived 750,000 people of social benefits and 250,000 children of education, including over 70% of students of secondary school students.
- At its creation in 1990, the LDK sought republic status, but advocated the attainment of full sovereignty, including the possibility of union with Albania, following public endorsement in a September 1991 referendum, after which Albanian voters boycotted Serbian elections.
- The outbreak of fighting in Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia motivated both sides tried to avoid escalating the crisis, the Albanians to avoid bloodshed and ethnic cleansing, the regime to forestall a full-scale rebellion and foreign intervention. Both sides periodically made conciliatory gestures, but only to influence international opinion.
- The Serbian regime incurred substantial costs in maintaining control of the province, but was unable to prevent economic collapse or induce Serb refugees from Bosnia and Croatia to resettle in Kosovo.
- The central feature of passive resistance was LDK leader Ibrahim Rugova's establishment of parallel structures that included educational and medical facilities funded by self-taxation.
- As it attempted to enforce non-violence, the LDK refused to acknowledge isolated instances of armed resistance or the formation of the KLA, which was largely funded by smuggling, drug trafficking, and donations from the Albanian diaspora.
- The USA's failure to include Kosovo in the Dayton peace talks convinced many Albanians that only violent resistance would secure meaningful international support. By the end of 1997 the KLA was launch sustained attacks on Serbian police, civil officials, and Albanian "collaborators".
- By March 1998, Serbian strikes against the KLA had prompted the expected international attention, beginning with UN resolutions against Serbia