

Short History of Kosovo's Indipendence

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Abstract Kosovo on its path towards freedom and independence has passed a difficult and bloody history. One of the recent and serious problems that Kosovo was suffering was the Balkan crisis, otherwise known as crisis of former Yugoslavia after the fall of the Berlin Wall. In the geopolitics of the time and historiography Kosovo exploded as a hot point where multiple regional interests were interrelated but also wider in the European Union. For the fate of Kosovo many organizations, countries and important personalities were involved. An important point concerns the advantages and disadvantages of the parties in Rambouillet conference on the role of holding this conference benefits and losses that the parties had in this conference and the benefits that brought Kosovo in building its institutions.

Introduction

Kosovo in the period of breakup of socialist Yugoslavia in 1989 and forming the so-called federal Yugoslavia by Serbia and Montenegro found itself in a very serious political and economic position. Precisely during this time major changes occurred that would affect its future destiny. Kosovo was advanced in the constitutional statement of 2 July 1990. The year 1989 finds Kosovo with continued efforts starting the right path in terms of active diplomacy. Termination of this autonomy was a new act of colonization for Kosovo from Serbia, which induced entire Kosovo Albanian population in riots and protests that erupted throughout Kosovo, and with dimensions that were not seen in Kosovo and the region. Numerous delegations all over the world came to Kosovo. It was for the first time that delegations to relevant international institutions treated so seriously the issue of Kosovo. European Parliament delegation came and investigated the situation on the ground, with delegations also U.S. senators and congressmen will enhance their presence in Kosovo and their support for Albanian demands. Kosovo was a matter of debates by some conferences but without its participation, as it was London's in June of 1992, that was under the auspices of the UN and the EU which did not bring anything but put into the gap that Serbia has made with Kosovo. During the period where other parts of Yugoslavia were involved in a bloody war, Kosovo even though occupied by Serbian forces, however reached to develop a national policy in history known as gandism. The emergence of the KLA marked a beginning of a very important stage of the armed resistance of the Albanian people against Serbian forces to liberate the entire Albanian land. It should be noted that in the early phase of KLA appearance, this patriotic organization for the liberation of the Albanian territories was not well received even by political factor of Kosovo who tried to impose the will of Albanians through peaceful politics. It must be mentioned that the Kosovo Liberation Army with its consecutive actions appeared in 1992, while with its war appeared publicly on November 26, 1997 in Drenica, while frontally began in 1998 and became a decisive factor especially during the Rambouillet agreement in France.

Years of deepening crisis and the destruction of Yugoslavia-Kosovo

After the events of 1981, social-political status of legal Albanians gradually started to fall. This phenomenon became visible especially after the arrival of Slobodan Milosevic as president of Serbia in 1985, supported by the most reactionary nationalist Serb forces. Milosevic encouraged by the silence of Europe and the other republics of former Yugoslavia to the Kosovo problem, and to achieve his political authority, with the slogan that "autonomous provinces are two cancers within the Republic of Serbia" rekindled the old Serbian nationalist emotions (Kosovo Encyclopedic overview 1999 p. 126).

On March 23, 1989, under threat of arms and the non-parliamentary votes, provincial parliament (now Serbian) abolished the autonomous status of Kosovo. This was the beginning of a brutal policy of repression of the Albanian majority population (Kraja. M. 1995-155). With mass rallies in November of 1989, Kosovo enters a new phase of its political struggle, struggle to survive situations that would create new circumstances of the dissolution, respectively restructuring of Yugoslavia. In this resolution, initially, Kosovo will take heavier hitting and heavier burden at the same time until the war in Croatia and Bosnia will not explode.

Despite that, taken as a whole, the events taking place at this time, were as a prelude of a tragic "happy end" and regardless that Kosovo in Yugoslav political scene was mistreated in the most brutal form, they will create the climate, the space and atmosphere that Kosovo will reestablish its political identity, now under the new circumstances and with a very different political background of what had been until then. These events, especially the miners' strike of "Trepca" in early 1989, will affirm Kosovo in large measure, including international one (Kraja 1999-155).

Parallel organization

In terms of the Serbian occupation on 2-nd July 1990, Members of the Assembly of SAPK (**Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo**) were stopped entering the official building then they read a statement declaring independence of Kosovo Republic, as member of the Yugoslav federation. And some months later, respectively on September 7, 1990, was adopted the Constitution of the Republic in Kacanik, known as the first constitution of the democratic state of Kosovo (Stavileci, 1991-24).

But unable to exercise effective power and persecuted from the Serb occupation forces, the Kosovo government fled to exile in Germany. In these processes a key role played Kosovo political forces that had just been established, in particular the Democratic League of Kosovo, led by Dr. Ibrahim Rugova.

Later, in 1991, all popular referendum was held which officially declared Kosovo independent and sovereign. After the development of these processes president of the Republic of Kosovo, chose the peaceful path of resistance to the determination to achieve independence of Kosovo state. State of the Albanian people of Kosovo during the 90's was extremely difficult. Almost all public sector employees were expelled, the university and secondary schools were closed Albanian press and radio and television station were also closed. To cope with this challenge, Albanians fled their homes and made them learning spaces and they helped to open medical clinics. While thousands of Albanians were jailed, mistreated and killed, while hundreds and thousands were forced to leave the country and seek asylum in Western Europe.

Trying internationalization of the Kosovo issue

After announcing the declaration of Kosovo's constitutional assembly (1990), followed reactions of Western diplomacy, primarily to the U.S. The U.S. Senate passed the resolution on violations of human rights of Albanian nationality in Yugoslavia, which "expressed concern" and required by the Yugoslav government and the Serbian government to cease the use of force in the Province and to protect fundamental rights and democratic freedom. Yugoslav government was asked to investigate cases of killings of citizens by police forces (Mikel, 2001-309).

At the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (Council for Security and Cooperation in Europe) held in Copenhagen in June 1990, the U.S. delegation chief, Max Kampelman said that "Violence in Yugoslavia is disturbing", and advised the government of Yugoslavia that the problem of Kosovo will not be solved without dialogue with the Albanian democratic organizations. The first resolution that was presented before the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress was the November 1991 resolution, sponsored by Senator Alfonso D'Amato and Congressman Larry Presler. This resolution "interrupts continuity" of the thirteen resolutions" (1986-1991), concerning the further recognition of the SFRY. European Parliament in Strasbourg on 13 July adopted a resolution which condemns the distribution of the Assembly of Serbia, power control over the media in Albanian and demanded immediate suspension of extraordinary measures in Kosovo. European Parliamentarians urged to respect the constitution of 1974, the House of Representatives and the U.S. Congress approved a resolution on Kosovo in which the call is made to the Government of Kosovo to stop the violence, intimidation and use of force and to resolve political and economic crisis in the province (Mikel, 2001-310). In subsequent years Serbian violence continuously raised in the territories of Kosovo but also on other side international diplomacy of the U.S. and Europe was growing in the possibility of finding a suitable road to solve the problem for both sides. Serbia has adopted the Yugoslav Army with 70% Serb and Montenegrin, to subjugate other peoples of Yugoslavia. Serbia did not accept conversations with Albanians but also with Western diplomacy on Kosovo issue (Mikel, 2001-273). Even in these situations Albanians tried to do diplomacy, in May of 1990 dr. Ibrahim Rugova went to USA for a visit and the reception was organized for him as for "high ranking". He received strong commitments that will help Kosovo and the Albanian people for a peaceful solution to the Kosovo issue (Mikel, 2004-142).

London Conference for Former Yugoslavia and Kosovo

London Conference on the Former Yugoslavia was held on 26-27 August 1992. Before this another conference was held in Hague. But the conference has failed even though it offered "good services" from the European community, but its decisions were not binding for the parties in conflict. Meanwhile the London conference was more serious and the decisions have been mandatory for conflict parties. The seriousness of this conference was said to be in line with the dramatic events in Bosnia and Herzegovina, after its international recognition on 6 and 7 April 1992 (Hasani, 2000-54). London conference produced a set of concrete agreements which if respected by the parties in conflict would stop violence and save lives of people and the introduction of humanitarian aid and at least would come the basics for starting negotiations for final settlement of crisis in former Yugoslavia. Expectations from this conference extinguished more and more from Kosovo people. Seeing reality they began to strengthen their liberation movements inside Kosovo, which will resist and were very active during these conferences and activities that Serbia took against Kosovo (Science Academy Tirana, 1999).

Armed resistance of Kosovo Liberation Army

Kosovo Liberation Army was military formation of the Kosovo Albanians which in organized military forces has opposed the Serbian paramilitary forces and regular forces During the 90's Albanian society in exile were committed to build Liberation Army, whose members were trained in Albania (Krasniqi, 2006-20). KLA was mentioned in Western press and individual movements were qualified as special "assassination attempt movement". In Serbian media for several years, its existence was not accepted although the name of KLA was cited in some actions that had taken over. In November 1994, following the Drenas action (former Glogovc), KLA with its communiqué, has taken upon himself all the actions taken which until then had remained anonymous. Open to the public, it appeared on November 28, 1997, during the burial ceremony of Halit Geci teacher from Llausha Skënderaj, who was killed by Serbian police. At that ceremony, they went to the podium wearing the uniform of KLA fighters and commanders of the future. In February-March 1998, Adem with his military unit placed under KLA has controlled the Drenica region. Military forces army and police with heavy artillery and armored vehicles attacked Drenica. Adem Jashari fought for three days and nights from his tower, along with the entire family (parents, brothers, wives and children). No member of the family and relatives refused to leave, but they fought until the fall of 56 people: men, women and children from age 9 to 74 years, all as they were in Jashar's tower in the first night of combat.

Rambouillet Conference

Rambouillet conference marked the emergence of the Kosovo issue in European and international scene, that made sense for the future of Kosovo (Petiffer-Wickers, 2007-322). Kosovo from these injustices conferences began to deal in direct discussions with the EU. The interests of the EU increased more and more. The European Commission closely has followed the situation in Kosovo and constantly deters statements such as commitments and intensified pressures actually increased in the Racak massacre of 1999. Having seen these realities the EU on January 22, 1999, and the London Contact Group decided to hold a conference for Kosovo. On February 6, 1999 began meeting of this conference. The conference was chaired by the foreign ministers of France and Britain (Robin Cook and Hyber Vedrin). The chairman of the Contact Group was Christopher Hill as US representative, while the EU Petrisch Volfgang and Boris Majorski was from the Russian Federation. All Diplomacies were directed to Kosovo with the official opening of this conference Rambouillet Conference was the last international frontier for Serbia.

Kosova has gained political advantages from this and entered in a European and international security. Kosovo delegation understood that by signing it they would gain full independence (Ahtisari, 2008-30). This conference legitimized KLA as a genuine liberation army known internationally. This act had positive advantages Kosovo was toward forming a state. From this conference was issued three-year transitional constitution which would enable the establishment of an effective democratic government of Kosovo. Kosovo won state structure of the legislative, executive and judiciary, as never before Kosovo had the president, parliament and government. On 18 March 1999 Albanian party signed this agreement in Paris while the Serbian side rejected this but not knowing it was a fatal disadvantage for him. This document was signed by mediator Petrisch and Albanian side as a whole. Seeing the deteriorating situation by failing of Serbia and refusal on essential key issues foreign ministers of six countries of the Contact Group met in March in London, and decided on military intervention by NATO (Lauret, 2001-21). Although advantages of this conference did not bring what was hoped, however, it was an end for Serbia and a beginning of a new order for Kosovo and the region of

Southeast Europe. Reflections of this agreement has brought positive advantages for internationals and European Union, which brought a unity among them for Kosovo fate (Tepshi, 1999-134).

On March 23 Secretary General of NATO Javier Solana gave the green light to start the air strike over Serbia. After entry of NATO forces in Kosovo in June 10, 1999 Security Council adopted Resolution 1244 which also formally has placed Kosovo under United Nations administration and paved the way for deployment of international civilian and military presence throughout Kosovo.

Conclusions

In 1990 the dictatorship system fell in all socialist countries of Europe as well as in Yugoslavia. The events followed later, caused retrograde processes which were accompanied by draconian measures against Kosovo's youth, intellectuals and generally against the Albanian population. With this ends a historical stage, in Kosovo failed hegemonism and Kosovo people triumphed led by KLA and other political entities that have played on this occasion a historic global role. We must say openly that the willingness of the Albanian people to endure and continue with the political course for autonomy, located repudiation and rejection of any compromise with Milosevic's policy, acceptance of suffering instead of subordination were determinant factors that brought NATO to Kosovo. All diplomatic and military efforts about solving the Kosovo problem were crowned thanks to active engagement of the US which seriously understood that the Albanian people deserve equal treatment as all other nations in the Balkans.

The Kosovo crisis ended with the triumph of international law which is symbolized with the restoration of Kosovo's government, its citizens and the failure of hegemonic politics, anachronistic and genocidal Milosevic regime ended with the withdrawal of colonial repressive Serb structures from Kosovo.

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