

The Involvement of international institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina

CASE EXAMPLE: THE EUROPEAN UNION

Agenda

1. International Organisations in SEE
2. International Organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina
3. UNPROFOR- IFOR- SFOR – EUFOR
4. Dayton Accords 1995
5. High Representative for Bosnia Herzegovina
6. EU- Bosnia and Herzegovina relations
7. Ongoing Issues
8. Sources

1. International Organisations in SEE

- Both US and EU launched initiatives in the 90s
 - Now EU is the main stakeholder
- EU was aiming for a regional approach
 - Stability pact (in discourse compared to Marshall plan)
 - Goal:: to combine efforts of transitioning countries
- Charter of Stability and Good Neighbourly Relations, Stability and Security in South East Europe
 - Commitment to existing Borders
 - Intensified economic cooperation
 - Aim of full integration in European structures

2. International Organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina

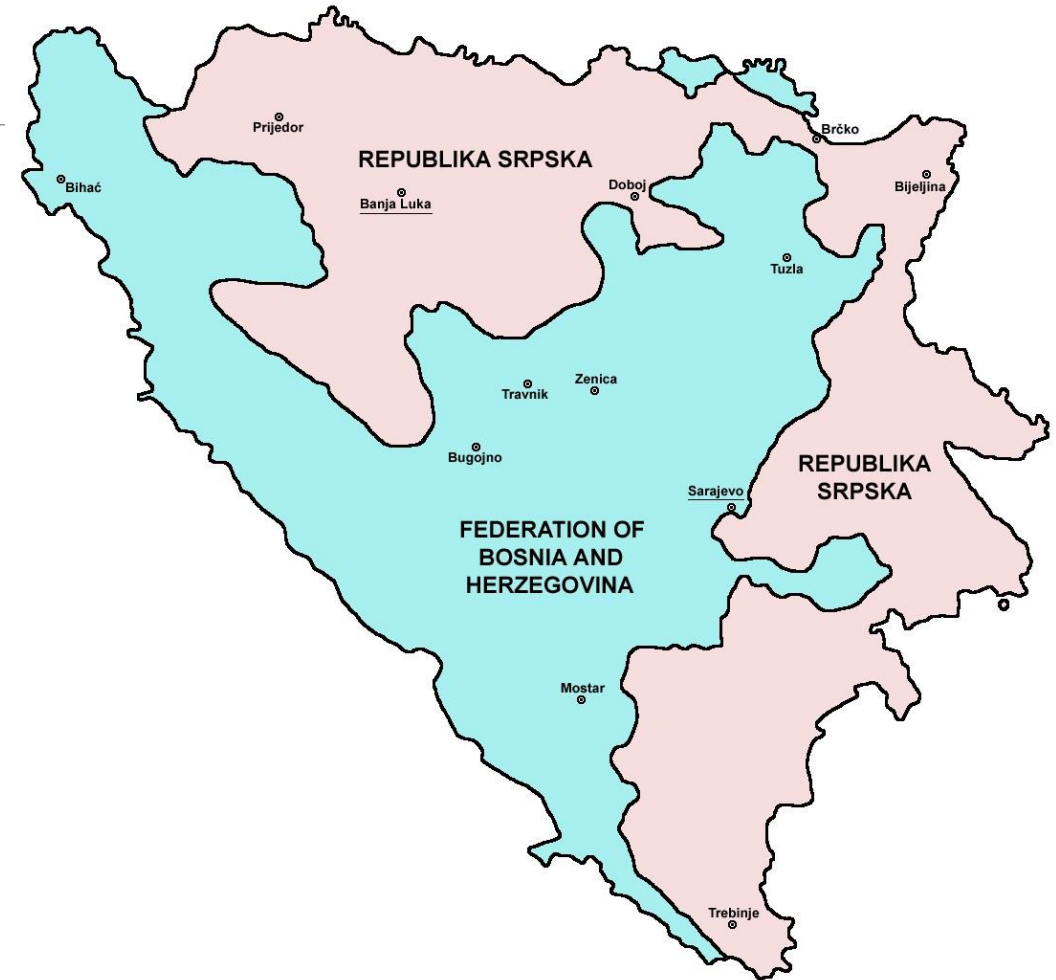
- NATO involvement in Bosnia (UNPROFOR)
 - 1992- 2004
 - 1994 first fighting of NATO forces ever
 - 1995 NATO airstrikes as a result of Srebrenica massacre
 - Decision made by 16 Nations in London Conference in July 95
 - 1995 implementation of “Operation Deliberate Force”
 - Changes strength balance in Bosnian war
- Lead to 1995 Dayton Accords and the Establishment of IFOR
 - Negotiations led by US and supported by European Union

3. UNPROFOR- IFOR- SFOR - EUFOR

- UNPROFOR (United Nations Protection Force) – “Peacekeeping force” from 1992-95
 - IFOR (Implementation Force) – Following the UN Security Council resolution 1996-98
 - Under NATO command
 - SFOR (Stabilisation Force) – until 2004 under NATO lead
 - EUFOR (European Union Force)- Established to follow the NATO mission in BH - from 2004
 - From 7000 Troops in the beginning, today 600 Troops
 - Aims:
 - To create a safe environment to put Dayton into practice
 - To stop aggressions between old parties from happening
 - Coordinating the involvement of international actors in the region
 - Training of Bosnian military
- From 2004 the European Union took on the Responsibility from NATO to enforce the DAYTON Agreement (Bassuener 2019)

4. Dayton Accords 1995

- Ended the 3,5 year long Bosnian war from 1992-95
- Signed by FR Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia
- Treaty agrees on establishing an independent state
 - Republic Srpska (Serb Majority)
 - Federation of BH (Bosniak-Croat Majority)
- Both have own constitutions
 - 13 Parliaments with over 180 Ministers
- Highest Position of Authority: High Representative for BH



BH after Dayton Accords

5. High Representative for Bosnia Herzegovina

- “The High Representative is working with the people and institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the international community to ensure that Bosnia and Herzegovina evolves into a peaceful and viable democracy on course for integration in Euro-Atlantic institutions.”

OHR, 2024

- Idea:
 - try to find decisions if parties are not able to
 - Right to remove public officials, who act against the Dayton Accords
- Supposed to end 2008, but was extended indefinitely
- Today Christian Schmidt



Christian Schmidt

6. EU- Bosnia and Herzegovina relations

- 1990s Neighbourhood strategy was successful, because it led to enlargement
- 2000s EU seeks connection, but no accession
 - Results are open, but shaping EUs Position in foreign policy
 - Country is split Republica Srpska calls for a withdrawal of the EUFOR (Bassuener 2019)
- Applied for membership in 2016
 - As a result of reforms following the Dayton Accords
 - Country has failed to address issues
- EU candidate since 2022

7. Issues

- Norm in eastern European countries, that outsiders set the Agenda (Knaus & Martin 2003)
- Risk of a failed state
 - Securitization of the issue
 - “externally promoted state building processes” (Batt 2004)
 - Local ownership is hard to achieve
 - Cannot come top down (Batt 2004)
 - This insecurity is trying to be avoided
 - Issue is case of securitization
- Political stalemate:
 - Caused by political system, which is upheld by EU → OHR
- EUFOR would not be able to respond to any threats → too small
- Migration: Bosnia is on the Balkan Route to northern/ Western Europe

8. Sources

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