

Teachers Outreach Conference

April 19-21, 1996

**CRISIS IN THE BALKANS:  
Historical Background and  
Current Developments in the Former Yugoslavia**

*A Weekend Conference on the U.C. Berkeley campus*

The Center for Slavic and East European Studies will be holding a weekend conference for teachers and the public analyzing the roots of conflict in the former Yugoslavia and the prospects for peace in the wake of the recently concluded Dayton Agreement. Distinguished specialists on the Balkans, the Yugoslav crisis, and ethnic conflict will discuss issues of great significance for US foreign policy in the post-Cold War Era.

Contrary to the hopes of many, the end of the Cold War has not been followed by universal peace and prosperity but by instability and conflict. The most dramatic symbol of this has been the tragedy that has unfolded in the Balkans since the fragmentation of Yugoslavia. A conflict that flared briefly in Slovenia, quickly spread to Croatia, and went on to consume Bosnia in brutal and prolonged violence between ethnic Serbs, Croats, and Muslims. Casualties from the violence are estimated at over 250,000 dead and untold wounded, along with over 3.5 million refugees, massive destruction of property, and irreparable psychological trauma for millions. Interethnic tensions remain high in other parts of the former Yugoslavia as well, with the possibility of new rounds of violence in Kosovo, Macedonia, Vojvodina, the Sandjak, and elsewhere.

Nevertheless, after years of efforts by the international community to mediate a negotiated settlement in Bosnia, a peace agreement was finally initialed by representatives of the warring parties in Dayton, Ohio, on November 21, 1995. The Dayton Agreement, along with agreements signed subsequently in Paris, Geneva, and New York, provide for the preservation of Bosnia's status as an independent state in a confederal arrangement between "Republika Srpska" on the one hand and a Croat-Muslim federation on the other. To implement the cease-fire provided for in the Dayton Agreement, the US has agreed to deploy 20,000 troops to the region, with other NATO member states, Russia, and other countries providing an additional 40,000.

Why did the multinational Yugoslav federation collapse? Should the US be sending troops to Bosnia? Is the enmity between Serbs, Croats, and Muslims rooted in ancient and obscure grievances or does it result from more recent and specific causes? What are the lessons to be drawn from the efforts of the UN, NATO, the European Union, the OSCE, and the "Contact Group" (the US, Russia, Germany, France, and the UK) to settle the conflict? Is the Dayton Agreement a fig leaf for the partition of Bosnia, or will it lead to a stable peace that brings about a reconciliation between Croats, Muslims, and Serbs in a single state? Will the international effort to investigate and prosecute individuals for war crimes contribute to a just peace, or will it lead to a renewal of the fighting? What does the Yugoslav experience tell us about our own country? These are some of the questions that will be addressed at the weekend-long conference.

The conference is designed to be of special interest to primary, secondary, and post-secondary school teachers who wish to introduce their students to this difficult and emotional topic that has been at the center of international attention for the past five years. All teachers are entitled to a reduced registration fee. Material will be provided for teaching purposes, including chronologies, maps, and bibliographies. In addition, teachers will be given a briefing on using the World Wide Web as a resource for finding material on the Balkans and other international subjects. They will also be shown how to establish links with schools and individuals in the former Yugoslavia using the internet.

The agenda includes a Friday-night keynote speech followed by a wine and cheese reception, a full day of talks plus a demonstration of the World Wide Web on Saturday, and a half-day of talks on Sunday. Speakers at the conference will be in attendance throughout the weekend and will be available to answer questions after the lectures. Reception, lunch, and coffee breaks are included in the registration fee and will provide additional opportunities for participants to discuss their interests with faculty and speakers.

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## Friday, April 19, 1996

Introduction: Victoria Bonnell, Professor of Sociology, UC Berkeley.

Keynote Address:

Kenneth Jowitt, Professor of Political Science, UC Berkeley.  
"The Balkans: Europe's Ghetto."

## Saturday, April 20, 1996

Ronelle Alexander Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, UC Berkeley. "You Are What You Speak: Language, Ethnicity, and Identities in the Balkans."

Gale Stokes: Professor of History, Rice University.  
"Framing Disaster: Historical Ingredients of the Yugoslav Conflict."

Internet Demonstration

Andrew Janos: Professor of Political Science, UC Berkeley.  
"The Dissolution of a Multinational State: Yugoslavia in Comparative Perspective."

Veljko Vujacic: Assistant Professor of Sociology, Oberlin College. "The Actors Speak: Political Memoirs and the Collapse of Yugoslavia."

## Sunday, April 21, 1996

Susan Woodward:  
Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution. "Peace Implementation in US Foreign Policy Paradigms: Will Bosnia Work?"

Robert Hayden: Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh.  
"The Dayton Accord and the Prospects for Peace in Bosnia."

Eric Stover: Director, Human Rights Program, Doreen B. Townsend Center for the Humanities, UC Berkeley. "Prosecuting War Crimes and Conflict Resolution in Bosnia."

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### Conference Director:

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