
CRISIS IN THE BALKANS

Timeline of the Yugoslav Crisis: 1993 to Present

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A continuation of the timeline in *Collapse of a Multinational State: The Case of Yugoslavia*, published by the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (Stanford: Leland Stanford Junior University Board of Trustees, 1994).

- 10/03/93 The self-proclaimed Muslim Democratic Party is established by Fikret Abdic in opposition to Izetbegovic's ruling government.
- 10/04/93 Fikret Abdic declares himself military commander of western Bosnia against the pro-Izetbegovic Fifth Corps. Pro-Abdic forces block roads leading to his power base of Velika Kladusa. Croatian media cover the Bihac pocket story with sympathy for Abdic, while the Belgrade papers seem to regard it as a sort of comic opera between rival Muslims.
- 10/05/93 About 60 political activists of various Kosovar parties as well as ethnic Albanian former high-ranking Yugoslav army officers are reported detained since September 27. According to Serb authorities, they have been detained since September 23 on the suspicion of preparing an armed uprising. Torture and further human rights abuses are reported all over the province.
- 11/01/93 The Owen-Stoltenberg plan (like the EC-Lisbon proposal and the Vance-Owen Plan before it) is rejected by the mainly Muslim Bosnian legislature. The Bosnian Croat assembly votes to withdraw "concessions" they had made to the Muslims. Similar to the Croat reaction, the Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic repeatedly warns the Muslims that they had better accept the Geneva plan or face "a real chance of being left with nothing." In the breakaway Bihac pocket, Muslims fight Muslims, as the rebel leadership of Fikret Abdic fights forces loyal to Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic. Abdic now controls only his main power base of Velika Kladusa, having lost Bihac and Cazin to the pro-Izetbegovic troops.
- 11/09/93 The bridge of Mostar, dating back to the 16th Century and the symbol of Bosnian culture, is destroyed.**
- 11/11/93 The popularity of Serbian Radical Party (SRS) and its leader Vojislav Seselj wanes. Internal divisions have emerged, and its leadership appears disoriented following sharp criticism from the ruling Socialists and arrests of key regional leaders of the SRS and the Serbian Chetnik Movement, the party's paramilitary arm.
- 12/20/93 Yasushi Akashi is appointed Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for former Yugoslavia.
- 01/06/94 United Nations (UN) Commander, Lt. General Michael Rose of Great Britain resigns.
- 01/11/94 NATO threatens air strikes against Bosnian Serbs for their continued shelling of Sarajevo.
- 01/31/94 The Croatian military begins to aid the Bosnian Croat forces in Bosnia. Rump Yugoslavia (composed of Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Vojvodina) denies it has been doing the same for Bosnian Serb forces.
- 02/02/94 International media report the growing strength of the mostly-Muslim Bosnian army.

- 02/05/94** **Bosnian Serbs shell Sarajevo market killing 68. The UN and European Union call for military intervention; the “dual Key” NATO-UN military command is established; NATO sets ultimatum that heavy weapons not removed from a 20 kilometer exclusion zone around Sarajevo would be subject to airstrikes. Bosnian Serbs threaten the safety of UN peacekeepers in the event of air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions.**
- 02/08/94 Mate Boban resigns as President of the Bosnian-Croat self-proclaimed state of “Herzeg-Bosna.”
- 02/17/94 Russian defense minister Pavel Grachev reiterates his opposition to NATO air strikes and says Russian peacekeepers will remain in Bosnia. In light of NATO pressure, Bosnian Serbs remove some artillery from the hills surrounding Sarajevo.
- 02/22/94 Russian President Boris Yeltsin urges an international summit on the conflict in Bosnia.
- 02/23/94** **The Bosnian Croats and Muslims agree, in Washington, DC, to create a Muslim-Croat federation. The treaty is signed on 03/01/94, signaling a reversal of Croatian President Franjo Tudjman’s former preference for partitioning Bosnia with the Serbs.**
- 02/28/94** **Bosnian Serbs do not comply with the NATO ultimatum to remove heavy weapons to the outskirts of Sarajevo. NATO strikes down four Bosnian Serb planes which were violating the 1993 “no fly-zone” agreement.**
- 03/01/94 The Tuzla airport reopens facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid to Northeastern Bosnia.
- 03/02/94 NATO issues conflicting reports regarding its support of the Bosnian Muslims against the Bosnian Serbs.
- 03/04/94 The UN calls for 11,000 additional peacekeepers for Bosnia and will include offers from Italy and Russia (countries from which offers were previously refused). Karadzic is reported “nudged” by Moscow to yield territory to the Bosnian-Croat federation.
- 03/17/94 The US lauds Russian mediation in obtaining greater compliance from the Serbs.
- 03/24/94 Croatian President Tudjman requests reforms of the UN’s mandate in Croatia, which is to expire at the end of the month. The Secretary General Boutros-Boutros Ghali agrees to some of Tudjman’s requests, including air protection from NATO.
- 04/09-03/29/94 Bosnian Serbs attack Gorazde despite the NATO “heavy weapons-free zone” around Gorazde. Russia UN blocks condemnation.
- 04/06/94 Under the leadership of rump Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, (Serbian) Serbs propose a cease-fire; it is ignored.
- 04/10-11/94 The Bosnian Serb attack on Gorazde continues, UNPROFOR (the UN Protection Force) military observers request NATO air protection. The UN orders the first NATO air strike against Serb ground forces.
- 04/17/94 Bosnian Serbs take Gorazde. Clinton calls for more force against the Bosnian Serbs.
- 04/19/94 Belgrade strengthens its ban of foreign journalists in rump Yugoslavia.
- 04/22/94 Tensions arise between Montenegro and Serbia, as Serbia demands that Montenegro give up separate statehood to join with the new Yugoslavia.
- 04/23-27/94 NATO sets ultimatum on Bosnian Serb pull-out of Gorazde; Bosnian Serbs pull back.

- 04/25/94** **The US, EU, UN and Russia decide on a five-member contact group, to replace the fruitless efforts of the previous mediating groups. The negotiating countries include the US, Russia, France, Germany, and Great Britain.**
- 04/26/94 Milosevic meets with a delegation from the pro-Serb Russian parliament (Duma).
- 04/27/94 Bosnian Muslims attack UN peacekeepers; UN approves that more peacekeepers must be sent. Rump Yugoslavia reconfirms its existence as it had adopted the name “Federal Republic of Yugoslavia” two years ago this day.
- 04/29/94 Gunfire is exchanged between Bosnian Serbs and Danish UN peacekeepers; the US rebukes UN military command, and France sets a date for French troops to end their peacekeeping mission.
- 05/11/94 The government of Bosnia-Herzegovina moves ahead in compiling war crime evidence. The main leaders under suspicion are: Karadzic, Mladic, Krajisnik, Milosevic, Seselj, and “Arkan.”
- 05/12/94 The US House of Representatives votes for the US to unilaterally lift the ban on arms shipments to Muslim-controlled Bosnia.
- 05/13/94** **The Contact Group proposes a partition plan for Bosnia whereby the Bosnian Muslim and Croat Federation would receive 51% and the Bosnian Serbs 49% of the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina.**
- 05/23/94 Serb compliance in Gorazde is doubted.
- 05/30/94 The Croatian government adopts a new currency called the Kuna.
- 06/10/94 The International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF) accuses Serbian authorities in Kosovo of harassing the 90% ethnic Albanian population of Kosovo.
- 07/06/94 The UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) aids in the life-saving Muslim and Croat evacuation of Banja Luka. Some charge the UNHCR of serving the Serbs’ goal of “ethnic cleansing.”
- 07/08/94 Justice Goldstone is named head prosecutor of the War Crimes Tribunal.
- 07/10/94** **The Contact Group presents another plan to partition Bosnia into a 51% Muslim-Croat, and 49% Bosnian Serb division; the Bosnian Serbs reject the plan.**
- 07/26/94 Bosnian Serbs violate the heavy weapons ban by lobbing shells into the Gorazde area.
- 07/27/94 The Sarajevo airport reopens for UNPROFOR flights after the Serbs pledge not to fire on them. The humanitarian airlift, however, remains suspended.
- 07/30/94 The Contact Group votes to tighten sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs, instead of lifting the arms embargo only for the Muslims, as many have suggested.
- 08/02/94 Ethnic cleansing of Bosnian Croats and Muslims continues; Russian negotiators urge all Serbs to stop the cleansing and accept the Contact Group plan.
- 08/02/94 Milosevic gives an ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs and two days later cuts off all official contact with them.
- 08/03-08/11/94 Bosnian Army gains territory held by Bosnian Serbs.
- 08/05/94 NATO bombs Bosnian Serbs.

- 08/10/94 Water restoration in Sarajevo is reported.
- 08/11/94 UN Commander General Rose threatens Bosnian government forces with air strikes, for the first time. Meanwhile Bosnian Muslim rebel tycoon Fikret Abdic in Bihac rejects talks with the Muslim-Croat Federation.
- 08/24/94 Abdic's forces are defeated; he seeks refuge in the self-styled Republic of Serbian Krajina in Croatia.
- 09/04/94 The Pope's visit to Belgrade is blocked.
- 09/07/94 The Contact Group meets to discuss lifting sanctions on rump Yugoslavia.
- 09/12/94 A makeshift Mostar bridge is opened.
- 09/17/94 Bosnian Serbs continue to expel Muslims from safe areas and from Serb-held territories; the UN threatens retaliation.
- 09/18/94 The UN Security Council votes to ease economic sanctions against Serbia (Yugoslavia).
- 09/22/94 NATO bombs a Bosnian Serb tank inside the 20 kilometer exclusion zone around Sarajevo.
- 09/24/94 Croatia expels the UN forces from the Krajina border, saying that the UN is defacto aiding the rebel Croatian Serbs of Krajina.
- 09/28/94 Electricity is reported restored in Sarajevo.
- 10/05/94 Bosnian Serbs continue to block relief convoys bound for Gorazde and demand payment for the reopening of the Sarajevo airport.
- 10/26-11/03/94 Bosnian Muslim-Croat federation gains territory around Bihac as Serb refugees flee.
- 11/03/94 The ban on arms deliveries to the Bosnian Muslims is opposed by the UN General Assembly; the US ends sea enforcement of the ban.
- 11/08/94 Shelling in Sarajevo kills 5; the attack is reported in the Serb media as a self-attack to gain international attention for the Bosnian Muslims.
- 11/14/94 Bosnian Serbs retake territory in Bihac.
- 11/16/94 National elections take place in Macedonia. Kiro Gligorov wins.
- 11/21-30/94 Bosnian Serbs surround Bihac as the "UN safety zone" protection fails; UN hostages are taken.
- 11/23/94 NATO attacks surface-to-air missile sites around Bihac.
- 11/28/94 NATO launches a major attack on the Udbina airfield in the Serb held Krajina region in Croatia.**
- UN considers withdrawal from peacekeeping efforts in former Yugoslavia.**
- 11/30/94 UN secretary general Boutros Boutros-Ghali holds "long and positive" talks with Bosnian government President Alija Izetbegovic. Boutros-Ghali had planned to hold talks with Karadzic but refused when Karadzic refused to meet the Secretary General outside of Bosnian Serb headquarters in Pale. Meanwhile, fighting between Croatian Serbs and Croatian government forces resumes in Krajina.
- 11/30/94 The Dole/Gingrich alliance in the US Congress urge greater use of force to stop Bosnian Serb aggression.

- 12/05-06/94 The CSCE meets to decide on a strategy to come to a joint resolution on the conflict in Bosnia.
- 12/08/94 The UN plans the possible evacuation of all peacekeeping operations; the US vows to contribute troops to aid in the evacuation. Admiral Leighton Smith replaces UN Commander General Michael Rose.**
- 12/09/94 The European Union confirms its support for UN involvement in former Yugoslavia.
- 12/16/94 The Sarajevo airport reopens. Food convoys to Bihac resume.
- 12/18-20/94 Former US President Jimmy Carter negotiates a cease fire. It holds for almost four months.**
- 12/24/94 The Bosnian cease-fire begins again between Bosnian Serb and the Muslim-Croat Federation.
- 12/28/94 Muslim rebel Fikret Abdic agrees to the truce under the negotiating leadership of UN Commander General Michael Rose.
- 12/31/94 The 1,000th day of the siege of Sarajevo is marked.**
- 01/04/95 The US Congress introduces a bill to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia. On 6/8/95, the bill passes in the House of Representatives.
- 01/11/95 US Secretary of State Warren Christopher threatens to resign. OSCE (formerly CSCE) monitoring missions in rump Yugoslavia are denied by Milosevic until Yugoslavia is admitted as a member of the organization.
- 01/12/95 Croatia demands an end of the UN's mandate in Croatia; the truce in Bosnia is strained.
- 01/13/95 The UN Contact Group leaders meet and put forth a new peace plan.
- 01/23/95 Croatian Serbs refuse the international peace plan.
- 01/26/95 UN Commander General Smith assumes command of the UN peacekeeping operations.
- 02/03/95 Dutch UNPROFOR sources say that as many as 20 helicopters flew from Serbia to Bosnian Serb lines around the besieged Muslim enclave and "safe area" of Srebrenica.
- 02/06/95 Reports suggest that Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's break with the Bosnian Serbs is not complete. Bosnian Serbs agree to a limited reopening of the Sarajevo airport route. Relief agencies will benefit most from the road's opening.
- 02/10/95 Croatia asks NATO to monitor its borders. The UN prepares escape routes.
- 02/14/95 Dick Frasure of the US is named the Contact Group's envoy.
- 02/17/95 Starvation in the Muslim rebel enclave of Bihac is feared.
- 02/21/95 Mysterious C-130 transport planes fly over Tuzla. Reports say the US may be trying to mask its operations to supply the Bosnian army or to protect other countries engaged in such an effort.
- 02/23/95 There is a shake-up in the rump Yugoslav government, as National Bank Governor Dragoslav Avramovic has been "removed from public life" for the previous two months due to disagreements within official circles over the further implementation of Avramovic's widely successful economic reform programs.
- 03/03/95 NATO and the WEU refuse Tudjman's request to replace the international force on the front in Krajina with units of European or North American origin. Croats refuse UNPROFOR and UN

control, since “Croats now regard the UN banner as a symbol of international impotence and inertia in the face of the dismemberment of a UN member state by a rogue minority.” Meanwhile, the rump Yugoslav government pledges that Serbia cannot sit idly by if Croatian troops massacre the Krajina Serb rebels.

- 03/03/95 The Bosnian Serb leadership tries to start direct talks with the Bosnian government. The Krajina Serbs put a total ban on food convoys for Bihac, in northwestern Bosnia.
- 03/06/95 The governments of Croatia and the Croatian-Muslim federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina announce a new military alliance, three weeks after the Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia take a similar step.**
- 03/08/95 Milosevic offers recognition to Slovenia and the “Republic of Skopje,” (Macedonia). Bilateral Slovenian-rump Yugoslav relations are improved.
- 03/09/95 The Croatian-Muslim military pact offsets the Serbs as the strongest single force in the region. Krajina President Milan Martić loses a parliament vote to unseat “Prime Minister” Borislav Mikelić, whom the BBC describes as more open than Martić to talks with Zagreb.
- 03/12/95 Croatia approves of a smaller UN peacekeeping force to monitor its borders.
- 03/31/95 UNPROFOR’s mandate in Croatia runs out and is renewed. Croatia reiterates its demands for monitoring by European-only “no third world” troops.
- 04/07/95 The Albanian Foreign Ministry denies media reports that petrol and oil continue to be smuggled from Albania into Montenegro.
- 04/11/95 Milosevic refuses the Contact Group’s latest peace plan.
- 04/13/95 Milosevic and high-ranking members of his regime are accused of being directly responsible for war crimes throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- 04/25/95 Washington welcomes the investigation of war criminals but will keep diplomatic channels open to the Bosnian Serb leadership. UN officials in Bosnia criticize the announcement from The Hague, saying it would make their relations with the Bosnian Serbs more difficult and hurt chances for an extension of the current cease-fire.
- 04/27/95 Belgrade reports that the international sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia are robbing not just Serbia but the entire Balkans of their political and economic independence.
- 05/01/95 The UN-brokered truce in Croatia expires. War erupts in Croatia; rebel Serbs launch cluster bombs on Zagreb killing three (including a Russian ballet dancer).
- 05/25/95 NATO jets destroy ammunition dumps near the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale. More UN peacekeepers are taken hostage by Bosnian Serbs and are freed one week later.
- 05/28/95 The Bosnian Foreign Minister is slain. Bosnian Ambassador to the UN, Mohamed Sacirbey is named the new Bosnian Foreign Minister.
- 06/01/95 Lord Owen quits as European Union mediator. Carl Bildt replaces him as the “International High Representative.”
- 06/12/95 Bulgaria advises against lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia and proposes a summit of the Balkan countries to discuss infrastructure problems in the region.
- 06/13/95 The Bosnian army masses troops and cuts off Bosnian Serb supply lines.

- 06/14/95 In meetings with the Italian Foreign Minister, Milosevic repeats his stance that the issue of regional peace is tied inextricably to the lifting of sanctions against Belgrade.
- 06/20/95 Bosnian Croats back the Bosnian government forces and continue the offensive to end the blockade of Sarajevo. The two sides stage coordinated actions to defeat the “common Serbian enemy.” Croatian President Franjo Tudjman visits Australia, which has large émigré communities from throughout the former Yugoslavia. EU mediator Bildt and Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev hold talks.
- 07/17/95 The safe area Srebrenica, in Eastern Bosnia, falls to the Bosnian Serbs. Thousands of Muslims are forced to flee. From 2,000 to 8,000 men and boys are reported missing; many fear they have been massacred.
- 07/17/95 Bosnian military authorities say that the assault on the “safe area” of Srebrenica was led by General Momcilo Perisic, the chief of the rump Yugoslav General Staff. Apparently, he was assisted by the irregulars of internationally-wanted war criminal Zeljko Raznjatovic “Arkan.”
- 07/20/95 The UN safe area of Zepa is surrounded by Bosnian Serb forces. Many fear it will fall as did Srebrenica.
- 07/24/95 Fighting continues around the UN “safe area” Zepa, where some Bosnian government defenders refuse to surrender to the Serbs. Hundreds of British and French troops from the new Rapid Reaction Force arrive on Mt. Igman near Sarajevo to defend UNPROFOR against more Serbian attacks.
- 07/26/95 Western Air strike power is transferred from the UN to NATO.
- 07/26/95 Croatian troops take two key Bosnian Serb-held towns in Western Bosnia.**
- 08/04-07/95 Croatian forces retake Krajina. The Krajina region, which amounts to about 30% of the territory of Croatia, has been “occupied” for four years by rebel Croatian Serbs. Serb refugees flee, flooding Serbia.**
- 08/04/95 Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic fires military leader Mladic. Meanwhile, Bosnian Prime Minister Harris Silajdic threatens to resign but repeals his resignation six days later.
- 08/07/95 Reports abound that the US has been training the Croatian army. The US denies the reports.
- 08/09/95 Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic arrives in Moscow at President Boris Yeltsin’s invitation. Yeltsin attempts to mediate a settlement of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The negotiations fail when Yeltsin only belatedly invites Izetbegovic; Croatian President Franjo Tudjman declines the invitation.
- 08/09-17/95 The US offers a new peace proposal, which is finally backed by the Bosnian Serbs and approved by them on 09/8/95.
- 08/10/95 Western powers reportedly fear that Russia might broker a Serb-Croat deal that would harm the interests of the Muslim-led Bosnian government. Milosevic meets with Yeltsin.
- 08/16/95 Two unmanned Predator spy planes deployed to monitor troop movements in Bosnia disappear. According to the Pentagon, one plane crashed due to a motor defect, and there is no confirmation whether the other was shot down or had a technical failure. The US had sent four Predator planes to Albania to take video pictures of Bosnia in support of NATO operations. The value of one plane is about \$2 million.
- 08/18/95 Bosnian Croatian troops take the west Bosnian town of Drvar. The Serbs suffer heavy losses. Britain and France ask the UN Security Council to “chastise Croatia and Bosnia publicly**

for political and financial demands they say will cripple the Rapid Reaction Force.” The UN and NATO finalize plans to protect the remaining “safe areas” and have warned the Serbs that “hostile actions will be met with air strikes.” The UN announces that it intends to remove all peacekeepers except for a skeleton force from Gorazde by mid-September. Shells on Sarajevo kill six.

08/19/95 Several top US envoys die in a tragic car accident in Bosnia.

08/21/95 Evidence of mass graves in Krajina is found.

08/26/95 Tudjman travels across Krajina signaling victory and vows to capture Eastern Slavonia, which is held by Croatian Serbs.

08/28/95 The Sarajevo market is reportedly shelled by Bosnian Serbs; 37 are killed. UN peacekeepers in Gorazde are removed.

08/30/95 NATO bombs the Bosnian Serbs surrounding Sarajevo. Bosnian Serb forces respond with anti-aircraft fire. Damage to the Serbs from the NATO intervention was extensive. To prevent the peacekeepers’ capture, all UN forces are removed except the Russians (who are the only remaining “friends” of the Bosnian Serbs). US President Clinton says that he hopes the attacks will help promote the peace process by bringing all to the negotiating table.

09/04/95 The deadline for the Bosnian Serbs to withdraw their heavy weaponry from the hills of Sarajevo expires.

09/05/95 Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic says the current US peace plan has too many “gray areas” to be acceptable. He rules out any confederation between the Bosnian Serbs and rump Yugoslavia in any future settlement, although he reaffirmed certain rights for the Serbs.

09/05-13/95 NATO resumes air strikes; Bosnian Serbs flee; Muslims and Croats regain territory.

09/12/95 Bosnian Serbs send a message to the Russians demanding the end of NATO operations. Russia pledges humanitarian aid for the Bosnian Serbs.

09/14/95 Croatian soldiers take control of Jajce, in central Bosnia, as well as Sipovo and Drvar. The road to Banja Luka opens to Croatian and Bosnian troops. 40,000 Serbs flee the area.

09/16/95 Bosnian Serbs remove all heavy weapons surrounding Sarajevo.

09/19/95 Radovan Karadzic is reportedly ignored by fellow Bosnian Serbs.

09/27/95 The Muslim/Croat offensive in Bosnia continues.

10/04/95 NATO resumes air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs.

10/05/95 Yasushi Akashi, UN Secretary General Representative, is removed.

10/06/95 Even before a cease-fire comes into effect, representatives of the Contact Group, plus Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, and Canada, meet in Rome with delegates from Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia to discuss postwar reconstruction.

10/12/95 A cease-fire takes effect.

10/15/95 The Bosnian Serb parliament meets in Banja Luka. Civilian leader Radovan Karadzic continues his power-play with military commander General Ratko Mladic, demanding that the army leadership “bear the consequences ... for a considerable loss of territory and military defeats.”

- 10/19/95 UNPROFOR officials in Sarajevo confirm that Bosnian Serbs have detained journalists of various nationalities.
- 10/22/95 The United Nations marks its 50th anniversary.
- 10/95 Croatian elections are held. The Ruling HDZ (Croatian Democratic Party) lead by Franjo Tudjman wins.
- 10/30/-11/16/95 In the War Crimes Tribunal, according to Open Media Research Institute reports, several Bosnian Serbs are indicted, Bosnian Croats charged, and Bosnian Muslims arrested.
- 11/01/95 The US sponsored talks in Dayton, Ohio open. 21 days later, a peace plan is agreed to by all parties.**
- 11/16/95 Croatian President Tudjman leaves the peace talks in Ohio for Zagreb again. But before leaving he signs an agreement with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and Croat-Muslim Federation President Kresimir Zubak to help 20,000 Muslim refugees loyal to deposed Bihac pocket kingpin Fikret Abdic to go home.
- 11/27/95 Bosnian Croats burn towns formerly inhabited by Croatian Serbs in Krajina.
- 11/29/95 Serbian President Milosevic purges many top-level nationalist leaders of the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) on the eve of the rump Yugoslavia's national holiday.
- 12/01/95 NATO names Javier Solana as Secretary General.
- 12/04/95 NATO "IFOR" troops arrive in Bosnia and are to replace the UN peacekeepers by the end of December.
- 12/12/95 Justice Richard Goldstone of the Hague-based International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia turns down a Russian request to "suspend legal action" against Karadzic and Mladic, the top indicted Bosnian Serb war criminals, so that at least Karadzic can attend the peace treaty signing in Paris on 14 December.
- 12/13/95 US Congress backs the sending of US troops to Bosnia.
- 12/14/95 The peace treaty negotiated by US Asst. Secretary of State Richard Holbrook in Dayton, Ohio is signed by all parties in Paris, France.
- 12/15/95 Slobodan Milosevic reassures Bosnian Serbs that no harm will come to them.
- 12/18/95 The US deploys its units under NATO command in Northeastern Bosnia.
- 12/19/95 Frowick is named OSCE overseer.
- 12/20/95 The International Monetary Fund vows to provide aid to Bosnia.
- 12/28/95 NATO commander for Europe, US General George Joulwan, arrives in Belgrade to meet for "very productive talks" with several rump Yugoslav officials, including army chief of staff Perisic and President Milosevic. Joulwan is accompanied by 54 US soldiers; the first US-NATO troops to cross into Bosnia from the rump Yugoslavia.
- 01/03/96 Telephone links between Belgrade and Sarajevo are restored after more than three years.
- 01/04/96 According to Serbia's refugee minister, there are 430,000 registered refugees in Serbia in addition to 212,000 people expelled from Krajina.

- 01/05/96 The OSCE arms control talks begin. The Bosnian government objects to the participation of the Republika Srpska.
- 01/07/95 Mostar, in Southern Bosnia-Herzegovina, remains divided into Croat and Muslim sections. EU Administrator Hans Koschnick says continued division of Mostar would signal the failure of the Muslim-Croat federation.**
- 01/08/96 A UN Security Council resolution calls on Croatia to cease human rights abuses in Krajina and demands that Croatia ceases to block returning Croatian Serb refugees.
- 01/09/96 The UN's Sarajevo airlift makes a final symbolic flight after 1,282 days and some 13,000 fights. 35,000 of the anticipated 60,000 IFOR troops arrive in the former Yugoslavia. Croats and Muslims continue to exchange mortar fire.**
- 01/10/96 Carl Bildt chairs the first meeting between representative of the Bosnian government and the Bosnian Serbs in four years.
- 01/11/96 Newspapers reports that a huge open-pit iron mine near Ljubija may hold the remains of some 8,000 victims killed by the Bosnian Serb army.
- 01/12/96 Serbs living in Sarajevo suburbs begin to evacuate in anticipation of Bosnian government rule, as agreed to in the Dayton peace plan. Milosevic appeals to them to stay.
- 01/13/96 OSCE negotiations begin. All foreign forces and their personnel are to be withdrawn from Bosnia by this day.
- 01/15/96 Bildt and Bosnian foreign Minister Muhamed Sacirbey say the September 15 deadline for Bosnian general elections is unrealistic.
- 01/16/96 UNHCR High Commissioner Sadaka Ogata opens a conference on Bosnian refugees and estimates the costs for resettlement will be \$400 million for the first year alone.
- 01/17/96 The EU announce the reunification of Mostar has been delayed due to the defacto division of the city between Croats and Muslims.
- 01/19/96 The withdrawal of Muslim, Croat and Bosnian Serb forces from the zones of separation meet the Dayton treaty's deadline of this day. However, full exchange of prisoners is not complete; nor is the removal of all mines from the 4-kilometer zones of separation.
- 01/21/96 Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic tenders his resignation after objecting to regulations greatly curbing the central government. Hasan Muratovic is nominated for Minister of Relations with NATO.
- 01/22/96 The Bosnian collective presidency officially proposes Hasan Muratovic as Bosnian prime minister. NATO agrees to guard those investigating war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. Up to now, NATO has refused to guard suspected mass grave sites. Under an accord signed in Sarajevo, Turkey will train the Bosnian government army.
- 01/23/96 Ultranationalist and accused war criminal Vojislav Seselj says he is willing to go to The Hague and testify against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.
- 01/24/96 The World Bank confirms that it will provide \$150 million for the reconstruction of Bosnia. The Croatian Community of Herzeg-Bosna would thus become a political movement and give up its governmental role.

- 01/25/96 Some 20,000 Bosnian Serbs may have left from Sarajevo suburbs slated to revert to Bosnian government control. The highway between Belgrade and Zagreb, closed since summer 1991, is scheduled to open for UN and NATO military vehicles.
- 01/27/96 A new round of prisoner exchanges starts. Under the Dayton accord, the prisoners should have been released by 19 January.
- 01/29/96 Women refugees from Srebrenica occupy the Red Cross office in Tuzla demanding to know the truth about some 8,000 people missing since Srebrenica fell to the Bosnian Serbs in July 1995.**
- 01/30/96 The Bosnian parliament elects Hasan Muratovic to head the Bosnian Muslim Federation. The cabinet is carefully selected to achieve a balance between Muslims and Croats.
- 01/31/96 NATO uses military aircraft in a show of force against Bosnian government troops violating the zones of separation. A NATO official says the last mujahedin have left the country.
- 02/01/96 IFOR agrees to help refugees from Srebrenica return.
- 02/03/96 DEADLINE for armed forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina to vacate and clear territory to the boundaries of the zones of separation. Among the territory cleared and swapped are five Serb-held suburbs of Sarajevo, regions around Mostar, and an access corridor from federation territory to Gorazde, which are all handed over to the Croatian-Muslim federation. The Republika Srpska assumes control of the area around Mrkonjic Grad in northwest Bosnia. NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana says IFOR will guard alleged mass grave sites and detain any indicted war criminals encountered.
- 02/04/96 The European Union's Mostar administrator, Hans Koschnick, proposes to reorganize Mostar into six municipalities and one central district, which would be ethnically mixed.
- 02/06/96 Bosnian Serbs, saying the arrests of 2 war crimes suspects violate the Dayton accord's provision for freedom of movement, break off ties with the Bosnian government. Bosnian Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic says that \$3 billion per year will be needed for the next five years for the reconstruction of Bosnia. A World Bank report puts the need at \$5.1 billion.
- 02/07/96 Following Koschnick's announcement of Mostar's administrative reorganization, Croatian protesters ransack EU offices in the city and trap Koschnick in his car for an hour.
- 02/08/96 Despite being banned from holding office by the Dayton accord, Karadzic kicks off the election campaign of his Serbian Democratic Party in Prijedor. He says he has not abandoned his goal of uniting the Republika Srpska with rump Yugoslavia and that the Bosnian Serbs 'will never give up the fruit of our combat.' Former Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic announces that he will form a political party. The European Union has asks NATO to protect Mostar administrator Koschnick.
- 02/10/96 US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke tries to convince the Serbs to lift their boycott on communication with the Bosnian government and IFOR. German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel asks the Hague tribunal to issue arrest warrants for Karadzic and other top Bosnian Serb officials for genocide.
- 02/11/96 Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic and his Bosnian counterpart, Jadranko Prlic, meet to discuss the Mostar dispute.
- 02/13/96 The OSCE says the Bosnian Serbs boycotted both the arms-control talks in Vienna and talks on Bosnian elections. (The war in Bosnia began when Bosnian Serbs boycotted the April 1992 Bosnian elections.) Slovenian President Milan Kucan goes to Sarajevo to restore bilateral economic ties. He says he fully supports Bosnia's "multicultural, multinational, and multireligious society."
- 02/14/96 A NATO spokesman says contacts with the Bosnian Serb army are "virtually nonexistent" as Pale continues to boycott dealings with international organizations.

- 02/15/96 IFOR detains 11 heavily armed men in an alleged terrorist training camp near Sarajevo. Eight are Bosnians, and three are Iranian citizens, one with a diplomatic passport. Holbrooke says Mladic is not complying with the Dayton agreement and will have to go.
- 02/16/96 Holbrooke says the peace process faces its “most serious threat to date” as all sides interpret the Dayton accord to their own advantage. He calls the issue of war-crimes prosecutions “non-negotiable.”
- 02/17/96 The presidents of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia and the foreign ministers of the Contact Group, begin a two-day meeting in Rome to discuss difficulties in implementing the Dayton accord.
- 02/18/96 The Rome summit ends with the adoption of five documents covering the reunification of Sarajevo, the reunification of Mostar, the Croat-Muslim federation, the implementation of the Dayton agreement, and the normalization of relations between Zagreb and Belgrade. The Serbian and Bosnian presidents will hold monthly meetings and set up a telephone hot line. General Joulwan announces that IFOR has reached its full strength of 60,000 troops.
- 02/19/96 Momcilo Krajisnik, president of the self-styled Bosnian Serb parliament, says that “the Serbs will make the release of two suspected war criminals (Djukic and Krsmanovic) a condition for any future cooperation with the international community.”
- 02/20/96 Bosnian Serbs from Sarajevo suburbs slated to pass to government control leave for territory under the jurisdiction of the Republika Srpska. The European Union says reconstruction in Bosnia is threatened by donors’ failure to deliver on aid pledges. Of more than \$700 million promised for the first three months of 1996, only \$67.5 million has arrived so far, reportedly coming only from the EU.
- 02/21/96 The Bosnian Serb leadership says it will re-establish links with the international community. Richard Holbrooke leaves office as US Assistant Secretary of State. Orthodox Bishop Hrizostom of Banja Luka calls on Serbs to reject ethnic cleansing and to return to their homes outside the Republika Srpska. Bosnian Serb leadership in Pale orders that Serbs evacuate all Bosnian Federation held suburbs. According to the UN, about 20,000 Serbs have left already.
- 02/23/96 Russian President Boris Yeltsin unilaterally withdraws Russia from UN sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs.
- 02/26/96 NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana, in a letter to the UN, confirms that the Bosnian Serbs are in compliance with the military aspects of the Dayton accord and have withdrawn from the zones of separation delimiting the Bosnian entities under the accords. The prime ministers of Croatia and Bosnia, Zlatko Matesa and Hasan Muratovic, respectively, sign agreements on air traffic, investments, and legal assistance in civil and criminal proceedings.**
- 02/27/96 The UN Security Council lifts the sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs. The US government warns Milosevic that international sanctions against rump Yugoslavia will stay in place if Belgrade continues to crack down on independent media. The arms embargo against Bosnia, Croatia, and rump Yugoslavia is to remain until the IFOR mission ends. The Hague tribunal concludes its hearings against Krajina Serb leader Milan Martic in just one day. Martic is indicted for war crimes because of a rocket attack on Zagreb. Martic says any attempt to arrest and extradite him to The Hague would be “a terrorist act.”
- 02/29/96 The blockade of Sarajevo is formally ended, as Bosnian Interior Minister Avdo Hebib reopens the overland route to Tuzla and Zenica. The Bosnian Serbs rejoin OCSE-sponsored arms-control talks in Vienna after a two-week boycott.
- 03/01/96 The World Bank approves \$45 million in emergency aid for the reconstruction of Bosnia.
- 03/02/96 Milosevic is re-elected as party leader during the third congress of the Socialist Party of Serbia. The UN peacekeeping force in Croatia officially ends its mission.