

Kosovo

Rice

Kosovo was originally an autonomous region of Yugoslavia with a majority ethnic-Albanian population. In the 1990s, after the breakup of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, the new leader of Serbia, eliminated Kosovo's autonomy. After a peaceful resistance movement on the part of Kosovo's Albanian leaders failed to secure independence, an armed resistance movement emerged in 1997. This led to a brutal police and military crackdown in the region, orchestrated by Milosevic. Even after the UN stepped in to restore peace, ethnic violence continued. The international community also spent the majority of the 2000s debating Kosovo's status.

In 2008, Kosovo declared independence from Serbia. Serbia does not recognize Kosovo as an independent state, but the majority of the international community does. Under Kosovo's new constitution (which establishes a parliamentary system), the Prime Minister is the head of government. Thus, we code the PM as the effective ruler. In 2008 (the only year applicable to this study), the Prime Minister was Hashim Thaçi, of the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK).

The constitution of Kosovo can be found on the website of the Prime Minister of Kosovo: <http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Constitution1Kosovo.pdf> (accessed April 22, 2014).

References

"Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo." <http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Constitution1Kosovo.pdf> (April 22, 2014)

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