

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Rice

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country that contains three ethnic groups and two political entities. The three ethnic groups—the Bosnians, the Serbs, and the Croats—fought a difficult civil war against one another during the period following their independence from Yugoslavia in 1992. GWF code the country as under warlord rule from 1993 to 1995.

In 1995, after the conclusion of hostilities, the two political entities were established. One, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, is mostly Bosnian and Croat, while the second, the Republika Srpska, is mostly Serbian. Each entity has its own budgets and institutions, with a portion of tax revenues going to fund the national government of the country. The executive power of the national government lies with the Presidency, which rotates every eight months among three members—one from each ethnic group. The members are individually elected for four-year terms. For the Bosnians, this was the SDA (Party of Democratic Action), for the Croats, the HDZ (Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia-Herzegovina), and for the Serbs, the SDS (Serbian Democratic Party). The three parties divided up official and cabinet positions between themselves, and Alija Izetbegović, a member of the SDA, assumed the position of President of the Presidency in 1996. Cook (2002, 685) also states that Izetbegovic became chairman of the three-man presidency in 1996 and held that office until the rotations started in 1998. This means that Izetbegovic's SOLS, even before 1998, is composed of all three parties that were members of the presidency. In fact, Europa World Yearbook (2004) suggests that Izetbegovic already relied on a coalition of three nationalist parties (PDA, SDP, CDU) in 1990, though it is very possible that that coalition fell apart during the war. What is more important, we do not code Bosnia as a democracy, so the SOLS change coding is not based on the concept of "rotating presidencies" but of pre-designated successors.

Izetbegovic's successor, Radisic, should be coded pre-designated successor) since he and Izetbegovic and the third guy had worked out the rotation plan. As such, this does not constitute a SOLS change. The same is true for the other presidents in the rotation.

In 2001, the HDZ attempted to secede from the Federation and establish a separate "Croat's People's Assembly". In response, the UN High Representative (a position which was created to ensure the enforcement of the peace agreement and who has the power to dismiss officials that he or she believes are obstructing the administration and reform process) removed Jelovic from office and installed Jozo Krizanovic, a member of the SDP (Social-Democratic Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina) as the new Croatian representative (Hoare 207, 405). As the SDP became part of the rotation instead of the HDZ, we have chosen not to code this as a SOLS change. Additionally, no SOLS changes are coded here since the country is still not considered a democracy at the time. Krizanovic assumed the Chairmanship in June 2001.

In 2002, the Chairmanship passed to Belkic in February. New elections were then held for each group to elect their representative to the Presidency. For the Bosnians, Sulejman Tihić (also a member of the SDA) was elected. The Croats elected Dragan Čović, a member of the HDZ, and the Serbs elected

Mirko Šarović of the SDS. Šarović assumed the Chairmanship in October 2002, and resigned on April 2, 2003 following charges of corruption. He was then replaced by Čović for eight days, presumably so that the Serbs could elect a new representative. On April 10th, Čović stepped down to allow for the new Serb representative, Borislav Paravac (also of the SDS) to serve the remainder of Šarović's Chairmanship. In June 2003, Paravac passed the Chairmanship to Čović, and the regular rotation resumed.

In February 2004, the Chairmanship passed to Tihić, who then passed it to Paravac in October. In March 2005, Čović was removed from office by the High Representative on charges of corruption. The new Croat representative was Ivo Miro Jović, also of the HDZ. Jović assumed the Chairmanship in June 2005. In February 2006, Jović passed the chairmanship to Tihić.

Elections were once again held in 2006. All three of the representatives changed. The Serbs elected Nebojša Radmanović, a member of the SNSD (Alliance of Independent Social Democrats). The Croats elected Željko Komšić, a member of the Social-Democratic Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina (SDPBiH), and the Serbs elected Haris Silajdžić, of the SBiH. As all of the parties of the new representatives differed from their predecessors, I code this as a SOLS change. The date for the SOLS change will be coded as the date that the first of these three representatives assumed office, which was Radmanović in November 2006.

Radmanović passed the Chairmanship on to Komšić in July 2007, who in turn passed it to Silajdžić in March 2008. It returned to Radmanović in November 2008, and continues to rotate between the three in the present day.

References

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