Syracuse University

#### SURFACE at Syracuse University

International Programs

International Programs

8-27-2024

### NATO Mitigating future conflicts in the Balkans after the interventions in Bosnia Herzegovina and Kosovo

Drilon Neziri

Follow this and additional works at: https://surface.syr.edu/eli

#### Part of the Education Commons

The views expressed in these works are entirely those of their authors and do not represent the views of the Fulbright Program, the U.S. Department of State, or any of its partner organizations.

#### **Recommended Citation**

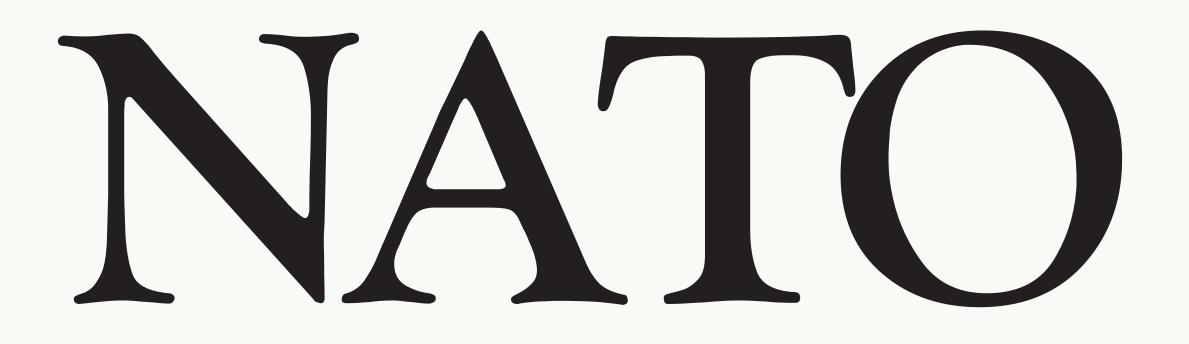
Neziri, Drilon, "NATO Mitigating future conflicts in the Balkans after the interventions in Bosnia Herzegovina and Kosovo" (2024). *International Programs*. 278. https://surface.syr.edu/eli/278

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the International Programs at SURFACE at Syracuse University. It has been accepted for inclusion in International Programs by an authorized administrator of SURFACE at Syracuse University. For more information, please contact surface@syr.edu.



# DRILON NEZIRI





Mitigating future conflicts in the Balkans after the interventions in Bosnia Herzegovina and Kosovo

### ABSTRACT

## Bosnian war intervention

NATO intervened in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Bosnian War 1992-1995 to address widespread violence and human rights abuses. The intervention began with air strikes against Bosnian Serb forces in 1995. It also played a key role in enforcing the Dayton Agreement which led to the end of the war and established a framework for peace and reconstruction. The alliance's involvement helped stabilize the region. The Balkan region has been profoundly shaped by the turbulence of war with its geopolitical landscape and security dynamics significantly impacted by historical and recent conflicts. NATO's involvement has been pivotal in addressing the aftermath of these conflicts aiming to stabilize the region and foster peace. This synthesis provides a comprehensive overview of the interplay between war, regional dynamics and NATO's influence.

### War intervention in Kosovo

NATO intervened in Kosovo in 1999 with a 78-day air campaign aimed at stopping the humanitarian crisis and ethnic cleansing perpetrated by Serbian forces against ethnic Albanians. The intervention was prompted by the failure of di plomatic efforts to resolve the conflict. NATO's airstrikes successfully pressured Serbia to withdraw its forces from Kosovo. **KFOR** was subsequently deployed to serve as a peacekeeping force.



Figure 1

## What went wrong?

**Delayed Intervention:** NATO's involvement came late, after significant suffering and violence had occurred. Initial international responses were slow and insufficient to prevent early atrocities.

## The Purpose of NATO

**Collective Defense,** Protecting member states from external aggression.

**Crisis Management,** Responding to crises and conflicts that threaten international stability.

**Cooperative Security,** Engaging in partnerships and collaborations with non-member countries and international organizations to address global security challenges.



Figure 3

## Problems faced

#### Lack of UN Authorization: NATO's air

**Complex Political Environment:** The intervention did not fully address the complex ethnic and political divisions in Bosnia leading to continued instability and challenges.

Limited Enforcement: Despite military success NATO struggled with the political complexities of enforcing the peace agreement leading to ongoing tensions.



Figure 2

campaign was conducted without explicit UN Security Council authorization, which led to debates about the legality and legitimacy of the intervention.

Humanitarian Impact: The airstrikes, while aimed at ending ethnic cleansing, caused civilian casualties and infrastructure damage.

Long-term Stability: The aftermath of NATO's intervention saw ongoing tensions between ethnic groups in Kosovo and Serbia and the region has continued to face political and security challenges.



References

Contact me

