

U.S. STRATEGY TOWARDS SOUTHEAST EUROPE: OVERVIEW

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COLD WAR ERA

- MARSHALL PLAN - AID FOR GREECE AND TURKEY, EASTERN BLOC NOT INCLUDED
- THE “PERCENTAGES AGREEMENT” BETWEEN STALIN AND CHURCHILL AND AMERICA’S RESPONSE TO IT
- UNITED STATES COMMITTED SIZABLE RESOURCES AS PART OF THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE TO FIGHT THE KREMLIN’S DESTABILIZING EFFORTS IN GREECE AND TURKEY
- UNITED STATES SUPPORTED YUGOSLAVIA’S BREAK FROM THE COMINFORM IN 1948.
- THE HUNGER FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE BALKANS OFFERED THE UNITED STATES OPPORTUNITY TO “HONE IN” THE INSTRUMENT OF “DIFFERENTIATION”
- U.S. CONTAINMENT POLICY AGAINST SOVIET INFLUENCE IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE
- SUPPORT FOR ANTI-COMMUNIST REGIMES IN GREECE AND TURKEY
- FORMATION OF NATO AND ITS ROLE IN THE REGION



INVOLVEMENT DURING THE DISINTEGRATION OF YUGOSLAVIA

DIPLMATIC EFFORTS:

- Participated in negotiations and peacekeeping efforts.
- Worked towards resolving conflicts and promoting stability.

Recognition of Independent States:

- Among the first to recognize independence of new states.
- Recognized Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, North Macedonia, and later Kosovo.

Humanitarian Aid:

- Provided significant aid to affected populations.
- Included food, medical supplies, and support for refugees.



INVOLVEMENT DURING THE DISINTEGRATION OF YUGOSLAVIA

MILITary Intervention:

- Conducted airstrikes in Bosnia in 1995 (Operation Deliberate Force).
- Participated in peacekeeping missions following the Dayton Accords.

DIPLOmatic Pressure:

- Leveraged influence in international organizations.
- PRESSured parties to negotiate and reach peaceful settlements

INVOLVEMENT IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

U.S. INTERVENTION IN THE BOSNIAN War

- Authorized NATO airstrikes against Bosnian Serb targets in 1995.
- Aimed to halt aggression and pressure parties to negotiate peace.

Dayton Accords and Role of U.S. Diplomacy

- Brokered negotiations leading to the Dayton Accords in 1995.
- Facilitated talks between Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia.
- Established a framework for peace and territorial boundaries.

Implementation of Peacekeeping Missions

- Contributed troops to NATO-led peacekeeping missions.
- Deployed forces as part of IFOR and SFOR.
- Maintained peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Nation-Building Efforts

- Supported post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation.
- STRENGTHENed democratic institutions and rule of law.
- Facilitated refugee return and economic reconstruction

INVOLVEMENT IN KOSOVO

NATO INTERVENTION IN KOSOVO War

- PARTICIPATED in NATO airstrikes against Serbian forces in 1999.
- Aimed to halt ethnic cleansing and violence against ethnic Albanians.

U.S. SUPPORT for Kosovo's Independence from Serbia

- ADVOCATED for Kosovo's right to self-determination.
- RECOGNIZED Kosovo as an independent state in 2008.
- PLAYED a key role in building international support for Kosovo's sovereignty.

Establishment of Kosovo Force (KFOR) and Peacekeeping Operations

- Led the establishment of KFOR in 1999.
- DEPLOYED TROOPS TO Maintain peace and security in Kosovo.
- Supported efforts to stabilize THE region and facilitate reconciliation between ethnic groups

INVOLVEMENT AFTER THE DISINTEGRATION OF YUGOSLAVIA

- IMPORTANCE OF THE POST-9/11 PERIOD AND CHANGE OF FOCUS FOR THE U.S.
- 2004 - THE NATO-LED SFOR MISSION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA WAS CONCLUDED AND REPLACED BY EUFOR - A EUROPEAN UNION-LED MISSION
- ABOUT 15,500 TROOPS REMAIN IN KOSOVO AS PART OF KFOR, INCLUDING 1,500 U.S. SOLDIERS
- U.S OUT, EU IN? - MAIN GOAL OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE BALKANS IS TO STABILIZE THE REGION IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE DIRECT INTERVENTION BY NATO-LED FORCES AND INTERNATIONAL CIVILIAN OFFICIALS



INVOLVEMENT AFTER THE DISINTEGRATION OF YUGOSLAVIA

- THE UNITED STATES AND EU COUNTRIES ENDORSE A PROMINENT ROLE FOR THE EU IN THE REGION, WITH THE UNITED STATES PLAYING A SMALLER PART, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF TROOP LEVELS AND AID.
- THE U.S. ENGAGES IN THE REGION PRIMARILY THROUGH NATO AND BILATERAL AID FOCUSED ON SPECIFIC AREAS LIKE INTELLIGENCE AND INTERNAL SECURITY REFORM, MILITARY RESTRUCTURING, AND RULE OF LAW SUPPORT.

INVOLVEMENT AFTER THE DISINTEGRATION OF YUGOSLAVIA

- SMALLER ROLE BY THE UNITED STATES, AT LEAST AS FAR AS TROOP LEVELS AND AID ARE CONCERNED
- 2004 - END OF THE SFOR MISSION IN BOSNIA AND EU OVERTAKING (EUFOR)
- 2009 - 1,500 U.S. NATO TROOPS IN KOSOVO 15,000 NATO-LED TROOPS IN TOTAL
- SINCE THE END OF THE WARS IN THE REGION, U.S. AID HAS GRADUALLY DECLINED
- FOCUS ON OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD U.S. BILATERAL ASSISTANCE FELL FROM \$621 MILLION IN FY2002 TO \$293.6 MILLION IN FY2009. FOR FY2010, THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION REQUESTED JUST UNDER \$284.8 MILLION FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AID TO THE REGION OVERALL GOAL OF U.S. AID TO THE BALKANS IS TO PREPARE THE COUNTRIES FOR INTEGRATION INTO EURO-ATLANTIC INSTITUTIONS

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

- EMPHASIS ON THE AMERICA FIRST POLICY AND REDUCING MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS
- CONTINUED BACKING FOR NATO'S PRESENCE IN THE AREA
- STRATEGY FOR HANDLING TENSIONS BETWEEN SERBIA AND KOSOVO, INCLUDING THE APPOINTMENT OF DIPLOMAT MATTHEW PALMER AS THE US SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE WESTERN BALKANS AND US AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY RICHARD GRENELL AS A SPECIAL ENVOY FOR SERBIA AND KOSOVO IN 2020
- SASHA TOPERICH, A FORMER DIPLOMAT FROM BOSNIA AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE TRANSATLANTIC LEADERSHIP NETWORK IN WASHINGTON, COMMENTED ON THE KOSOVO STATUS ISSUE BETWEEN SERBIA AND KOSOVO, STATING, "ADDRESSING THESE CHALLENGES IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL LEADERS."



TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

- BOB HAND, A SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR AT THE US HELSINKI COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON, EXPRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGING EUROPE TO COLLABORATE ON SANCTIONING INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING OFFICIALS, IN THE REGION. THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO CORRUPT PRACTICES, HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, AND ACTIONS UNDERMINING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS OR THE RULE OF LAW.
- THE WHITE HOUSE'S STANCE ON THE KOSOVO-SERBIA DIALOGUE REMAINED UNCERTAIN.
- THE US EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT FOLLOWING THE EU'S DECISION NOT TO INITIATE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALBANIA AND NORTH MACEDONIA.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

- THERE ARE CONCERNS ABOUT THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE IN THE BALKANS.
- IN 2018, THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SHOWED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER A PLAN PROPOSED BY VUČIĆ AND THE FORMER KOSOVO PRIME MINISTER HASHIM THAČI TO DIVIDE KOSOVO ALONG THE IBAR RIVER. THIS PLAN WAS REFERRED TO AS "BORDER CORRECTION," "LAND SWAP," OR "MOVING THE ADMINISTRATIVE LINE."



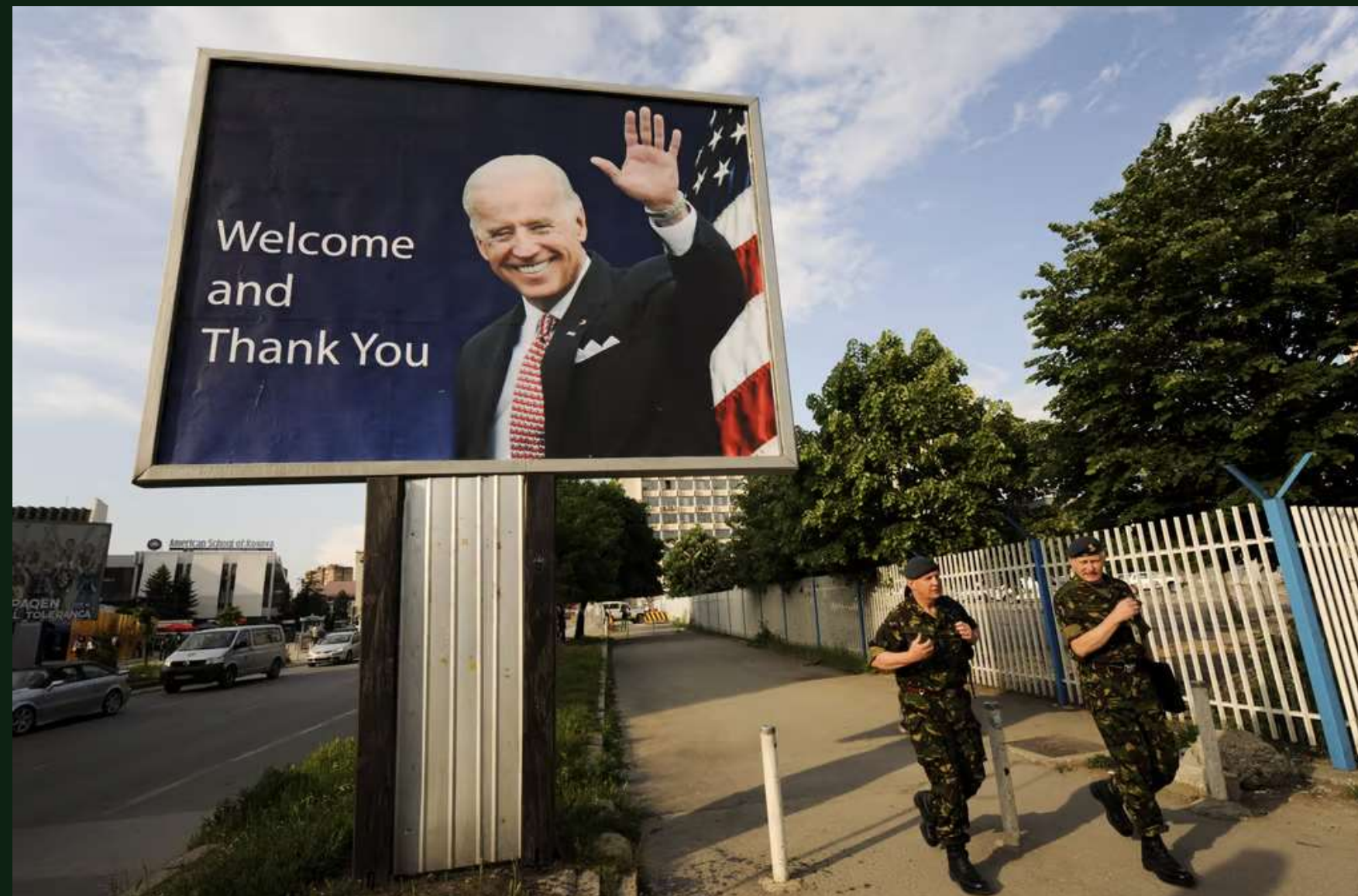
AMBASSADOR RICHARD
GRENELL, LEFT, SPEAKS
WITH SERBIAN
PRESIDENT ALEKSANDAR
VUCIC DURING A
MEETING IN BELGRADE,
SERBIA

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

- POLICY RECALIBRATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS in line with the incoming administration's focus on reconstructing alliances, defending and reviving democracy, and fighting corruption seemed eminently possible
- THE U.S. PRESSING FOR AN ELECTORAL REFORM IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO CATER TO THE INTERESTS OF THE HDZ BIH
- A KIND OF DEFEATISM - MENTALITY SHIFT SEEMS TO HAVE OCCURRED IN THE PAST DECADE THAT THE BEST THAT CAN BE DONE IS TO MANAGE CRISES AND CHALLENGES, RATHER THAN UNDERTAKE THE HARDER TASK OF ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE THEM.
- THE FRAME OF RECONCILIATION ENVISAGED BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS SEEMS TO BE EMBODIED IN WHAT IS CALLED THE OHRID AGREEMENT IN 2023 ON NORMALIZATION BETWEEN SERBIA AND KOSOVO
- SANCTIONS APPLIED TO KOSOVO FOLLOWING THE MAY 2023 CLASHES IN NORTHERN KOSOVO.
- BELGRADE HOLDS SUCH SIGNIFICANCE IN WASHINGTON'S CALCULATIONS THAT IT IS HESITANT TO TAKE RISKS, EVEN ON KEY ASPECTS OF BIDEN'S FOREIGN POLICY LIKE CORRUPTION AND DEMOCRACY

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

- THE PACIFICATION POLICY APPEARS TO BE FAVORING FOR SPEEDING UP THE EU'S ENLARGEMENT PROCESS SO THAT THE U.S. CAN SHIFT ITS FOCUS ELSEWHERE.
- IT IS CHALLENGING TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE CURRENT U.S. STANCE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS PUTS RUSSIA (OR CHINA) AT A DISADVANTAGE.



A BILLBOARD IN PRISTINA SHOWING THEN-U.S. VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN DURING HIS VISIT TO THE BALKANS IN 2009

CONCLUSIONS

- THE U.S.'S INVOLVEMENT HAS SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASED OVER TIME AS THE EU HAS TAKEN ON A MORE PROMINENT ROLE IN THE REGION.
- THE MAIN FOCUS OF THE U.S. SHIFTED AFTER THE EVENTS OF 9/11.
- THE U.S. CONTINUES TO AID COUNTRIES IN THE REGION THROUGH VARIOUS MEANS SUCH AS PARTICIPATING IN DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, AND SUPPORTING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.
- REGRETTABLY, THE U.S. LACKS A CLEAR STRATEGY TO FULLY ESTABLISH DEMOCRACY IN THE REGION AND ADDRESS CRITICAL ISSUES LIKE ETHNIC TENSIONS, CONFLICTS, CORRUPTION, AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES IN SOME COUNTRIES.
- PRESENTLY, THE U.S. LEANS MORE TOWARDS A CONTAINMENT APPROACH RATHER THAN ACTIVELY SEEKING COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS.

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