

NATO'S ROLE IN PEACEKEEPING

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Abstract

One of the most significant actions taken by NATO was in Balkans. Europe has remained very unstable ever since the end of Ottoman Empire, which occupied the region for several centuries. Communist domination of this region in the 20th century only served to hide long – standing tensions that had existed for several decades. Originally, NATO intervened in Bosnia – Herzegovina to support United Nations resolutions calling for an end to the conflict. The Alliance provided air support for UN forces and conducted operations against Bosnian/Serbian separatist forces, in particular during the siege of Sarajevo. In 1988, a violent crisis broke out in Kosovo, a province of Serbia mainly populated for many years by a Moslem population of Albanian origin, opposed to the central government of the country, now Kosovo is an independent state. Despite warnings from the international community, Serbia conducted repressive military operations aimed at bringing the province back under its own control. NATO has a headquarters in the country - NATO Headquarters Skopje - to assist authorities in the development of security sector reform and pursue the integration of the country into Euro-Atlantic structures. On 11 August 2003, NATO took over the leadership of ISAF from the joint German-Dutch command of ISAF III. This event underscores the long-term commitment of all NATO Allies to stability and security for the Afghan people. While NATO does not have a direct role in the international stabilisation force that has been in Iraq since May 2003, the Alliance had help Iraq provide for its own security by training Iraqi military personnel, supporting the development of the country's security institutions, and coordinating the delivery of equipment. Since 2004, NATO provides assistance to the Interim Government of Iraq with the training of its security forces. NATO has been also involved in coordinating the delivery of equipment donated by individual NATO member countries to Iraq. All NATO member countries have contributed to the training effort either in or outside Iraq, through financial contributions or donations of equipment. There are a lot of NATO missions. The aim of this work is to underline some of them.

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