

Balkans special: Campus

Kosovo Questions and Answers

Q. Where is Kosovo?

A. Yugoslavia, during the Cold War, was a union of six republics, all of which were under communist rule. In 1991, when the Soviet Union collapsed, four of those republics (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Macedonia) separated and became independent. The breakup of Yugoslavia caused wars to erupt between Serbs, Croats, and Muslims in Croatia and Bosnia. Now, Yugoslavia consists of two republics: Serbia and Montenegro. Kosovo is a province of Serbia.

Q. Who is fighting in Kosovo?

A. The government of Yugoslavia is fighting against ethnic Albanian rebels. These rebels, called the Kosovo Liberation Army, want to create a new country in Kosovo. Ethnic Albanians made up 90% of the population inside Kosovo (2,700,000 of 3 million residents

before the flood of refugees began) and most are in favor of the rebels. The rest of Yugoslavia is made up mainly of ethnic Serbs and they don't want Kosovo to become independent because they feel it is important to Serbs both historically and religiously.

Q. Why did the US and NATO attack?

A. NATO wants the Serbs and Albanians to sign a peace treaty. The Kosovo Liberation Army signed it, but the Yugoslav government has refused. NATO threatened that if Yugoslavia didn't sign the treaty, it would be bombed. President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia refused to sign the treaty. So, we began bombing on March 21, 1999.

Q. Why should we care?

A. Both World War I and World War II were aggravated by violent activities in those regions. The

United States is concerned that the violence will travel into Greece or Turkey (NATO allies), leading to a war with those countries.

Q. Has the bombing had any effect in changing President Slobodan Milosevic's mind?

A. So far, no. Also, Yugoslavia hasn't slowed the "ethnic cleansing" of Albanians in Kosovo.

Q. Will the US send in our ground troops?

A. At first the Clinton administration denied the need for sending military ground troops. However, as the war proceeds, the possibility of sending troops into Kosovo becomes more likely.

Sources: *The Washington Post*, *the Boston Globe*, and *the Oregonian*. Information compiled by Shelbi Wescott



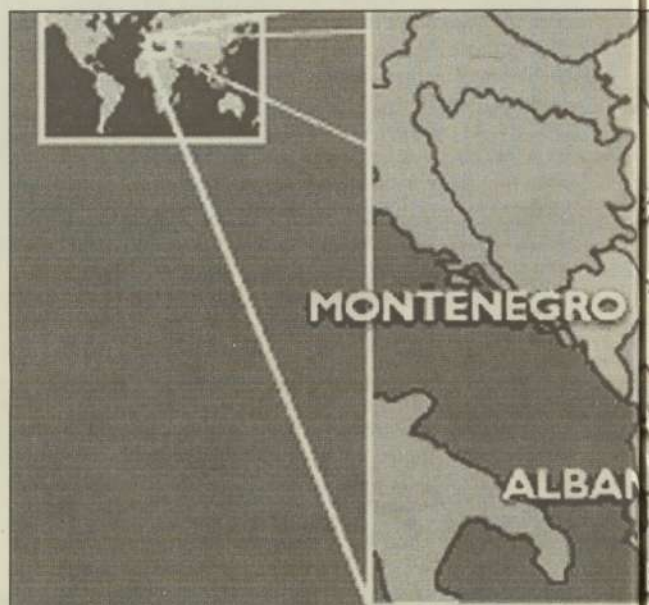
"It's a shame that two groups of people can't live together peacefully."

-Summer Heid



"We don't need to be the world's police officers."

-Adrien Hunt



Hungarian student's perspective: A new Holocaust?

SHELBI WESCOTT
Associate Copy Editor

For Gabor Szalanczy, formerly an exchange student from Hungary, the war in Europe isn't far from home. With a war booming next to his homeland (where his entire family still lives and works) he cannot afford to be ignorant about the problems that have been cultivating in that area for generations.



SARA WELCH / Clackamas Print

Gabor Szalanczy, a Clackamas student from Hungary, explains his impassioned views on the Yugoslavian.

Amidst the hostilities, Szalanczy isn't worried about Hungary's safety or protection. "NATO is

“Bombs make fanatic people want to fight more. They will only kill more innocent civilians.”

Gabor Szalanczy
Ex-Exchange Student

a big insurance for Hungary," he said, with an assured smile on his face. "Because of NATO we feel safe."

If anything were to happen they would come and help."

However, he is less optimistic about the conditions in Europe as a whole.

Szalanczy said that, during World War I, World War II and the fall of communism, the boundaries in Europe underwent drastic changes. Where once stood one country there were three; now many years later the three countries are only two. Throughout these shifts many different ethnic groups were lumped together in one country. This continual altering of boundaries resulted in dissent from people of all races, creeds and colors.

This is only one fact of on a very difficult and complicated problem. And is Szalanczy confident in a resolution in the near future? "I can't see one," he replied. "Bombs make fanatic people want to fight more. They will only kill more innocent civilians."

Szalanczy also added that "even though these bombs aren't helping the cause" he still "feel[s] they are necessary." Fully supporting Clinton's decision to use military force, he hopes that if Hungary were in the same situation NATO and the US would aid as well. "I agree that this needs to be stopped before we reach another Holocaust."



"The war could probably be handled more efficiently, NATO needs to step in because of the killing of innocent people."

-Josh Kl



"Government shouldn't bomb [Kosovo] because civilians are getting hurt."

-Andrew Monhe

Photos by Sarah Welch. Quotes compiled