

The Making of a State: Why Kosova Did Not Fail

Abstract:

From Syria to Libya to Afghanistan, international intervention in countries does not seem to easily succeed. Yet, in the case of Kosovo, NATO intervention in 1999 and subsequent foreign actions appears to have allowed the creation of a new state. This paper analyzes the impacts of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the European Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and the NATO peacekeeping mission in Kosovo (KFOR), as well as compiling scholarly articles detailing why the creation of a Kosovar state succeeded. The paper also analyzes claims of Kosovo being a failed state and provides evidence to refute these claims. In terms of political factors, evaluating the effects of the continued support of western nations and the significant presence of one of a kind international missions in Kosovo are crucial to understanding the success of Kosovo becoming a stable state. On the economic side, analyzing the impacts of foreign aid in the postwar development of infrastructure and energy within Kosovo leads to a meaningful understanding of post war success. Furthermore, the long term military aid and technical support in the creation of a military serve as an important deterrence apparatus against Serbia while the normalization of relations has not yet been achieved. Lastly, understanding the geographical effects of Kosovo being a small country, as well as a country located in Europe can help explain both why foreign aid and intervention was more successful, as well as why it is significantly more difficult and problematic for Kosovo to fail.