

## **Kosovo Country Handbook**

This handbook provides basic reference information on Kosovo, including its geography, history, government, military forces, and communications and transportation networks. This information is intended to familiarize military personnel with local customs and area knowledge to assist them during their assignment to Kosovo.

The Marine Corps Intelligence Activity is the community coordinator for the Country Handbook Program. This product reflects the coordinated U.S. Defense Intelligence Community position on Kosovo.

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## Kosovo



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## KEY FACTS

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**Name.** Republic of Kosovo

*Short Form.* Kosovo.

*Local long form.* Republika e Kosoves (Republika Kosova).

*Local short form.* Kosova (Kosovo).

**Chief of State.** President Fatmir Sejdiu (February 2006).

**Head of Government.** Prime Minister Hashim Thaci (Jan. 2008).

**Capital.** Prishtine (also spelled Pristina, Prishtina).

**National Flag.** Gold country icon centered on a dark blue field. Six white stars — each representing one of Kosovo’s major ethnic groups — arrayed in an arc overhead.

**Time Zone.** UTC (formerly GMT) + 1 hour.

**Telephone Country Code.** +381 (mobile lines +377).

**Population.** 2.1 million.

**Languages.** The official languages are Albanian and Serbian; Bosnian, Turkish, Roma, and Gorani are also spoken.

**Calendar.** Gregorian.



**National Flag**

**Currency.** The official currency is the euro (EUR). Kosovo operates on a cash economy. There are few automated teller machines, but they are often non-functional. Western Union has offices throughout Kosovo; it is possible to have funds wired from abroad.

**Exchange Rate.** US\$1 equals EUR 0.7762 (2009 est.).

**Naming Convention.** Many towns and cities in Kosovo are known by Albanian and Serbian names. The Albanian spelling is most common, and is given first in each reference in this handbook.

## **U.S. Embassy**

The U.S. Embassy in Prishtine (Pristina) was established 18 February 2008. There is a mission office in Prishtine that handles only emergency services for American citizens. The U.S. Embassy in Skopje, Macedonia is the venue for most consular services.

## **U.S. Liaison**

<i>Location</i>	Prishtine
<i>Mailing Address</i>	30 Nazim Hikmet St. 38000 Prishtine
<i>Telephone</i>	381 38 549-516
<i>Fax</i>	381-38-549-516
<i>E-mail</i>	consularpristina@state.gov

<i>U.S. Embassy Skopje</i>	Skopje, Macedonia
<i>Mailing Address</i>	Bulevard Ilinden bb 1000 Skopje
<i>Telephone</i>	389-2-3116-180
<i>Fax</i>	389-2-3213-767
<i>Website</i>	<a href="http://skopje.usembassy.gov">http://skopje.usembassy.gov</a>

## **Travel Advisories**

Since Kosovo gained its independence in February 2008, violent incidents have occurred at border crossings between Kosovo and Serbia. U.S. government officials may only travel to parts of northern Kosovo for official business. Travelers should avoid large crowds and demonstrations. High unemployment and other economic conditions foster criminal activity. Theft and purse snatchings are a serious problem in Kosovo, particularly in the capital. Foreigners are targeted because it is assumed that they will be carrying cash.

Although landmine removal has been conducted, landmines and unexploded ordnance remain in some outlying areas.

Entry to Serbia should not be attempted from Kosovo, unless the traveler has a prior entry stamp from Serbia. Serbia's government does not recognize entry stamps of the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), including those from the Prishtine Airport.

When driving across international borders with Kosovar vehicle plates, the plates may not be accepted by neighboring countries. Countries that accept Kosovar vehicle plates are Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Montenegro, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK.

## **Entry Requirements**

### ***Passport/Visa Requirements***

All travelers need a passport. There are no visa requirements; however, if remaining for longer than 90 days, travelers must register with the Office for Registration of Foreigners in the main police headquarters at Prishtine.

The U.S. Department of State warns travelers that entry to Serbia from Kosovo should not be attempted without a Serbian visa and entry stamp attained from a Serbian crossing point. Serbia does not recognize entry documentation from authorities in Prishtine (Pristina) Airport or Kosovar ports.

### ***Immunization Requirements***

There are no required immunizations for visits to Kosovo. The Center for Disease Control suggests routine vaccinations for measles/mumps/rubella, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus, poliovirus, Hepatitis A and B, and rabies vaccines.

### ***Customs Restrictions***

It is illegal to possess weapons and narcotics in Kosovo. Currency in excess of US\$7,750 must be declared on entry. Failure to declare can result in a fine of 25 percent of the value. Visitors ages 18 and older may import the following without incurring customs tax: 200 cigarettes, or 100 cigarillos, or 250 grams of tobacco, or a mix of tobacco products not exceeding 250 grams; alcoholic beverages — one liter of spirits at 22 percent volume, two liters of fortified wine or sparkling wine, and two liters of still table wine; 60 milliliters of perfume and 250 milliliters of toilet water.

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## **GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE**

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### **Geography**

Kosovo is in southeast Europe, between Serbia and Macedonia, in the heart of the Balkan peninsula.

## ***Land Statistics***

Kosovo is slightly larger than Delaware at 10,887 square kilometers. The highest peaks in Kosovo are in the rugged terrain to the west of Peje (Pec) in the Mokra Gora (*gora* means hills) and to the southeast of Prizren in the Sar Planina Mountains. The highest point is Deravica at 2,656 meters in the Sar Planina Mountains.

## ***Boundaries***

Albania, to the west, shares a 111.8-kilometer border. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is to the south with a 158.7-kilometer border. Montenegro's 78.6-kilometer border is in the northwest. The longest border is with Serbia to the north, east, and southeast; it is 351.6 kilometers.

## ***Border Disputes***

The Kosovar declaration of independence from Serbia in 2008 caused serious discontent among certain countries of the Balkans, notably Serbia. Kosovo is at the center of Serbian history, even though 90 percent of Kosovo is Kosovar Albanian. Serbia does



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**Serbia's Mountain Region**

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not recognize Kosovo as an independent state and continues to hold elections and carry out other governmental functions in the Serbian enclaves of the new state.

In the northern portion of Kosovo, a de facto line of demarcation exists between the heavy Serb population north of the Ibar river and the ethnic Albanian population to the south. The Ibar river is also the dividing line between Serbs and ethnic Albanians in the city of Mitrovice (Mitrovica). Serbia also refuses to recognize authority of the capital, Prishtine (Pristina), including border patrolling, entry and exit documentation, and customs laws. Fifty-five UN countries recognize the independence of Kosovo, including 22 European Union Member States and the United States. Of the Balkan states, Albania, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, and Macedonia recognize Kosovar independence.



## Neighboring Countries

## ***Bodies of Water***

Kosovo is landlocked but does have two major lakes, the Badovc and Gaziroda. There are no navigable rivers in Kosovo. Major rivers of Kosovo are the Beli Drim River, Sitnica River, and Morova River. The Beli Drin is in western Kosovo and drains to the Adriatic Sea. The Sitnica River is in the Fushe Kosove (Kosovo Polje) and flows north. The Morova River also flows north and empties into the Danube; the Morova River provides drainage to eastern Kosovo.

The four river basins are the White Drin, Lepenc, Binicka Morava, and the Ibar. The Ibar is the only river that does not begin in Kosovo; its source is 30 kilometers upstream from the border. The Ibar also serves as a de facto demarcation between the Serbian and ethnic Albanian population. The White Drin empties into the Adriatic Sea through Albania. The Ibar and the Binicka Morava empty into the Black Sea by way of the Danube River in Serbia. The Lepenc flows to the Aegean Sea through the Vardar River in Macedonia.

## ***Topography***

Kosovo has seven geographic regions: Mokra Gora; Goljak Hills; Crna Gora; Sar Planina Mountains; Northern Albanian Alps; Central Hills; and the Lowlands.

- *Mokra Gora* is a mountain range separating Kosovo from Montenegro. The elevation varies from more than 2,500 meters in the southwest to 1,000 meters in the eastern end of the range. The Mokra Gora is divided by the Sitnica River. The narrow valley has steep, wooded slopes and exhibits *karst* topography (sink holes, caves, and disappearing rivers).
- *Goljak Hills* is a heavily wooded and hilly area in the eastern portion of Kosovo. The hills have an average elevation of 1,000 meters, with the highest at 1,375 meters. The slopes are moderate at 10 to 30 percent. Heavy forestation is in the area.



## Topography

- *Crna Gora* is in the southeast corner of Kosovo. This range's elevation is 650 meters on the eastern end and rises to 1,650 on the western end. There are moderate to steep slopes.
- *Sar Planina Mountains* are in the southern area of the province. The elevation varies from an average of 2,500 meters to 2,650 meters. This ridge has *karst* topography with steep, wooded lower slopes and bare, rocky upper slopes.



- *Northern Albanian Alps* form the southwest border with Albania. Near the border, mountains have an elevation of about 1,000 meters that increase to more than 3,000 meters inside Albania. They have steep, wooded slopes with few improved roads.
- *Central Hills* are near the center of Kosovo. The area is heavily wooded with an elevation ranging from 500 to 1,000 meters.
- *Lowlands* encircle the Central Hills with relatively flat, well-drained farmland.

## ***Vegetation***

Roughly 39 percent of Kosovo is forested primarily with deciduous trees and shrubs, which are typically leafless from mid-October through April. During this time, trees provide little concealment from aerial observation.

There is poor forest management. Illegal woodcutting threatens most forested areas. Fifty-two percent of the land is agricultural production. River and stream levels are high from early March through late May, and low water levels are from early August through late October.

## ***Urban Geography***

Fifty-eight percent of the population live in rural areas; 42 percent live in urban areas. The largest city is Prishtine (Pristina), the cap-



**Gjakove**



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## **Pristine**

ital with an estimated population of 564,345. Other major cities are Prizren, Mitrovica (Mitrovica), Peje (Pec), Ferizaj (Urosevac), Gjakove (Dakovica), Gjilan (Gnjilane), and Podujeve (Podujevo).

## **Cross-country Movement**

Off-road movement in the mountains and hills is assessed as restricted; however, the Central Hills have numerous loose-surface roads and trails that may provide some mobility. The lowlands are assessed as unrestricted; however, irrigation and drainage ditches may pose problems for wheeled vehicles.

Although landmine removal has been conducted, landmines and unexploded ordnance remain in outlying areas.

Road conditions can be dangerous. Many are poorly maintained and damaged by war. Mountain roads can be particularly hazardous as they are narrow, poorly marked, and lack guardrails.



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## Peja

### ***Environment***

There is no waste water treatment in Kosovo. Less than 30 percent of homes are connected to a sewer system. Waste water is disposed in open channels, which contaminates surface and ground water. Upstream rivers tend to be of good quality, but downstream some of the main rivers are so heavily polluted that they cannot be used for water supply or irrigation. There is a high incidence of water-borne diseases.

Air pollution is only monitored by the Institute for Scientific Research and Development (INKOS), an institute within the Kosovo Energy Company (KEK). Most electrical production is from two coal/lignite-fired plants. People living near and work-

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## **Polluted River**

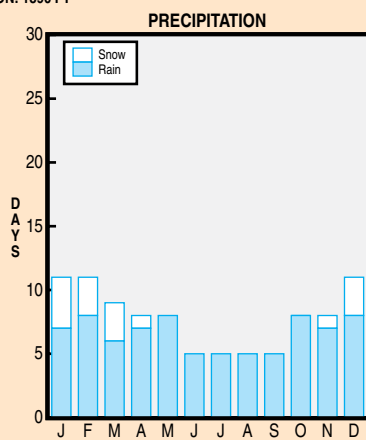
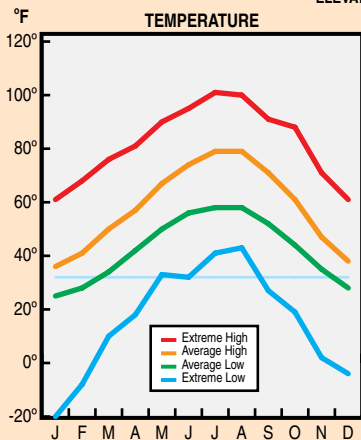
ing at the power plants have significant respiratory problems. The population also relies on wood and coal stoves for heating and cooking. Air quality is better than in the past because some industries have closed.

There is significant lead contamination near the mines and the lead smelter in Zvecan and Mitrovica (Mitrovica) municipalities. Lead is in the air, soil, and water. KFOR soldiers serving near the smelter have experienced increased blood-lead levels.

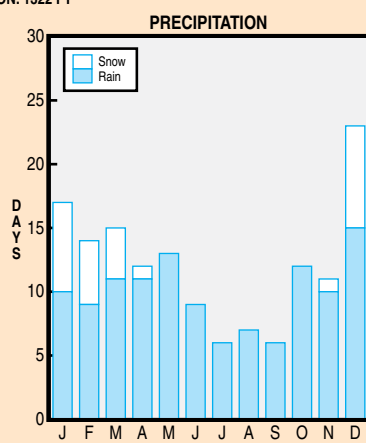
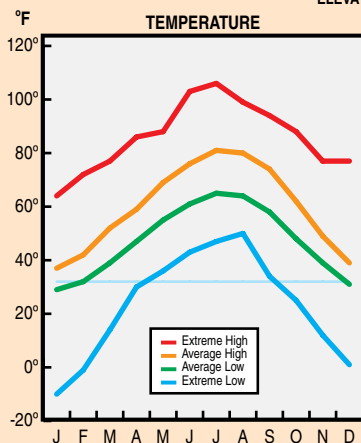
## **Climate**

Kosovo is influenced by continental air masses resulting in relatively cold winters with heavy snowfall and hot, dry summers and autumns; Mediterranean and alpine influences create regional variation; maximum rainfall between October and December

**PRISHTINE**  
ELEVATION: 1890 FT



**PRIZREN**  
ELEVATION: 1322 FT



**Prishtine and Prizren Weather**

Temperature extremes range from -20°C in the winter to 35°C in summer. January and August are the coldest and warmest months, respectively.

### ***Precipitation***

Precipitation is greatest from October to December. Fog is common in December and January, particularly in valleys. Most precipitation falls as snow from December to March. At elevations higher than 2,000 meters, snowfall may occur any time of the year. At elevations lower than 1,500 meters, from December through March, soils are usually wet, soft, and slippery. Soils may freeze for brief periods of 1 to 2 weeks in January or February.

### ***Phenomenon***

The region is subject to earthquakes.

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## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

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### **Transportation**

#### ***Roads***

Roads total 1,925 kilometers, with 1, 576 kilometers paved. Most roads have been repaired from the bombings in 1999. However, neglect and harsh winter conditions contribute to disrepair. Roads are narrow, crowded, and used by variety of vehicles from armored personnel carriers to horse-drawn wagons. Mountain roads can be narrow, poorly marked, and lack guardrails.

Road conditions quickly deteriorate in inclement weather. Roads in the mountainous areas are characterized by steep grades up to 20 percent, with hairpin turns and numerous bridges and tunnels.

Most secondary roads are made of crushed stone or gravel. Many vehicles are old and do not have standard front and rear lights.

Part of the European Highway System, two major highways run from Serbia south to the Macedonia border. Highway 1 (E75) runs north to south through the Morava River Valley connecting Nis (in Serbia) with Skopje (in Macedonia). Highway 2 (E65) proceeds northwest to southwest through the Fushe Kosove (Kosovo Polje) to Skopje. These highways are all-weather, hard surface roads that are six to eight meters wide.

The primary east-west route is Highway 9, which runs from Peje (Pec), through Prishtine (Pristina) to Nis. It is an all-weather, hard surface road five to seven meters wide.

## ***Rail***

The rails are standard gauge (1.435 meter) with a track total of 430 kilometers. The Italian Railway Regiment managed, directed, and organized the railway from 1999-2001. The regiment kept the trains running on the Skopje -Deneral Jankovic route. At that time, Kosovars were not allowed to operate the train across the border. Diesel engines were donated by Norway in 2001. The main line is electric and parallels Highway 75 running from Nis to Skopje. The diesel lines run from Nis to Prishtine (Pristina), then south to Skopje, and from Prishtine west to Peje (Pec) and Prizren. Rail development is severely restricted by mountainous terrain; all current rails are confined to the stream/river valleys and plains.

## ***Air***

Prishtine, the only international airport in Kosovo, won the Best Airport 2006 award from the Airports Council International. The



## Transportation Network

airport services 18 commercial airlines covering 21 destinations, to include London, Vienna, Istanbul, Zurich, and Stockholm.

## Primary Airfields

Airfield	Coordinates	Runway l x w m (feet)	Runway Surface	Condition	Aircraft Capacity
<i>Gjakove</i>	4226'6.63N/ 2025'38.70E	1,800 x 30 (5,904 x 98)	Asphalt	Good	C130 CH 47 class



<b>Airfield</b>	<b>Coordinates</b>	<b>Runway l x w m (feet)</b>	<b>Runway Surface</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Aircraft Capacity</b>
<i>Donja Koretica East</i>	4236'18.83N/ 2054'39.84E	445 x 18 (1,460 x 60)	Graded dirt runway	Fair	Used exclu- sively for helicopters
<i>Gjilan</i>	4227'42.36N/ 2126'42.33E	466 x 18 (1,530 x 60)	Asphalt	Poor	
<i>Krusevo</i>	4238'23.65N/ 2030'9.62E	469 x 20 (1,540 x 65)	Concrete	Est. poor	
<i>Prishtine Intl.</i>	4234'22.00N/ 210'9.00E	2,489 x 45 8,165 x 148	Asphalt	Good	
<i>Prishtine West Heliport</i>	4234'39.44N/ 210'45.62E	98 x 63 320 x 206	Asphalt	Good	Military helicopters

## ***Maritime***

Kosovo is landlocked, and there are no navigable rivers.

## **Communication**

In June 1999, Kosovo's restrictions on the media were lifted. To ensure high journalistic ideals, the media was monitored by a Temporary Media Commission put in place by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The commission set a code of conduct for journalists and worked to prevent incitement of hatred in the media. In 2005, a self-regulating Press Council in Kosovo made up of members of the print media replaced the Media Commission. Electronic media also is transitioning from control by OSCE to self regulation under the Independent Media Commission.

## ***Radio and Television***

There are numerous radio stations in Kosovo. The UN sponsors a station called Blue Sky Radio that offers impartial news servic-

es. The public-owned station is Kosovo Radio-Television (RTK). There are many private radio stations. Broadcasts are in Albanian, Roma, Bosniak, and Gorani.

Television networks include the following: Kosovo Radio-Television (public); TV 21 (private); KohaVision (private); RTS2; Palma Plus TV; and TV Mir.

### ***Telecommunication***

Twenty-four percent use mobile cellular telephones in Kosovo; less than six percent have land lines. Post and Telecommunications of Kosovo (PTK) is the provider for fixed landlines. Vala900 is the mobile telephone provider. A second mobile telephone license was granted to the Telekom Slovenija and IPKO Net Consortium. Phone networks operating in Kosovo without a license include Mobtel from Serbia. Mobtel provides coverage throughout most of Kosovo.

### ***Internet***

DardaNet is a public internet service provider (ISP) that is under the Department of Information and Communications Technology. It is the first ISP in Kosovo to use landlines. Satellite networks were made available to the public during 2000 to help war refugees locate family members. These centers have closed. There are internet cafes located in Prishtine (Pristina).

### ***Newspapers and Magazines***

There are many daily and weekly newspapers. The *Koha Ditre* and *Zeri* are Albanian language dailies with large circulations. The *Epoka e Re* is a youth-oriented paper. *Kosova Sot* and *Prishtine Express* are additional Albanian dailies.

## ***Postal Service***

Postal service is provided throughout Kosovo. Kosovo produces its own stamps that are internationally recognized. Services available at the post office include: Western Union; faxes; Swiss Lotto; pay phone cards; and stamps.

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## **CULTURE**

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### **Population Patterns**

Fifty percent of the population is younger than 25 years old. The birth rate for ethnic Albanians is twice the birth rate of Serbians. The family size in Kosovo has been stable for the last 50 years. The average family size was 6.4 in 1948, 6.9 in 1981, and 6.4 in 2001. Kosovo families are the largest households in Europe.

### **Ethnic Groups**

In Kosovo there are ethnic Albanian, Serb, Muslim Slavs (Bosniaks-Muslim Serbs and Goranis); Roma (Ashkali and Egyptians); and Turks.

### ***Ethnic Albanians***

Ethnic Albanians make up 90 percent of the population of Kosovo. Most ethnic Albanians are Muslim. Ethnic Albanians consider themselves descendants of the ancient Illyrians who lived in the western Balkans in 1200 B.C. Linguistic and archeological evidence supports these claims. There is no written record prior to A.D. 1555. Ethnic Albanians speak the Gheg dialect of Albanian.

### ***Serbs***

Serbs make up six percent of the population. Serbs migrated to the area in the early 600s and are descended from the Slavs. Most



## Population

Serbs are Serbian Orthodox Christian. A large proportion of Serbs in Kosovo are concentrated in the northern municipalities, while the remaining Serb population lives in enclaves throughout the country. Serbs make up most of the population in the following municipalities: Zubin Potok, Zvečan, and Leposavić in the north; Novo Brdo (Novo Brdo) in the east; and Stripçe in the south. The city of Mitrovicë (Mitrovica) is divided by the Ibar River, which also separates Serbs and ethnic Albanians. The bridge that unites



## Serb Concentrations

each side of Mitrovicë (Mitrovica) has been the scene of inter-ethnic violence, such as in the March 2004 eruption over the death of several children who drowned in the Ibar River.

## Muslim Slavs

Goranis and Bosniaks make up two percent of the population. They are believed to be descendants of Orthodox Christian Slavs, who converted to Islam under the Ottoman Empire. They do not

speak Albanian and rarely attempt to learn Albanian. Gorani is a mixture of Macedonian, Turkish, Bosnian, and Serbian. They refer to their language as Nasinkski (our language). Until 1947 all Gorani surnames ended in “ic.” Then the Yugoslav government forced the Goranis to remove the last two letters of surnames in order to make their names more similar to Albanian ones.

Goranis live primarily in the Dragash municipality and are a recognized minority in Kosovo. This distinction provides them with representation in Kosovo’s institutions. They have one seat in Kosovo’s Parliament and two seats in the local assembly.

Bosniaks are also indigenous to Kosovo, and they speak Bosnian, which has minor differences from Serbian in grammar and writing. Serbian and Bosnian are mutually intelligible. There are courses in higher education offered in Bosnian at Peje (Pec) and Prizen.

## ***Roma***

Roma (Gypsies) in Kosovo are made up of three groups with different linguistic and religious traditions. The groups are Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians (RAE). They are descendants of itinerants from northern India. Historical evidence suggests that the RAE migrated to the Balkans in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The RAE comprises 1.5 percent of the population. RAE are treated as second-class citizens by Serbs and ethnic Albanians. RAE consistently have been undercounted in census polls because ethnic Albanians and the Serbs want RAE counted to increase their own groups. Serbs and ethnic Albanians refer to the RAE by offensive names.

- The Roma are not connected to Rome or Romania; most are no longer itinerant. The Roma are Serb-speaking and live in Serb enclaves throughout Kosovo. They have also retained the

Romani language and are able to speak to Roma from other countries. The Roma are usually Christian.

- Ashkali speak Albanian, usually inhabit Albanian areas, and typically are Muslim. It is believed that the Ashkali may have arrived in the Balkans via Palestine, as their name is similar to the city of Ashkelon. The Ashkali identify with the ethnic Albanian community.
- Egyptians may have traveled through Egypt to the Balkans. Others believe that some Ashkali self-classified by calling themselves Egyptian as the word “gypsy” is a corruption of the word “Egyptian.” There is no evidence to support either case. Regardless, the Albanian community considers them to be Ashkali.

## ***Turks***

Turks comprise one percent of the population and continue to try and distance themselves from the conflict between Serbs and ethnic Albanians.



**Kosovar Children**

## Family

Nearly everyone expects to marry and have children. The family is highly valued, yet divorce and remarriage are common. Children are cared for by the extended family, usually grandparents. Childcare facilities are not common.

### *Roles of Men and Women*

Kosovo is a patriarchal society — despite predictions otherwise at the beginning of communist Yugoslavia, at the collapse of Yugoslavia, and again during the wait for independence of Kosovo. Meanwhile, the structure of the family in Kosovo has had little change. The patriarchal mentality remains.

Among Albanians, a bride's price is paid to the bride's family, and she has no dowry. Serbian brides often have a dowry of cash or home furnishings; the groom's family typically pays most wedding expenses. A bride moves in with the groom's family. Multifamily



**Kosovar Man and Woman**



households are the norm. Since 1981, conservatism has been growing with more arranged marriages and restrictions on women's movements. The women's unemployment rate is at 60 percent; for men it is 33 percent. Albanians adhere to family honor, hospitality, and a patriarchal order as the means to success in relationships.

## Education and Literacy

There was a total of 422,746 primary and secondary students attending 1,091 schools in the 2004-2005 school year. The University of Prishtine (Pristina) is in Kosovo and offers 57 different fields of study. Postgraduates can choose from about 30 fields. Ten private universities also are in Prishtine (Pristina). Another university with instruction in Serbian is available in northern Mitrovice (Mitrovica). The literacy rate for 15- to 34-year-olds is greater than 98 percent. The rate for the age group 55 to 64 is lower, with 75 percent for women and 95 percent for men. Younger groups do not have a significant discrepancy between the literacy rates of men and women.



**Typical Classroom**

## Language

The official language is Albanian; however Serbian, Bosnian, Turkish, Roma, and Gorani are also spoken. Albanian is an Indo-European language and the only living representative of its group. Its main dialects are Gheg, spoken mostly in Kosovo and the northern part of Albania, and Tosk, spoken in the southern part of Albania. The dialects differ slightly in vocabulary and pronunciation. This linguistic division corresponds to anthropological differences. Ghegs and Tosks differ markedly in outlook and social behavior, with the Ghegs having better preserved national characteristics. Like other mountain dwellers in the Balkans, the Ghegs are fiercely independent and resist any external authority.



**Albanian Child**

Some ethnic Albanians may speak Serbian, but generally Serbs do not speak Albanian. Serbian and Bosnian are mutually intelligible; however, Serbian is usually written with the Cyrillic alphabet and Bosnian with the Latin alphabet. Serbians are Serbian Orthodox, and Bosnians are usually Muslim.

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## Religion

Islam, Serbian Orthodox, and Roman Catholicism are the major religions in Kosovo. Most Albanians are Muslims, however

about three percent are Roman Catholic. Most Serbs are Serbian Orthodox. Protestants are less than one percent of the population, but there are 36 Protestant churches in Kosovo. There are approximately 40 persons of Jewish heritage in Kosovo. (They are from the same two families.) Estimates on the number of atheists or those who do not practice a religion are unreliable.



**Main Mosque in Prizren**

Islam was introduced in the area by the Ottoman Empire in 1389. The Ottomans did not attack churches or force conversions to Islam; however, churches and Christians were taxed at a much higher rate than Muslims. This increased taxation and the Janissary (warrior) Movement encouraged conversions to Islam. The Janissary Movement required families send a young son to the empire. He would receive an education, convert to Islam, and train as a warrior. If the young man did well, he would be rewarded with land, usually in the town or area where his family lived.

Ethnic Albanians have had a relaxed approach to Islam. They tend to identify themselves more through their common language than their religion. Most Islamic Albanians know little about their faith because practice was restricted under Communist rule. They tend to be nominal Muslims. Practicing Muslims have been of the Betashis or Sunni sect. The spiritual head is the Grand Mufti, Rexhep Boja. Since 1999, Wahhabis from Saudi Arabia have built 98 schools in rural areas, 24 mosques, and 14 orphanages in Kosovo.

Some critics say that Arab non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attempt to impose literalist (Wahhabi) interpretations of Islamic tradition through their charitable works.

Some Muslims in Kosovo participate in Christmas activities. The Ottoman Empire's attitude was that local traditions that did not imperil the validity of Islam were tolerated. This attitude is still prevalent in Kosovo. Wishing people a Merry Christmas is a common practice, as are Christmas decorations.

Christianity has a long history in the region. Kosovo is known as Kosovo-Metohija to Serbians. *Metohija* translates to land owned and governed by monasteries, or simply church owned. *Metohija* refers to the southern area of Kosovo. There are churches and

monasteries in this area that predate the Ottoman invasion. Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Christians are present in Kosovo. There is a small ethnic Albanian Roman Catholic population.

Most Serbians in Kosovo are Eastern Orthodox. Bosniaks are Serbs who are Muslims. Their spoken language is the same.

## Recreation

The Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports comprises 19 sports federations: athletics, table tennis, kick boxing, skiing, chess, handball, wrestling, swimming, cycling, basketball, tennis, shooting, karate, boxing volleyball, football, judo, bodybuilding, and auto sport. The 2007 national sports budget exceeded 1.5 million.

The Athletic Federation and the Department of Sports sponsors an international half marathon annually. The event, billed as a “Run for Peace and Tolerance,” began in 2001 and was the first international athletic event to occur after the conflict. It has grown into a yearly spring event attracting international participants and sponsors.

Music in Kosovo is similar to that of most modern societies, with a mix of classical, rock, hip hop, jazz, and local folk groups. There are many clubs in Prishtine (Pristina) that feature live music.

Ethnic Albanians and Serbians enjoy playing the same traditional stringed instrument; however, each has a unique name for the instrument. Albanians call it a *lahuta* and believe



**Albanian Lahuta**

the instrument is from the ancient Illyrians; Serbs call it a *gusle*. It is a one-stringed instrument that is played with a horse-hair bow. Although it is difficult to master, the instrument is popular with the countries many bards, who use it to accompany storytelling and epic poems, mostly in rural areas.

The Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the American Refugee Committee converted an old cinema in Kamenice into a center housing an internet café, disco, sports gym, billiards, games, and other recreational activities.

## Customs and Courtesies

Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo are culturally similar to those from Albania. Serbs in Kosovo are similar to those from in Serbia. There is little intermarriage between Albanians and Serbians.

### **Albanian**

#### **Greetings**

Albanians use handshakes for greetings and good-byes. If one shakes hands outside someone's home, the host and hostess will repeat the procedure inside because guests are traditionally greeted inside the home. Typical greetings include *Si jeni?* (How are you?), *Si keni kaluar?* (How are you doing?), *C'kemi?* (What's up?), or *Njatjeta* (Hello). Friends may also greet by saying *Miremenjes* (Good morning). When parting, they say *Mir u pafshim* (Good-bye), *Do te shihemi* (See you later), *Shendat!* (Stay healthy!) or *Gjithe te mirat* (All the best). Northern male villagers greet by lifting the cap and saying *Tungjat jeta* (Have a long life). Albanians should be addressed with *Zoti* (Mr.) or *Zonja* (Mrs.). Only close friends address each other with by first name.

## Gestures

Opposite to U.S. nonverbals, in Kosovo a shake of the head from left to right means “yes,” and a nod means “no.” Sometimes in negation, the Albanians simultaneously rock their heads, click their tongues, and wag their forefingers. Placing the left hand over the chest and moving the head slightly shows appreciation. A “thumbs up” gesture is impolite, meaning “You’ll get nothing from me.” Albanians will smile or nod when passing strangers on the street. Showing both hands with open fingers and palms up means “Our conversation is over.”

## Etiquette and Courtesies

Albanians consider hospitality a hallmark. Unplanned visits are common. Guests are greeted with *Mire se vini* or *Mire se erdhet* (Welcome). Guests bring gifts for special occasions or birthdays, but not if they are invited for a meal or just visiting.

Breakfast is similar to that in the United States. Lunch is the main meal; dinner is smaller than an American dinner. Albanian food includes typical Balkan specialties such as *fergese tirane* (a hot fried dish of meat, liver, eggs, and tomatoes) and *tavile kosi* or *tavile elbanasi* (a mutton and yogurt dish).

Tippling is appreciated by service personnel. If one is invited to stay in a private home that is not a formal bed-and-breakfast with set charges, give an appropriate sum to the woman of the house when leaving.

In addition to abiding laws of the Qur’an, another code closely guides lives of ethnic Albanians. The book, called the Code of *Leke Dukagjini*, or the *Kanun*, developed in the 15<sup>th</sup> century to regulate all areas of ordinary life. The *Kanun*, centuries after it was developed, is still important to ethnic Albanians. In some cas-

es, the *Kanun* is even more closely adhered to than the Qur'an. In Kosovo, whose ambiguous legal status (particularly in the north) makes it difficult to establish national rule of law, the *Kanun* can serve as a guide to settle disputes and regulate daily exchanges. The *Kanun* calls for violent disputes to be settled blood for blood, which can affect generations.

## **Dress**

Shoes always must be removed when entering a mosque.

Dress is informal. Women are expected to dress modestly. Urban professional men wear business suits and ties. Urban women wear dresses and skirts more than pants. Western tops and colorful blouses are also popular. The youth enjoy jeans, T-shirts, and sneakers. Clothing is neat and clean; Albanians consider cleanliness a personal duty.

## **Serbian**

### **Greetings**

Upon initial meetings, people shake hands and say their last name followed by *Drago mi je* (I am pleased). When seeing someone known, the greetings *Zdravo* (Hello) or *Dobar dan* (Good day) are spoken in tandem with a handshake or kiss. When greeting someone older, the younger person must rise.

To greet women, men always rise. With the exception of close friends or family, first names are not used. Adults are addressed by their professional titles or by *Gospodin* (Mr.) or *Gospodja* (Mrs.).

### **Gestures**

In conversations, eye contact is important but hand gestures are rarely used. It is considered rude to point with the index finger as





## Serb Man in Kosovo

well as yawn, stretch, or crack one's knuckles. Eye contact is particularly important when raising glasses in a toast.

## Etiquette

Social visits are one of the favorite activities of Serbians. These are spent talking and drinking coffee or alcohol, and are usually informal and unannounced. If visiting for the first time, a guest should bring a small gift such as chocolate, coffee, wine, or flowers. If bringing flowers, ensure there is an odd number in the bouquet because even numbers are used at funerals.

The first meal of the day is *dorucak*, usually eaten around 1000. The main meal of the day, *rucak*, served around 1600, is usually

quite large with more than one course. In the evening, dinner consists of a light snack.

Hosts will urge guests to eat more, and guests will decline several times before accepting. Guests are expected to finish all food on their plates.

### **Dress**

People take care to look well dressed and groomed. Western-style clothing is popular. Older urban men wear hats. Many women dye their hair; gray hair is seldom seen. In rural areas, some older people still wear traditional clothing of wide pants, vest, and leather shoes with upturned toes for men; long skirts and cotton blouses for women.

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## **MEDICAL ASSESSMENT**

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### **Disease Risks to Deployed Personnel**

The National Center for Medical Intelligence (NCMI) assesses Kosovo as INTERMEDIATE RISK for infectious diseases, with an overall disease risk that will adversely impact mission effectiveness unless force health protection measures are implemented.

Risk of infectious disease varies greatly depending on location, individual exposures, and other factors. More detailed information is available at <http://www.ncmi.detrick.army.mil>.

### ***Food- and Waterborne Diseases***

Sanitation varies with location but is well below U.S. standards, particularly outside major urban areas. Diarrheal diseases can be expected to temporarily incapacitate a high percentage of personnel within days if local food, water, or ice is consumed. Hepatitis A can cause prolonged illness in a smaller percentage of unvaccinated personnel.

## ***Vector-borne Diseases***

During warmer months, typically March through October, ecological conditions in rural areas support populations of arthropod vectors, including mosquitoes, ticks, and sand flies, with variable rates of disease transmission. Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever and tick-borne encephalitis are the major vector-borne risks in Kosovo; each has the potential to cause serious illness, and sometimes death in a small percentage of personnel.

## ***Aerosolized Dust or Soil-contact Diseases***

Rare cases of hantavirus hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome could occur among personnel exposed to dust or aerosols in rodent-infected areas. Clusters of cases could occur in groups exposed to areas with a very heavy rodent infestation.

## ***Sexually Transmitted Diseases***

Gonorrhea, chlamydia, and other infections are common and may affect a high percentage of personnel who have unprotected sexual contact with local prostitutes. HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B also occur. Although the immediate impact of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B on an operation is limited, the long-term health impact on individuals is substantial.

## ***Water-contact Diseases***

Bodies of surface water are likely to be contaminated with human and animal waste. Activities such as wading or swimming may result in exposure to enteric diseases such as diarrhea and hepatitis via incidental ingestion of water and leptospirosis through skin and mucous membranes. Prolonged water contact also may lead to the development of a variety of potentially debilitating skin conditions such as bacterial or fungal dermatitis.

## ***Animal-contact Diseases***

Rabies risk is assessed as roughly comparable to that in the United States; however, personnel bitten by potentially infected animals may develop rabies in the absence of appropriate prophylaxis. Rare cases of Q fever could occur among personnel exposed to aerosols from infected animals, with clusters of cases possible in some situations. Significant outbreaks can occur in personnel with heavy exposure to barnyards or other areas where animals are kept. Unpasteurized milk also may transmit infection.

## **Medical Capabilities**

Health care in Kosovo is poorly organized and far below Western standards. The health care system depends heavily on international assistance provided through United Nations agencies, direct government assistance from donor countries, and the large number of nongovernmental organizations providing health-related services in Kosovo.

Health care funding is complicated and erratic. Most funding goes to the University Hospital in Prishtine (Pristina); regional hospitals do not receive adequate resources. Hospitals in Serb-dominated areas receive supplements to their budgets from the Belgrade government, but the supplements are not adequate.

No effective national health care insurance system exists. Basing a health insurance system on wages and employment is difficult because of the high unemployment rate.

The training and capabilities of Kosovo's medical personnel are below Western standards. Certification of many Albanian physicians is difficult to verify.

Ethnic tensions inhibit improvements in health care. Hospitals and clinics in areas dominated by ethnic Albanians are staffed solely by ethnic Albanians; those in ethnic Serb communities are staffed by ethnic Serbs. Patients often are transferred to hospitals matching their ethnicity.

Kosovo has no effective emergency response capabilities and will be nearly totally dependent on foreign assistance in the event of a major natural or industrial catastrophe or a serious widespread epidemic. Although the Ministry of Health asserts there is a province-wide plan to deal with avian influenza outbreaks, in reality Kosovo has no effective capability to respond to an avian influenza pandemic in the human population.

Albanian and Serbian are the official languages; however, most medical workers in Albanian areas speak only Albanian, and most of those in Serb areas speak only Serbian. Most medical personnel do not speak English.

There is no pharmaceutical industry in Kosovo, and the country depends on humanitarian aid and imports for pharmaceutical and medical supplies. Some imported pharmaceuticals and medical supplies do not meet Western standards. Numerous unregistered pharmaceuticals are sold outside drugstores. The blood supply in Kosovo does not meet Western European or U.S. standards.

NCMI recommends seeking care at only the medical facilities at Camp Bondsteel.

### ***Primary Medical Facilities***

Medical treatment facilities vary widely in capabilities, from fair to extremely poor by Western standards. Standards of cleanliness are poor, and buildings frequently are old and in poor condition.

Hospital organization and layout frequently make efficient patient treatment difficult.

Modernization and refurbishment programs at most hospitals appear to be slowly improving this situation, but many hospitals require major structural modifications and changes in organization. Much of the renovation work is sponsored by international donors and often is not part of a unified provincial health care plan or policy.

### **Gjilan (Gnjilane) Regional Hospital**

*Coordinates* 422730N/02127-9E

*City* Gjilan (Gnjilane)

*Telephone* 44158397

*Type* Public, 400 beds

*Capabilities* Cardiology, dermatology, internal medicine, neurology, pediatrics, pulmonary, general surgery, OB/GYN, ophthalmology, orthopedics, ear-nose-throat (ENT), urology, X-ray, ultrasound.

*Comments* Renovations completed in 2006; staff has worked closely with medical personnel from Camp Bondsteel in the past. Helipad.

### **Gjakove (Dakovica) Hospital**

*Coordinates* 422209N/0202547E

*City* Gjakove (Dakovica)

*Telephone* 390-20021

*Type* Public, 400 beds

*Capabilities* Cardiology, dermatology, gastroenterology, general medicine, infectious diseases, nephrology, neurology, pulmonary, general surgery, OB/GYN,

**Capabilities** ophthalmology, orthopedics, thoracic surgery, (cont.) urology, X-ray, ultrasound.

**Comments** Renovations in 2005 funded by Italy and Norway.

### **Malisheve Family Medical Center**

**Coordinates** 422843N/0204418E

**City** Malisheve

**Type** Public, no beds

**Capabilities** Family and internal medicine; general surgery

**Comments** Serious cases referred to hospitals in Peje or Prizren.

### **Pristine EUROMED General Hospital**

**Coordinates** 423823000/N0210608000E

**City** Pristine

**Phone** 381 38 534 072

**Type** Private

**Capabilities** Cardiology, internal medicine, surgery, orthopedics, urology, trauma, gynecology, pediatrics  
Equipment: CT scanner, ultrasound, x-ray

**Comments** First licensed private hospital in Kosovo. Likely approaches Western European care standards and is used by U.S. personnel in Pristine.

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## **HISTORY**

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Kosovo Albanians claim to be descendants of Illyrian tribes who inhabited Kosovo and surrounding regions in pre-Roman and Roman times. In the 7<sup>th</sup> century, Kosovo was incorporated into the larger Slavic Serbian territory, and it was administered by Slavs as part of their occupation of the Balkans. By the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the Slavic tribes developed into three distinct groups: Roman Catholic Croats; Slovenians; and Eastern Orthodox Serbs. Throughout

the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Byzantine, and Roman leaders fought over Kosovo. From the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, Serb territory was independent, and Kosovo was established as the Serbian cultural and religious center. The Serbian royal court was established in Kosovo, and the region developed strong diplomatic and economic ties with Europe.

In 1389, the Turks conquered Serbian territories in the Battle of Kosovo, and incorporated them into the larger Ottoman Empire. For the next 70 years, while the Turks were preoccupied with the Mongol threat, Serbia remained predominantly independent until it finally fell to the Ottomans. In 1690 and 1738, waves of Serbs fled Kosovo and other areas because of brutal Turkish suppression, and ethnic Albanians began trickling into the area. In 1878, the Treaty of Berlin granted Serbs final independence, but not before Turks successfully had encouraged Albanians to settle in Kosovo, increasing region's Muslim population. Albania gained independence in 1913, the same year Serbia obtained Kosovo. However, it was not until 1926 that the Albanian-Yugoslav border was agreed upon, separating half a million Albanians in Kosovo and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from their perceived homeland.

Following World War I, Serbia united with Vojvodina, Montenegro, and former Slav subjects of the Habsburgs (Austria-Hungary). Serbia was the dominant partner in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. In 1929 the name Yugoslavia was adopted. Yugoslavia means land of the southern Slavs. The kingdom was ruled by Alexander I.

By World War II, tens of thousands of Serbs migrated out of Kosovo and were replaced by Albanians, who moved north into the province and established themselves as the predominant ethnic group. During World War II, Yugoslavia was divided by Axis powers and





## **Kosovo Museum, Prishtine**

their allies. Kosovo became part of an Italian-controlled Albania. By 1944, Yugoslavia was liberated. Josip Tito, the commander of the Partisans, became the prime minister of the new socialist federation of Yugoslavia. There were six republics in the federation — Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Macedonia, and Montenegro. Each was given separate and equal republican status. Kosovo and Vojvodina were given autonomous province status. In 1963, Kosovo was granted autonomous status within the Serbian republic. Further violence in 1968 gained Kosovo rights similar to a republic, but failed to appease Albanian nationalists.

In 1974, the Yugoslav Constitution removed Kosovo from direct Serbian political dominance, establishing it as an autonomous federal republic. Shifting demographic trends, coupled with a high

Kosovo Albanian birth rate, favorably affected ethnic Albanians in the province and was used as leverage against the Serbs. In 1977, the Serbs tried to bring Kosovo back under their authority by removing the status as an independent republic. Tito prevented this constitutional change from taking place.

During the late 1970s, Serbia transformed from an agrarian to an industrial society. In the 1980s Yugoslavia's economy began to fail. Following Tito's death in 1980, Kosovo erupted in a large and violent protest brought on by high unemployment and economic hardship. This protest provided Serbs the opportunity to gain more authority over the region. By 1989, the region of Kosovo had lost its status as an autonomous federal republic, and many of the ethnic Albanians in office were forced to resign and remove themselves from the Communist party.

The year 1989 was also when Slobodan Milosevic rose to power, which coincided with an increase of nationalism. On the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Kosovo, Milosevic gave a rousing speech at the battlefield in which he promised Kosovo Serbs his protection and full support. In 1990 Milosevic led the fight for a new constitution that granted him greater powers and abolished Kosovo's autonomous status as well as the autonomous status of Vojvodina. This pleased the minority Serbs in Kosovo, but enraged many ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. Milosevic's centrist policies created fear of Serb domination in the other federations.

Between 1991 and 1992, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, and Macedonia declared independence from Yugoslavia. Slovenia was the first to secede with 88 percent of Slovenia's voters voting for independence in a referendum. On 25 June 1991, the Republic of Slovenia declared independence. After a nearly bloodless 10-day war, Yugoslav forces withdrew. The remaining republics of Serbia

and Montenegro declared a new Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) in April 1992.

The independence of Croatia and Bosnia was met with civil war and resulted in bloodshed and lengthy battles. Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina both have Serb minorities that were urged by Slobodan Milosevic to join a “Greater Serbia.” Serbia led military campaigns to unite ethnic Serbs. Yugoslavia was ousted from the UN, but Serbia was undeterred in its unsuccessful campaign.

Over the next three years Bosnia-Herzegovina experienced large-scale genocide. More than 200,000 died in the ethnic cleansing, and approximately one million refugees left the country. The conflict was originally viewed as a civil war. However, with Bosnia having two tanks and two armored personnel carriers (APCs), while Serbia had 300 tanks, 200 APCs, 800 artillery pieces, and 40 aircraft; it was eventually termed genocide. The UN stepped in with troops to preserve the peace. The war ended with the U.S.-sponsored Dayton Accords in 1995. The Dayton Accords provided for the separate state of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Yugoslavia was no more, and the new union of Serbia and Montenegro was founded.

In September 1991 a clandestine referendum was held by Albanians declaring Kosovo’s independence. Kosovo Albanians formed a shadow government and elected Ibrahim Rugova president of the self-proclaimed republic. Rugova believed in passive resistance as the road to independence, modeled after Ghandi in India.

Even though Rugova called for independence through peaceful means, the creation of a more militant group, the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), occurred in 1996. The KLA used small arms and low-tech bombs to attack police stations and Serb civilians. Its aim was the radicalization of the Albanian population to win secession of Kosovo from the Republic of Serbia.

In 1995 and 1996 there were attacks against the Serbian Police and civil targets in Kosovo. These attacks were attributed to the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in 1996. Serbia's government initially doubted the existence of the KLA; however, it was soon evident that the KLA existed. Serbia denounced the KLA as a terrorist organization, which boosted its credibility with ethnic Albanians. The KLA operated with small arms. Serbs counted their numbers in the hundreds while the KLA announced they numbered in the 10,000 to 50,000 range.

In February 1998, Milosevic ordered Interior Ministry forces (MUP) into Kosovo to crack down on the KLA. In September 1998, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1199, with which Milosevic agreed to comply. The resolution called for a cease-fire in Kosovo, the cessation of all hostilities and actions affecting and repressing civilians, and a War Crimes Tribunal to bring to justice security force members involved in the mistreatment of civilians and the destruction of property. Beginning in the fall of 1998, a group of 2,000 international monitors under the Organization for the Security and Cooperation of Europe (OSCE), dispatched to Kosovo to monitor compliance.

In 1998, the ethnic Albanian insurgency provoked a Serbian counterinsurgency campaign that resulted in massacres and massive expulsions of ethnic Albanians living in Kosovo by FRY forces and Serb paramilitaries. By March of 1999 there was full-scale war. The Milosevic government's rejection of a proposed international settlement (the Rambouillet Agreement) led to NATO's bombing of Serbia in the spring of 1999 (24 March to 11 June) and to the eventual withdrawal of Serbian military and police forces from Kosovo in June 1999. UNSC Resolution 1244 in June 1999 authorized the stationing of a NATO-led force (KFOR) in Kosovo to provide a safe and secure environment for the region's ethnic

communities, created a UN Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to foster self-governing institutions, and reserved the issue of Kosovo's final status for an unspecified date in the future.

On 2 February 2007, UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari delivered a draft status settlement proposal to leaders in Belgrade and Prishtine (Pristina). The proposal covered a wide range of issues related to Kosovo's future. The settlement would allow Kosovo to become a member of international agreements, though independence was not specifically mentioned. Serbia and Russia delayed implementation of the settlement by insisting on another round of negotiation with a troika of the EU, United States, and Russia. The group was committed to a 120-day period of negotiations, but the troika ended with no agreement on Kosovo.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia 17 February 2008. The declaration was recognized by the United States as well as more than 24 nations by mid-March of 2008. Serbia still has not recognized the independence of Kosovo. Serbia even has included a provision affirming Serb authority over Kosovo in its constitution. Most of the Balkan peninsula has recognized the independence of Kosovo.

## **Chronology of Key Events**

*12th Century* Kosovo at the center of the Serbian Empire, under Nemanjic dynasty.

*1389* Epic Battle of Kosovo- results in 500 years of Turkish Ottoman Rule. Many Christian Serbs leave the region in the coming years and the religious and ethnic balance tips toward Muslims and Albanians.

*1689-90* Austrian invasion repelled.

- 1912** Balkan Wars-Serbia regains control of Kosovo from the Turks by Treaty of London.
- 1918** Collapse of the Ottoman Empire.
- 1941** World War II- Axis forces partition Yugoslavia; Kosovo becomes part of an Italian-controlled Albania.
- 1946** Kosovo is absorbed into the Yugoslav federation.
- 1960s** Kosovo elevated to autonomous province.
- 1974** Yugoslav constitution recognizes the autonomous status of Kosovo, province attains a de facto self-government.
- 1981** Student protests and rioting call for Republic of Kosovo; troops and police quell the riots.
- 1989** Slobodan Milosevic, Yugoslav president, strips Kosovo of right to autonomy.
- 1990** July: Ethnic Albanian leaders declare independence from Serbia. Belgrade dissolves Kosovo government. September: more than 100,000 ethnic Albanian workers are fired, including government employees and media workers.
- 1992** Ethnic Albanians elect poet Ibrahim Rugova president of self-proclaimed republic.
- 1993-97** Ethnic tension and armed unrest grows.
- 1998** Open conflict between Serb police and Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Serb Forces launch brutal crackdown.
- 1999** More than 40 bodies are discovered in village of Racak result in international community condemning civilian massacre. An additional 11,000 deaths are reported in Kosovo; International peace proposal is rejected by Belgrade. In March, NATO launches air strikes against former Republic of Yugoslavia. In June, FRY troops withdraw from Kosovo; air strikes are called off; UN passes Resolution 1244, KFOR and UNMIK deploy to Kosovo.

- 2000** Slobodan Milosevic is removed from power in Belgrade.
- 2001** UNMIK opens border check points with Serbia.
- 2002** Ibrahim Rugova is elected president by Kosovar Parliament. Bajram Rexhepi is elected prime minister.
- 2003** UN sets conditions for final status in 2005. Sporadic ethnic violence continues.
- 2004** 19 people die in ethnic violence sparked by drowning of 3 Albanian children near Mitrovica (Mitrovica). 500 Serb homes are destroyed, as well as 42 Orthodox sites. 4,000 Serbs are displaced. Ibrahim Rugova is re-elected president. Former rebel commander, Ramush Haradinaj is elected prime minister.
- 2005** Haradinaj, indicted on war crimes, resigns as prime minister. He is succeeded by Bajram Kosumi. First Prishtine-Belgrade meeting is held since 2003.
- 2006** President Rugova dies. Fatmir Sejdiu elected president. Kosumi is dismissed and is succeeded by Agim Ceku.
- 2007** UN envoy Ahtisaari presents final status proposals.
- 2007** Troika established to convene 120-day negotiation on the future status of Kosovo.
- 17 Feb 2008** Kosovo declares independence from Serbia. Independence is recognized by the United States and 24 other countries by mid-March.
- 15 June 2008** Constitution of Kosovo enters into force.
- 20 June 2008** European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) affirmed by the UN Security Council under the European Security and Defense Policy

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## **GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

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### **Government**

Provisional Institutions of Self Government (PISG), created in 2001, include the Kosovo Assembly, the president of Kosovo, the government, and the courts. The PISG was designed by UNMIK to assist in the transition to an independent democratic system. The Kosovo constitution provides for proportional representation for minorities and women. Women are guaranteed 28 percent of the seats in the national assembly. Every third person on party lists of candidates must be a woman.

### ***National Level***

#### **Executive Branch**

Fatmir Sejdiu was elected president by the Assembly following the death of President Ibrahim Rugova in January 2006. The president is responsible for external relations. The president has the power to dissolve the Assembly and is expected to report to the Assembly on the state of affairs in Kosovo at least once a year. The president nominates the prime minister. The prime minister-elect submits a proposed list of ministers to the Assembly. The Assembly then confirms the prime minister-elect and the cabinet. Hashim Thaci was elected prime minister January 2008.

#### **Legislative Branch**

The Kosovo Assembly has 120 seats with 3-year terms. Twenty seats are reserved for ethnic minorities; Serbs have 10 seats, Turks – 2, Bosniaks – 3, RAE- 4, and Gorani – 1. The Serbs have an extremely low voter turnout. There is tremendous pressure from Belgrade not to participate. In the 2004 elections, the



10 seats reserved for Serbs were filled accordingly: eight seats by the Serbian List for Kosovo Metohija with only 0.20 percent of the vote; the remaining two seats by the Citizen's Initiative of Serbia with 0.05 percent of the vote (369 votes).

## **Judicial Branch**

The courts include a Supreme Court of Kosovo, district courts, municipal courts, and courts of minor offenses. There are 311 local judges and 88 local prosecutors. The new Provisional Criminal Code and Provisional Criminal Procedure Code of Kosovo went into effect April 2004.

## ***Local Level***

### **Key Government Officials**

<i>President</i>	Fatmir Sejdiu
<i>Prime Minister</i>	Hashim Thaci
<i>Deputy Prime Minister</i>	Hajredin Kuci
<i>Deputy Prime Minister</i>	Ram Manaj
<i>Minister of Foreign Affairs</i>	Skender Hyseni
<i>Minister of Security Forces</i>	Fehmi Muhota
<i>Minister of Transportation and Communication</i>	Fatmir Limaj

There are 30 municipal districts with 30 elected municipal assemblies and mandated multi-ethnic representation. Each district is known by both Albanian and Serbian names; the Albanian titles are most commonly used.



## Administrative Districts

### District Names

Albanian	Serbian	Albanian	Serbian
<i>Decan</i>	Decani	<i>Rahovec</i>	Orahovac
<i>Gjakove</i>	Dakovica	<i>Peje</i>	Pec
<i>Gilgovic</i>	Glogovac	<i>Podujeve</i>	Podujevo
<i>Gjilan</i>	Gnjilane	<i>Prishtine</i>	Pristina
<i>Dragash</i>	Dragac	<i>Prizren</i>	Prizreni

<b>Albanian</b>	<b>Serbian</b>	<b>Albanian</b>	<b>Serbian</b>
<i>Istog</i>	Istok	<i>Skenderaj</i>	Srbica
<i>Kacnik</i>	Kacanik	<i>Shtime</i>	Stimije
<i>Kline</i>	Klina	<i>Shterpce</i>	Strpce
<i>Fushe Kosove</i>	Kosovo Polje	<i>Suhareke</i>	Suva Reka
<i>Kamenice</i>	Kamenica	<i>Ferizaj</i>	Uroseva
<i>Mitrovica</i>	Mitrovica	<i>Viti</i>	Vitina
<i>Leposavic</i>	Leposaviq	<i>Vushtrri</i>	Vucitrn
<i>Lipjan</i>	Lipljan	<i>Zubin Potok</i>	Zubin Potok
<i>Novoberde</i>	Novo Brdo	<i>Zvecan</i>	Zvecan
<i>Obliq</i>	Obilic	<i>Malisheve</i>	Malisevo

## Politics

### *Political Parties*

The three major parties are the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK), and the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK). The LDK was prominent before the 1998-99 war. Its leader, Ibrahim Rugova, urged passive resistance and gained respect from the outside world. The party lost popularity with the rise of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) resistance. However, the LDK received 45 percent of the vote in 2004. The PDK was founded by Hashim Thaci. He was the political head of the KLA. The AAK was founded by Ramush Haradinaj. In December of 2004, Haradinaj was named prime minister. In March 2005, he was indicted on war crimes; he resigned as prime minister and urged calm. His trial began 5 March 2007. President Sejdiu is a member of LDK; Prime Minister Hasim Thaci is a member of PDK.

## ***Foreign Relations***

### **Serbia**

The government of Serbia (GOS) has rejected Kosovo's independence. Shortly before the Kosovar declaration of independence, Serbia wrote into its constitution a provision that declared Kosovo to be an "integral part" of Serbia. The GOS does not recognize the government of Kosovo, nor the European Union's Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). The GOS is appealing to the United Nations to allow Serbia to maintain the police, the courts, judiciary, and customs in the Serbian enclaves of Kosovo. In its appeal the GOS never officially speaks of partition because to do so would forfeit its sovereignty of Kosovo. Serbia continues to hold significant authority over the Serbian enclaves — particularly in the northern region — through political positions, as well as administrative and economic capacities. Serbia also undermines Kosovar authority by holding municipal elections in Serb enclaves. Relations between Serbia and Kosovo have come a long way since wars of the 1990s; however, the balancing act keeping peace between Serbs and Kosovar Albanians is delicate.

### **United States**

The United States recognized Kosovo as an independent state within a few days following Kosovo's declaration and soon established an embassy in Prishtine (Pristina). The U.S. Department of State recognizes several areas in which the U.S. supports Kosovo (with a budget of US\$52.6 million in 2008). These include advancing rule of law and basic security for all citizens; monitoring conflicts and encouraging reconciliation; and providing technical assistance for policing and border security. The U.S.-led NATO air campaign in March 1999 to end the ethnic cleansing of Kosovar Albanians resulted in a large influx of Albanian refugees returning

to Kosovo and a significant departure of Serbs. While the campaign was successful in ending the ethnic cleansing, the aftermath brought numerous questions regarding the status of Kosovo. These remain unresolved despite Kosovo's declaration of independence. The U.S. contributes about 1,500 troops to NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the EULEX missions. For financial support, the U.S. pledged US\$400 million in 2008-2009. Kosovo benefits from duty-free exports to the EU and the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) countries, as well as the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences for trade assistance.

## **European Union**

Kosovo remains significantly dependent on the European Union for economic, social, political, and legal support. Twenty-two European Union Member States support Kosovar independence. However, the lack of cohesion and staunch opposition to independence by countries such as Spain has muffled EU-Kosovo relations. The situation is further complicated because Serbia refuses to acknowledge EULEX or the Kosovar government. The EU is committed to stability in the Balkans and continues to financially support socio-economic development, with a promise to contribute 800 million. The EU is Kosovo's largest trading partner, with exports and imports of goods and services making up 11 percent and 52 percent, respectively, of the gross domestic product (GDP). Foreign direct investments from the EU made up 10 percent of Kosovo's GDP in 2007. Under EULEX—the largest civilian mission (3,000 personnel) ever deployed under the auspices of the European Security and Defense Policy—"monitors, mentors, and advises" police, justice, and customs in Kosovo. EULEX, with a budget of 205 million, supports development in these areas while ensuring just application to the multiethnic society of Kosovo.

## ***Negotiation Process***

The negotiation process regarding Kosovo's status has been taking place since 1999. Under UN Security Council Resolution 1244, the UNSC gained authorization to establish an international military and civilian presence in Kosovo. The UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) works with Kosovo on establishing democratic institutions, rule of law, minority rights, financial institutions, property rights, and conducting affairs with Serbia.

Negotiation teams between Kosovo and Serbia continue, but little progress has been made as neither is willing to make concessions. The Ahtisaari Plan (written by Martti Ahtisaari, the UN representative leading the talks between Kosovo and Serbia) implicitly suggests Kosovar independence as the best way to establish peace and agreement. The UNSC failed to agree on a resolution regarding Kosovo's final status, and talks continue led by the United States, EU, and Russia.

## ***International Organizations***

Kosovo is a member of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). Because Kosovo has not been recognized by the United Nations as an independent state, participation in international organizations remains legally difficult.

## ***Outlook***

Kosovo's economy has been crippled under UNMIK rule. Because of the lack of available monies to a non-state, Kosovo has been dependent on foreign donations. The EU has been the largest multi-lateral donor and has contributed more than 35 percent of the total aid during 1999-2004. The United States remains the highest bilat-

eral donor with investments totaling more than 13.5 percent of the total aid amount. Kosovo will continue to struggle politically and economically, as well as in gaining its legitimacy internationally. Because Russia will not recognize the independence of Kosovo and has a seat on the UN Security Council, it will likely be a long time before the UN officially can grant Kosovo independent status.

The global financial downturn beginning in September 2008 hinders development efforts in Kosovo as donor countries are distracted with domestic financial crises. Inter-ethnic relations will continue to be volatile..

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## **ECONOMY**

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### **Economic Statistics**

<i>GDP</i>	US\$5 billion (2007 estimates)
<i>GDP Growth</i>	5.1%
<i>GDP Per Capita</i>	US\$2,300
<i>Inflation Rate</i>	5.3%
<i>Debt</i>	NA
<i>Unemployment</i>	40%
<i>Imports</i>	US\$2.6 billion; includes foodstuffs, wood, petroleum, chemicals, machinery and electrical equipment
<i>Exports</i>	US\$527 million; includes mining and processed metal products
<i>Labor Force</i>	550,000; 16.5% in agriculture

### **Resources**

The World Bank has set up special trust accounts for Kosovo because Kosovo is not a member. More than US\$54 million in

grants have been allocated to Kosovo from the World Bank. The Kosovo economy has relied on remittances from migrant workers for years. The average yearly remittance is US\$500 million. There are between 400,000 and 700,000 diaspora. Natural resources are coal, lead, zinc, chromium, bauxite, ferronickel, lignite, and silver.

Over the past few years Kosovo's economy has shown significant progress in transitioning to a market-based system and maintaining macroeconomic stability, but it is still highly dependent on the international community and the diaspora for financial and technical assistance.

## ***Industry***

There is an abundance of mineral deposits with three open pit mines in operation. Minerals and metals — including lignite, lead, zinc, nickel, chrome, aluminum, magnesium, and a wide variety of construction materials — once formed the backbone of industry, but output has declined because of aging equipment and insufficient investment.

## ***Agriculture***

Agriculture is responsible for 18 percent of exports. Agricultural products are tobacco, wheat, maize, sugar beets, sunflower, beef, pork and dairy products.

## ***Utilities***

The Kosovo Energy Company (KEK) is publicly owned. Electricity, produced by two lignite-fired power plants, is provided throughout Kosovo. There is no natural gas market. Many residents and businesses have not paid electric bills since UNMIK administration. The outstanding debt to KEK is more than €40 million. KEK loses 10 million monthly due to unpaid bills and technical issues.





## Industry

Many places do not have meters, which makes bill paying difficult. In an effort to force people to pay their utility bills, a measure was passed requiring a receipt of payment to apply for a business license or to register a vehicle.

## Foreign Investment

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Kosovo remains minimal due to Kosovo's ambiguous status as a state. Because Serbia has not

recognized Kosovo and undermines Prishtine's (Pristina's) authority in the Serb enclaves, rule of law and regulations for businesses remain uncertain. The U.S. Agency of International Development (USAID) lists Kosovo's underdeveloped legal system, poor infrastructure (including energy and water infrastructure), dysfunctional property market, little stable regional trade relations, limited domestic private investment, and the unfavorable credit and financial environment as the main deterrents to FDI. The EU and U.S. continue to encourage FDI, but the 2008 global financial downturn have made immediate prospects dim.

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## **THREAT**

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### **Crime**

The crime rate has been on the decline in Kosovo. There were 291 murders in 2000 and 61 murders in 2006.

However, drug and human trafficking are prevalent throughout the Balkans. Kosovo is a source, transit, and destination location for trafficking of women and children for the purpose of commercial sex exploitation. Foreign victims originate from Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Albania, Russia, Montenegro, Slovakia, and Nigeria. There has been an increase in the number of Kosovars trafficked internally, and victims also come from other areas of Serbia. UNMIK and KPS have actively pursued and prosecuted the traffickers. This has shifted most of the commercial sex trade out of bars and restaurants into private homes and escort services to avoid detection. There is an active anti-trafficking campaign with telephone hotlines available for victims.

Shadowy radical groups emerged among Kosovo Albanians and Serbs in Kosovo since 1999. Such groups make demands of the

international community or the Kosovo government, but largely lack any kind of popular support. While these groups may commit some crimes, they are even more damaging by increasing inter-ethnic tensions. These groups include the Albanian National Army, the Kosovo Independence Army, and the Bridge Watchers. They have been quiet in recent years, except for the Albanian National Army bombing a railroad line in December 2006.

## **Travel Security**

The security environment in Kosovo has improved in recent years with the presence of KFOR, UNMIK, and EULEX, but remains volatile due to continued inter-ethnic tensions. Travelers should avoid all protests and demonstrations, as even peaceful ones have turned violent. Unemployment is high, and the economic situation is increasingly dire. Street crimes such as theft are serious concerns in Kosovo, particularly in cities. Foreigners, foreigners' homes, vehicles, and non-governmental organization offices have been robbed.

## **Terrorism**

The terrorist threat in Kosovo is assessed as MODERATE. Terrorists who are anti-U.S. are present, but there is no indication of anti-U.S. activity. The porous border does create a favorable operational environment for transnational terror groups. However, the presence of the international community has increased the regional security in the province. The greatest identified threat to U.S. personnel is inadvertent or collateral injury stemming from inter-ethnic violence.

## **Corruption**

Corruption is a significant problem throughout the Balkans, and Kosovo is no exception. Socio-economic conditions and post-conflict consequences contribute to corruption. Public opin-

ion perceives corruption as one of the biggest problems facing Kosovo; however, the perception of corruption maybe larger than the actual problem. Every delay or postponement is thought of as a result of corruption.

There are risks for corruption such as low salaries, lack of administrative controls, inherited problems from the Communist past, and motives to make fast money. However, Kosovo has been proactive in answering charges of corruption by establishing in July 2006 the Anti-corruption Agency. An independent body, the agency promotes social involvement and public awareness to aid in achieving transparency in government.

## **Drug Trafficking**

Many routes used for smuggling weapons into Kosovo are now transiting heroin, cocaine, and cigarettes.

## **Major Intelligence Services**

Kosovo has no intelligence services.

## **Threat to U.S. Personnel**

U.S. personnel should abide by travel security measures, avoiding demonstrations or areas of previous inter-ethnic fighting (such as the bridge in Mitrovice (Mitrovica)). U.S. personnel should be vigilant against drug trafficking and theft.

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## **ARMED FORCES**

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Kosovo has no armed forces but has been protected by the Kosovo International Security Forces (KFOR) under UN guidelines of Resolution 1244. KFOR operates under NATO direction and will remain in Kosovo through its transition to self-government.

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Kosovo is divided into five Multi-National Battle Groups (MNBG) (brigade equivalent); each responsible for a single area of responsibility, yet all are under a single chain of command. Headquarters KFOR is located in Prishtine (Pristina), MNBG-Central.

<b>Areas</b>	<b>Number of Personnel</b>
<i>MNBG-Central</i>	1,169
<i>MNBG-East</i>	2,120
<i>MNBG-South</i>	2,680
<i>MNBG-West</i>	1,859
<i>MNBG-North</i>	1,685
<i>HQ KFOR</i>	1,200

There are 10,713 troops in Kosovo under command of KFOR as of 1 February 2010. There are 24 NATO countries and 10 non-NATO countries providing troops to KFOR.

## **Land Forces**

### ***Kosovo Protection Corps***

The Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) was designed as a transitional post-conflict arrangement. Changing circumstances within Kosovo require the creation of a new security force that will be trained according to NATO standards and placed under the civilian-led, democratic control of the Kosovo government.

Specific KPC functions such as explosive ordnance and civil protection were transferred to the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) upon its formation in January 2009, in coordination with the Ministry of the KSF. Dissolution of the KPC occurred in tandem with creation of the KSF ensuring the continued availability of key capabilities, including de-mining, fire-fighting, and other emergency response

tasks. The KPC did not transform into the KSF. The dissolution of the KPC and the stand-up of the KSF were separate tasks; the KSF is a completely new force. Members of the KSF were recruited from all Kosovo communities through a formal selection process developed jointly by NATO and Kosovo authorities. KPC members did not automatically transfer into the KSF. KPC members had to apply for membership in the KSF in order to be recruited, and were subject to the same recruitment criteria as other applicants. Only upon selection according to established uniform criteria were KPC members allowed to transition to the KSF. Those entitled personnel who did not join KSF received a pension, the amount of which was determined and paid by Kosovo authorities. Depending on circumstances, eligible individuals were also eligible for severance packages, resettlement program counseling, and assistance finding new occupations.

## ***Kosovo Security Force***

The KSF is not an army, but a new security force that is controlled by civilian authorities. The KSF is a multi-ethnic, politically neutral, professional, and all-volunteer force that is staffed with a maximum of 2,500 active personnel and an additional 800 reservists. It has two official languages: Albanian and Serbian. The KSF is lightly armed and is not equipped with heavy weapons such as tanks and heavy artillery, or have an offensive air capability.

### **Mission**

Initial tasks of the KSF include security tasks, such as emergency response, explosive ordnance disposal, and civil protection. The KSF may also participate in peace support operations. During the initial period, the International Military Presence (IMP) will supervise, monitor, and exert executive authority over the KSF. The KSF will fulfill security functions not appropriate for police or

other law enforcement organizations. The IMP, in coordination with the International Civilian Representative, will decide when to authorize the KSF to engage in these new security functions.

## **Organization**

Initially, the KSF will consist of a Land Forces Command, a Rapid Reaction Brigade, an Operations Support Brigade, and a Training and Doctrine Command. Selected uniformed members of the KSF will be required to serve periods of duty in the integrated Ministry for the KSF, which has a mixture of civilian and KSF personnel. The KSF's emergency response component is composed of search and rescue, de-mining, hazardous materials, fire fighting, and other humanitarian assistance capabilities.

## **Civilian Oversight**

Laws of KSF and the Ministry for the KSF state that Kosovo authorities will exercise transparent, democratic, and civilian control of the KSF and be answerable to the Kosovo Assembly. Day-to-day responsibility for the KSF is exercised by the minister for the KSF through the civilian-led Ministry for the KSF. The minister for the KSF is appointed by the prime minister, subject to the approval of the Kosovo Assembly. The president of Kosovo is the supreme commander of the KSF.

## **Personnel**

The KSF is a professional and multi-ethnic force. Members of the KSF have been recruited from across Kosovo through a formal selection process developed jointly by Kosovo and the IMP. All Kosovo citizens over the age of 18 are eligible to apply for membership of the KSF. Selection is based on medical and physical fitness, merit, the needs and priorities of the KSF, and successful completion of the approved vetting procedure. This enrollment is

confirmed following completion of the necessary basic training. The recruiting process and selection procedure for the KSF have been jointly developed by KFOR and the authorities in Kosovo. Recruitment began in July 2008. Key leaders and the most senior members of the KSF (full colonels and above) began training in November 2008, while basic training for most of the new recruits started in January 2009. The NATO objective of achieving initial operating capability of the KSF was met on 15 September 2009.

### **Conscription**

The KSF is a purely professional service and will not have conscription.

### **Rank Structure**

The KSF officer rank structure is composed of nine ranks in ascending order: second lieutenant, lieutenant, captain, major, lieutenant colonel, colonel, brigadier general, major general, and lieutenant general. The KSF enlisted rank structure is composed of six ranks in ascending order: private, corporal, sergeant, staff sergeant, sergeant major, and sergeant major class 1.

### **Training**

NATO is providing training for the KSF

### **Equipment**

The KSF has no heavy weapons.

### **Air Force**

Kosovo has no air force.

### **Coastal Defense**

Kosovo has no coastal defense force.



## Paramilitary Forces

Paramilitary forces of the 1990s, mostly Serb, left Kosovo following the 1999 NATO operation.

## National Police

The Kosovo Police Service (KPS) was established under UNMIK. The KPS has been trained by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The OSCE's mission was to train the KPS to international rights standards and to introduce basic community-based police standards.

### *Mission*

The motto of the KPS is “To keep Kosovo safe and secure for all members of the community.” The KPS does this by maintaining



**Traffic Police**

public order, investigating crimes, controlling traffic, and providing police service without prejudice, favoritism, or discrimination.

## ***Organization***

The KPS has been under UNMIK administration since 1999, but UNMIK has transferred many policing powers to the Kosovo government. The police commissioner is a UNMIK position. He is aided by a deputy commissioner (a Kosovar). There are four assistants to the deputy — administration, operations, border, and crimes. The seven KPS departments are Administrative Services, Supporting Services, Training, Public Peace and Order, Specialized Units, Crime, and Border Police.

## ***Personnel***

There are 7,203 KPS officers.

## ***Training***

KPS training takes place at Vushtrri (Vucitrn) at the former police academy of Yugoslavia. It is a 20-week course. Curriculum includes code of police conduct; use of applicable laws; crime investigation, evidence-gathering, and interview techniques; defense tactics, use of firearms; police skills; traffic control; and democratic policing that focuses on loyalty to a democratic legal order. Training is followed by a two-year probationary period and continues throughout regular service with advanced and refresher courses. Promotion to higher ranks is based on competitive exams.

## ***Capabilities***

KPS performs basic policing capabilities under EULEX and KFOR, including criminal investigation, evidence collection, in-

terview methods, democratic policing, use of firearms, forensics, evidence analysis, and traffic control.

### ***Disposition***

The KPS is in major municipalities such as Mitrovice (Mitrovica) North and South [12 personnel]; Prishtine (Pristina) [41]; Zubin Potok [2]; Srbica (Skenderaj) [5]; Leposavic [2]; Zecan [2]; and Vushtrri (Vucitrn) [7]. Main headquarters are in Prishtine.

### ***Uniforms***

The uniform consists of a light blue shirt, navy blue trousers, navy blue jacket with white reflective stripes, a blue cap, and insignia.

### ***Weapons of Mass Destruction***

Kosovo has no weapons of mass destruction.



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## APPENDIX A: HOLIDAYS

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<i>7 January</i>	Orthodox Christmas
<i>17 February</i>	Independence Day
<i>Spring (Date Varies)</i>	Easter
<i>9 April</i>	Kosovo Constitution Day
<i>1-2 May</i>	Labor Days
<i>6 May</i>	St. George's Day
<i>28 June</i>	St. Vitus' Day
<i>Date Varies (Sept 2010)</i>	Eid al-Fitr
<i>23 October</i>	Darka e Lames (Thanksgiving)
<i>Date Varies (16-17 Nov 2010)</i>	Eid al-Adha
<i>28 November</i>	Flag Day
<i>25 December</i>	Christmas

*NOTE: Muslim Holiday dates vary. The Islamic calendar is lunar-based.*



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## APPENDIX B: LANGUAGE

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<b>English</b>	<b>Albanian</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>
<i>Pleased to meet you</i>	Gëzohem	jezOHem
<i>Hello</i>	Përshëndetje	pehrshunDEHTyeh
<i>Good-bye</i>	Mirupafshim	meerooPAHfsheem
<i>My name is...</i>	Emri im është...	emREE eem YESHteh
<i>How are you?</i>	Si jeni?	see YAYnee?
<i>I am from...</i>	Jam nga...	jahm nGAH...
<i>Please</i>	Ju lutem	yoo LOOtehm
<i>Thank you</i>	Ju falemnderit	yoo FAHlehmnDEHree
<i>Excuse Me</i>	Me falni	muh FAHlnee
<i>I am looking for...</i>	Po kërkuj...	poh KURkoy
<i>I don't understand</i>	S'kuptoj	ss'KOOptoy
<i>Yes</i>	Po	poh
<i>No</i>	Jo	yoh
<i>Cheers!</i>	Gëzuar!	juhZWahr!
<i>Good Day</i>	Mirëdita	meerDEEtah
<i>Good morning</i>	Mirëmengjesi	meermuhnJEHzee
<i>Good night</i>	Natën e mire	NAHtuhn eh meer
<i>What time is it?</i>	Sa është ora?	sah YESHte orah?
<i>Yesterday</i>	Dje	dYEH
<i>Today</i>	Sot	soht
<i>Tomorrow</i>	Nesër	NEHsuh
<i>How much/many?</i>	Sa?	sah?
<i>Where is...?</i>	Ku është?	KOO yesht?
<i>What/which</i>	I cili	ee SEElee
<i>How</i>	Si	see
<i>When</i>	Kur	koor
<i>Why</i>	Pse	pSEH

<b>English</b>	<b>Albanian</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>
<i>Who</i>	Kush	koosh
<i>I don't understand</i>	Nuk ju kuptoni	Nook yoo koopTOY
<i>Please repeat</i>	Edhe nje here lutem	juEHtheh nyuh hehr, yoo LOOtehm
<i>Sunday</i>	E dielë	eh DEEehl
<i>Monday</i>	E hënë	eh HUHN
<i>Tuesday</i>	E martë	eh MAHRT
<i>Wednesday</i>	E merkurë	eh murhrkOOR
<i>Thursday</i>	E enjtë	eh EHnyteh
<i>Friday</i>	E premtë	eh prEHMteh
<i>Saturday</i>	E shtunë	eh SHTOOn
<i>One</i>	Një	nyuh
<i>Two</i>	Dy	duu
<i>Three</i>	Tre	treh
<i>Four</i>	Katër	KAHtuhr
<i>Five</i>	Pesë	pehs
<i>Six</i>	Gjashtë	JAHsht
<i>Seven</i>	Shtatë	shTAHt
<i>Eight</i>	Tetë	TEHtuh
<i>Nine</i>	Nëntë	Nunt
<i>Ten</i>	Dhjetë	dyEHT
<i>Eleven</i>	Njembdhjetë	nyumbthyEHT
<i>Twelve...etc</i>	Dymbedhjetë...etc	doombthyEHT...etc.
<i>Twenty</i>	Njëzet	nyehzEHT
<i>Thirty</i>	Tridhjetë	treethyEHT
<i>Forty</i>	Dzyet	duuzEHT
<i>Fifty</i>	Pesëdhjetë	pehsthyEHT
<i>100</i>	Njëqind	nyuhchEEND
<i>1000</i>	Njëmijë	nyuhMEEY



<b>English</b>	<b>Albanian</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>
<i>Please bring me (a)...</i>	Me sillni një	meh SEELnee nyuh
<i>Fork</i>	Pirun	peerOON
<i>Knife</i>	Thikë	thEEK
<i>Spoon</i>	Lugë	loog
<i>Bread</i>	Bukë	boohk
<i>Butter</i>	Gjalpë	jahlp
<i>Beer</i>	Birrë	beerr
<i>Cheese</i>	Djathë	dYAHth
<i>Coffee (espresso)</i>	Kafe	KAHfeh
<i>Meat</i>	Mish	meesh
<i>Fish</i>	Peshk	peshk
<i>Chicken</i>	Pulë	pool
<i>Fruit</i>	Frutë	froot
<i>Potatoes</i>	Patate	pahTAHteh
<i>Rice</i>	Oriz	ohREEZ
<i>Milk</i>	Qumësht	CHOOmust
<i>Water</i>	Uji	OOy
<i>Tea</i>	Caj	chay
<i>Wine</i>	Verë	vehr
<i>Oil</i>	Vaj	vay
<i>Soup</i>	Supë	soop
<i>Airfield</i>	Aerodrom	aerodrOHM
<i>Road</i>	Rrugë	roog
<i>East</i>	Lindje	loondYEH
<i>West</i>	Perëndim	pehruhndEEM
<i>North</i>	Veri	vYEHree
<i>South</i>	Jug	yoog
<i>Doctor</i>	Doktor	DOHktor
<i>Medic</i>	Sanitar	SahneeTAR

<b>English</b>	<b>Albanian</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>
<i>Nurse</i>	Nfermiere	eenfehrmeeYEHR
<i>Where is the Doctor?</i>	Ku është mjekukoo doktor?	uhst mEHkoo DOHktor
<i>I am going to help you</i>	Do të ju ndihmoj?	doh tuh yoo ndeehmOY
<i>Can you walk?</i>	A mund të ecni?	ah moond tuh EHtsnee
<i>Can you stand?</i>	Të qendoni këmbë?	netuh chuhndrOHnee nuh kuhmb
<i>Do you need help?</i>	A mund të ndihmojmë?	juah moond tuh yoo ndeehmOYm?
<i>Where?</i>	Ku?	Koo?
<i>Where is the latrine?</i>	Ku është nevojtorja?	Koo uhst nehvoytohrYAH?
<i>Ammunition</i>	Municion	mooneetseeOHN
<i>Artillery</i>	Artileri	ahrteelEHree
<i>Base</i>	Bazë	bahz
<i>Barracks</i>	Kazerme	kahzERM
<i>Camp</i>	Kamp	kahmp
<i>Explosive</i>	Eksplisiv	ehksplohzEEV
<i>Grenade</i>	Granate	grahnAHT
<i>Knife</i>	Thikë	theek
<i>Rocket</i>	Hedhese raketash	HEHthseh rahkEHTahsh
<i>Mine</i>	Minë	meen
<i>Mortar</i>	Mortajë	mohrtAY
<i>Minefield</i>	Fushte e minuar	foosh eh meenOOahr
<i>Jeep</i>	Xhips	Jeeps
<i>Missile</i>	Raketë	rahkyEHT
<i>Pistol</i>	Revolver	rehvohlvEHR
<i>Rifle</i>	Pushkë	POOshk
<i>Tank</i>	Tank	tahnk

<b>English</b>	<b>Albanian</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>
<i>Armored Personnel Carrier</i>	Autoblinde	ahootohbIEENd
<i>Commander</i>	Komandant	kohmahnDAHnt
<i>Enemy</i>	Armik	ahrnEEK
<i>Friend</i>	Mik	meek
<i>Officer</i>	Oficer	ohfeetsEHR
<i>Soldier</i>	Ushtar	ooshTAR
<i>Guard</i>	Rojë	roy
<i>Pilot</i>	Pilot	peelOHT
<i>Do you speak...?</i>	A flitni...?	ah fIEETnee...?
<i>Anyone speak...?</i>	Kush flet ketu...?	Koosh fleht kuhTOO?
<i>I don't speak...?</i>	Nuk flas...?	Nook fLAHs?
<i>Albanian</i>	Shqip	shchEEp
<i>Serbian</i>	Serbisht	sehrbEEsht
<i>English</i>	Anglisht	ahngLEEsht
<i>Italian</i>	Italisht	eetahIEEsht
<i>Russian</i>	Rusisht	roosEEsht
<i>What is your job?</i>	Cfarë pune beni?	Chfahr ppOOneh buhnEE?
<i>What is your name?</i>	Si ju quajnë?	See yoo chooAYN?
<i>Where are you from?</i>	Nga jeni ju?	Ngah YEHnee yoo?



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## APPENDIX C: DANGEROUS PLANTS AND ANIMALS

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### Snakes

#### *Sand or Horned Viper*

##### **Description**

Adult length usually 0.6 to 0.7 meter, maximum of 0.9 meter. Background color usually ash gray in males and gray brown or brick-red in females, but much variation. Belly yellow, brownish or pinkish with small dark spots or blotches. Body stout, usually with prominent black or brown zigzag dorsal stripe. Tip of tail pink or red. Distinctive snout, with strongly upturned, horn-like appendage.



##### **Habitat**

Found in various habitats from lower plains to elevations up to 2,500 meters, most often at moderately high elevations in dry terrain with scattered bushes. Seeks gravelly rock hills with slopes facing the sun. Frequently found in open areas with few trees and bushes or in rock formations near cultivated fields.

##### **Activity and behavioral patterns**

Primarily terrestrial, although occasionally climbs into bushes. Most active in the evening, except in colder weather. Generally sluggish and slow-moving. Not very aggressive. When annoyed, hisses loudly but usually does not bite unless disturbance continues, then will strike and bite quickly.

## **Venom's effects**

Extremely potent hemotoxin. Symptoms may include progressive swelling, lymphedema, shortness of breath, marked limb stiffness, nausea, local hemorrhage, and internal bleeding. Fatalities recorded. Fangs unusually long, may be up to 12 millimeters.

## ***European Viper, Common Adder***

### **Description**

Adult length usually 0.5 to 0.6 meter; maximum of 0.9 meter. Stout snake with slightly flattened body. Background color varies by geographic location. Dorsal color varies



from gray to copper to brown or uniformly black with dark, heavy zig-zag strip pattern on back. Belly gray, gray brown, or black; sometimes marked with white spots. Tip of tail yellow, orange, or reddish orange. Snout broadly rounded but not clearly upturned as in some other European vipers. May have X-shaped or inverted V-shaped mark on its head.

### **Habitat**

Found in rocky or bushy hillsides, open fields, woods, shady areas, moors, swamps, marshes, and bogs. In northern parts of range, found mainly at sea level; may be found up to 2,700 meters in lakes and rivers. Can tolerate coldest environment of any viper species.

### **Activity and behavioral patterns**

Active during the day in colder months; largely nocturnal during warmer months. Generally not vicious or aggressive. Tends to freeze when danger is present; however, easily alarmed and bites

if threatened or stepped on. Usually lives in colonies near suitable hibernation sites.

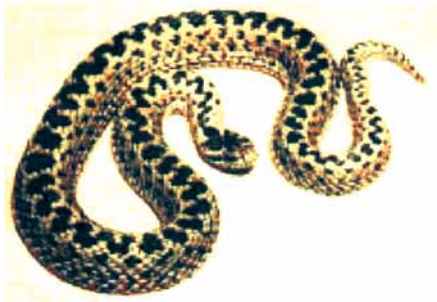
### **Venom's effects**

Hemotoxic; also some neurotoxic activity. Causes sharp pain or severe burning at site of bite, followed by swelling and inflammation of lymph system. Victim usually develops nausea, headaches, vomiting, chest pain, and labored breathing. Fatalities reported.

### **Steppe Viper, Orsini's Viper**

#### **Description**

Adult length usually 0.4 to 0.5 meter; maximum of 0.65 meter. Background color gray, yellow, green, or light brown. Belly light or dark gray, sometimes



with yellow markings. Completely black specimens reported. Dark, wavy, zig-zag line with black edges down center of back from head to tail; may be discontinuous. Head oval, narrower than that of other vipers; distinct from neck. Snout rounded, slightly upturned. Dark line extending from each eye to corner of its mouth.

#### **Habitat**

Found in dry plains, flatlands with few trees or bushes; more common at higher elevations. Also found on wooded hillsides in mountainous regions. Generally seeks open areas near dry clay or loamy soil. Hides in rodent dens and small animal burrows.

#### **Activity and behavioral patterns**

Primarily diurnal, but may be nocturnal during hot summers months. More active than other vipers; can move rapidly. Hibernates during winter months. Not aggressive; avoids human

confrontation. Seldom bites, even when bothered, but will bite if continuously disturbed, stepped on, or handled roughly.

### **Venom's effects**

Mildly hemotoxic. Envenomation causes local pain and swelling followed by dizziness. Recovery usually relatively rapid.

## ***Montpellier Snake***

### **Description**

Adult length usually 1.2 to 1.5 meters, maximum of 2.5 meters; moderately slender snake. Background color generally blackish, grayish, brown, or olive;



belly yellowish white. May have indistinct pattern of brown spots along sides. Head distinctive; large eyes, roof-like supraorbital scales, and prominent rostral scale.

### **Habitat**

Dry, open, or stony areas, with low bushy vegetation, or semi desert areas along coast. Found at elevations that are higher than 2,000 meters.

### **Activity and behavioral patterns**

Diurnal. Aggressive; will bite if pestered or restrained.

### **Venom's effects**

Venom toxic. Bite may cause immediate pain, stiffness, swelling, and fever. Neurological symptoms, such as central nervous system depression, ptosis, and paresis of affected limb, have been observed in severe cases.



## **Dangerous Invertebrates**

### ***Scorpions***

Although scorpions in the region are capable of inflicting a painful sting, none are known to be life-threatening.

### ***Centipedes***

Although area centipedes are capable of inflicting a painful bite, none are known to be life-threatening.



### ***Millipedes***

Millipedes do not bite and in general are harmless to humans. However, when handled, some larger millipedes (may be more than 50 centimeters long) secrete a very noxious fluid that can cause severe blistering upon contact; some can squirt this fluid at least 2 feet.

### ***Insects***

There is little specific information of medical importance regarding insects. However, nearly all countries have at least one species of moth having venomous/urticating hairs and/or whose larva (caterpillar) has venomous spines. Some caterpillars are very hairy (such as puss moths and flannel moths) and almost unrecognizable as caterpillars, with long silky hairs completely covering the shorter venomous spines. Others bear prominent clumps of still, venomous spines on an otherwise smooth body. Contact with these caterpillars can be very painful. Some are brightly colored.

Paederus are small (usually 4 to 7 millimeters), slender rove beetles that do not look like typical beetles and have very short wing covers that expose most of their flexible abdomens. When crushed, their body fluid contains an agent that will blister skin on contact. The lesions take about a week to heal and the area remains painful for several weeks. The substance is extremely irritating if it gets into the eyes; temporary blindness has been reported.

## **Spiders**

Although there are several spider species found in the region that are capable of inflicting a painful bite, including some very large and physically imposing tarantulas, none are known to be life-threatening.

## **Dangerous Plants**

### **Stinging Nettle**

#### **Other names**

Roman nettle, Roman nettle, dog or small nettle.

#### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

Brushing against the plant shears off a protective cap from specialized siliceous stinging hairs, allowing



skin puncture. After puncture, an irritant liquid is released that can contain several pro-inflammatory mediators including alkaloids, histamine, acetylcholine, and 5 hydroxytryptamine. These substances cause the immediate reaction after a nettle sting. The term “urticaria,” describing the characteristic skin eruption, is derived from the genus name. Thought to be a defense against browsing animals; usually does not involve a hypersensitivity re-

action. Stinging can persist at the site for more than 12 hours after clinical features of urticaria have disappeared. This persistence of symptoms is due to secondary release of inflammatory mediators, or persistence of implanted hairs.

## ***Cow Parsnip***

### **Other names**

Wild rhubarb, Giant hogweed, Hogweed.

### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

Many species within this genus contain furocoumarins; roots and rind have phototoxic sap resulting in acute bullous dermatitis a few hours to two days after contact if then exposed to the sun, followed by pigmentation (may take months to years to disappear).



### **Comments**

Genus of 30 species, usually perennial, single-stalked herbs less than 0.3 meter (1 foot) in height, found mainly in northern temperate areas. The tender tips are used as a leafy vegetable in some locales; simmering in water renders the stingers ineffective.

## ***Snake's Head***

### **No Photograph Available**

### **Other names**

Guinea flower, Crown imperial.

### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

Many contain veratrum alkaloids, used in some areas as medicinals.

## **Comments**

This genus has 100 species from western Europe and the Mediterranean to eastern Asia, but only a few have been clearly implicated as source of skin inflammation.

## ***Chervil***

### **No Photograph Available**

### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

Poisoning similar to hemlock and “fool’s parsley;” piperidine volatile alkaloids (e.g. coniine, which exhibits nicotinic activity and has a curare-like effect).

## **Comments**

Drying of the plant results in decreased toxicity. Poisoning has occurred by mistaking the plant for parsley.

## ***Horse Chestnut***

### **Other name**

Buckeye

### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

The saponin aesculin (a hydroxy derivative of coumarin) is found in leaves, bark, and seeds. Some individuals have eaten the ripened nuts after roasting and treating them in lime water (absorption of the toxins is inefficient), but children have died after ingesting the nuts or drinking tea made



from the leaves. Bruised branches used as a fish toxin. Honey made from the flowers is toxic.

## Comments

There are 13 species of Aesculus; large trees with showy flowers and seed pods, which may be smooth and leathery, or warty. Small to medium trees or shrubs. The brown nuts are held in a spiny green capsule. Bark has been used as a yellow dye.

## ***Fool's Parsley***

### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

All parts are toxic, possibly due to a cicutoxin-like substance and traces of coniine. Symptoms of toxicity include profuse salivation, diaphoresis, gastroenteritis, seizures, and coma. Children have died from the plant being mistaken for parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*) and the rhizomes and roots for turnips or radishes.



## Comments

A carrot-like annual herb up to 2 feet high.

## ***Annual/French Mercury***

### **No Photograph Available**

### **Other names**

Dog's Mercury

### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

Native to Europe; entire plant is toxic. Has been mistaken for edible greens. Emetic and purgative. Has proven fatal.

### **Comments:**

Dye source; carpeting rhizome herb often characteristic of disturbed woodland.

## ***Belladonna***

### **Other Name**

Nightshade.

### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

Berries, leaves, and roots contain tropane alkaloids that can cause death from anticholinergic poisoning.



### **Comments**

Perennial plants to 3 feet high. Native to Eurasia and North Africa.

## ***Spindle Tree***

### **Other names**

Burning bush, Wahoo.

### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

Spindle tree is the most toxic member of the genus. The flowers are yellow-green; the attractive pink (or orange-red) drupes are enticing but have phyllorhodin, several cardiac glycosides, and other unknown substances as the toxic principles, which result in symptoms 10-12 hours after ingestion — bloody diarrhea, nausea and vomiting, fever, hallucinations, induces sleep, eventual coma, and seizures.



## **Comments**

Deciduous or evergreen shrubs or trees; fruit a 3 to 5-valved, brightly colored capsule dehiscent to expose bird-dispersed to scarlet to orange seeds. Until further data is available, the other species of this group should be considered toxic.

## ***Herb Paris***

**No Photograph Available**

### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

Narcotic in large doses, producing abdominal pain, delirium, seizures; has caused fatalities in children.

### **Comments**

Common in Europe.

## ***Heliotrope***

### **Other names**

Cherry pie, scorpion's tail, Indian heliotrope.

### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

Contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids. Cause of large epidemics (Afghanistan, India) of illness following ingestion of bread made with flour contaminated with members of this genus. The pathologic effects (Budd-Chiari syndrome) take weeks to months, and death comes slowly over years. Chronic copper poisoning has occurred associated with this plant.



## Comments

A large genus of worldwide distribution (250 tropical and temperate trees and shrubs).

## *Hellebore*

### Other names

White/false hellebore, skunk cabbage, corn lily, black hellebore, American hellebore, false hellebore, Indian poke, pepper-root.

### Mechanism of toxicity:

All plant parts are toxic, containing steroidal alkaloids. Severe systemic effects are caused by the protoverine alkaloids, teratogenic effects by jervine alkaloids. On taking a toxic dose, a burning pain is felt in the mouth followed by roughness and dryness, nausea



and severe vomiting, and a feeling of cold as body temperature drops. Severe cases cause respiratory difficulties, arrhythmias, lowered blood pressure, and collapse. Victim remains fully conscious until death, which may occur in as little as three hours.

## Comments

Genus includes 45 species found in wet areas in northern temperate zones, usually growing as a tall, perennial, rhizomatous herb. It is frequently cultured as an ornamental, with white, green, brown or purplish flowers.



## ***Black Henbane***

### **Other names**

Insane root, fetid nightshade.

### **Mechanisms of toxicity:**

Old well-known medicinal and deadly poison (hyoscyamine, atropine) with many uses in many cultures. Tropane alkaloids in the seeds (in a pod); has resulted in death; dermatitis (low risk).



### **Comments**

Erect, hairy annual with coarse, hairy stems 1-5 feet tall, native to Europe. Found in “weed communities” along roadsides on nutrient-rich sandy soils and loam. Dusky yellow flowers with violet veins. Fruits are capsules containing many black seeds (can be confused with the poppy plant seeds).

## ***Golden Chain/Rain***

### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

All parts of this species are poisonous. Beans are cooked for food (boiled with several changes of water) in the tropics. Cytisine is the toxic principle, particularly concentrated in the seeds and bark.



Excreted in cow’s milk — poisoning may occur after milk ingestion. Has proven fatal.

### **Comments**

Cultivated ornamental trees and shrubs with timber as hard as ebony. Native to southern Europe.

## ***Coffeeberry***

### **Other names**

Alder buckthorn, common buckthorn, cascara.

### **Mechanisms of toxicity:**

The fresh bark is recognized as a particularly strong laxative. There are reports of deaths in children after ingesting buckthorn berries.



### **Comments**

Cascara bark is source of American cascara. Of low relative toxicity, requires chronic use to result in chronic diarrhea and/or melanin pigmentation of the mucous membranes of the colon. Freshly prepared cascara products contain anthrones and can lead to severe vomiting and intestinal cramping. The bark should be stored for at least a year before use or detoxified by heating (in air) to reduce the presence of anthrones.

## ***Black Nightshade***

### **Other names**

Deadly nightshade, common nightshade, horse nettle, bittersweet, Jerusalem cherry, nipple fruit, quena, wild tomato, apple of Sodom, white-edged nightshade.



### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

The fruit of the Jerusalem cherry is a black berry; the fully ripe berries are eaten; unripe berries contain solanine alkaloids, which can cause gastroenteritis, weakness, circulatory depression. Can kill

## Comments

Approximately 2,000 species of herbs, vines, shrubs covered with small star-shaped hairs. Perfect white, yellow, or blue flowers. Berries have dry or juicy pulp and several seeds.

## **English Yew**

### **Other names**

Ground hemlock,  
American or Japanese yew.

### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

Taxine A and B, classed as steroid alkaloids, are present in all plant parts except



the aril. A single chewed seed is deadly. An hour after ingestion, nausea, dizziness, and abdominal pain begin. This is followed by reddening of the lips, dilatation of the pupils, shallow breathing, tachycardia, and coma. Then the pulse slows, blood pressure drops, and death occurs through respiratory paralysis. No proven treatment exists. Emptying the stomach hours after ingestion may be helpful as leaves may not pass through the GI tract expeditiously. Various clinical measures (circulatory stimulants, artificial respiration, cardiac pacemaker) have not prevented death in suicide cases.

## **Comments**

An evergreen shrub or small tree bearing a characteristic fleshy, red, sweet-tasting aril with a single green to black, partly exposed, hard-shelled seed within. In North America, the Japanese yew, the toxicity of which may exceed that of the English yew, has repeatedly caused fatal animal poisonings. Once known as the “tree of death.”

## ***Burn Bean***

**No Photograph Available**

### **Other names**

Colorines, mescal bean, red hots, necklace pod sophora, silver-bush, pagoda tree.

### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

Dark to bright red beans in woody pods are hallucinogenic; used by American Indians before peyote was discovered. Seeds and flowers are very poisonous, causing convulsions; has caused death. One seed can kill a child. Cytisine acts much like a nicotinic ganglionic stimulation agent.

### **Comments**

Fruit is source of a yellow dye. Dried flowers are sold as medicinal in Indonesia; used for bleeding problems.

## ***Poison Hemlock***

### **Other names**

Spotted hemlock, fool's parsley

### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

Quickly fatal potential. The leaves and unripe fruits have the piperide alkaloids coniine and coni-



ceine with highest concentrations in the seeds and roots. Drying of the plant results in decreased toxicity. One mouthful of the root has caused death after a period of nervousness (within 30 minutes), nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, and respiratory failure.

### **Comments**

A biennial herb that resembles a carrot; smooth, spotted stems; foul odor. Naturalized in waste and marshy areas; native in tem-

perate Eurasia. *C. chaerophyllum* appears to be an unspotted version of the former; noted in South Africa.

## ***Lily of the Valley***

### **Mechanisms of toxicity**

Contains more than 20 cardiac glycosides (e.g. convallatoxin). Quickly fatal potential. Has caused death; children are attracted to its pretty flowers and bright berries; poisons have occurred from drinking water from a vase in which flowers were placed. Has been mistaken for wild garlic and made into soup. Used as an arrow poison in Africa.



### **Comments**

Dried roots made into many medicinals, especially in Russia.



















