

CHRONOLOGY



April–December 1990 – Free elections are held in the six constituent republics of Yugoslavia. Nationalist parties are victorious in all republics but Macedonia. Slobodan Milošević is elected president of Serbia, Franjo Tuđman president of Croatia, and Alija Izetbegović president of the collegial presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

25 June 1991 – Independence is declared by Slovenia and Croatia.

August–December 1991 – War is waged in Croatia between the Yugoslav People's Army and Serb militias, on the one hand, and the nascent Croatian army, on the other. The "Republic of Serb Krajina" is created on territories controlled by the Yugoslav People's Army.

September–November 1991 – "Serb Autonomous Regions" are created by the Serb Democratic Party (SDS) in Bosnia-Herzegovina on territory they claim as Serb.

14 October 1991 – The sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina is reaffirmed by the Bosnian Parliament, despite the opposition of the SDS MPs.

3 January 1992 – A cease-fire is proclaimed in Croatia. The UN Security Council decides to deploy the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) along the front lines.

9 January 1992 – The SDS merges the "Serb Autonomous Regions" into a "Serb Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina" presided over by Radovan Karadžić.

29 February / 1 March 1992 – The referendum on the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina is boycotted by the SDS. The turnout is 63.7 percent, with 99 percent voting in favor of independence.

- 6 April 1992 – The war begins, with the Yugoslav People’s Army laying siege to Sarajevo. The European Community recognizes the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- 7 April 1992 – The SDS proclaims the secession of the “Serb Republic” (Republika Srpska) from Bosnia-Herzegovina. The United States recognizes the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- April–May 1992 – The Yugoslav People’s Army launches a vast offensive in eastern and western Bosnia. The first massive wave of “ethnic cleansing” is carried out against the Bosniak and Croat populations of these regions.
- 9 May 1992 – Bosniak combatants united under Naser Orić recapture control over Srebrenica, in eastern Bosnia.
- 12 May 1992 – The Yugoslav People’s Army units stationed in Bosnia-Herzegovina are transformed into the Army of the Republika Srpska (VRS), under the command of General Ratko Mladić.
- 29 June 1992 – The UN Security Council decides to deploy the UNPROFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina to ensure the functioning of Sarajevo airport and the delivery of humanitarian aid.
- September–December 1992 – Bosniak combatants from the Srebrenica enclave increase the territory under their control.
- 2 January 1993 – The Vance-Owen peace plan is presented, in which it is proposed that Bosnia-Herzegovina be divided into ten ethnic provinces.
- 22 February 1993 – The UN Security Council creates the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).
- March 1993 – The VRS launches an offensive against the enclave of Srebrenica and threatens to capture the town.
- 11–12 March 1993 – General Philippe Morillon, commander of the UNPROFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina, travels to Srebrenica and declares the town a zone under the protection of the United Nations.
- 16 April 1993 – The UN Security Council transforms the Srebrenica enclave into a “UN safe area.”
- 6 May 1993 – The UN Security Council creates five new safe areas in Sarajevo, Tuzla, and the Bosniak enclaves of Bihać, Gorazde, and Žepa.

May 1993–March 1994 – Fighting breaks out in Herzegovina and in central Bosnia between the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina (ARBiH) and the Croat Defence Council (HVO).

20 August 1993 – The Owen-Stoltenberg peace plan is presented, in which it is proposed that Bosnia-Herzegovina be divided into three ethnic republics.

18 March 1994 – An agreement is signed in Washington, DC, to end the fighting between Croats and Bosniaks and create the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, consisting of eight ethnic, Bosniak and Croat cantons.

April 1994 – The VRS launches an offensive against the enclave of Goražde, which is stopped by a NATO ultimatum.

5 July 1994 – The Contact Group's peace plan is presented, in which it is proposed that Bosnia-Herzegovina be divided between the Federation (51 percent of the territory) and the Republika Srpska (49 percent of the territory).

October–November 1994 – The ARBiH carries out an offensive from the Bihać enclave, followed by a counter-offensive by the VRS.

January–April 1995 – A cease-fire is maintained in Bosnia-Herzegovina for four months.

25 May 1995 – Seventy-one people are killed by a Serb shell in the safe area of Tuzla.

26 May 1995 – NATO launches air strikes against Serb positions. The VRS retaliates by taking four hundred UNPROFOR blue helmets hostage.

June 1995 – The ARBiH offensive to end the siege of Sarajevo fails. France and Great Britain create the Rapid Reaction Force (RRF)

18 June 1995 – The last of the blue helmets being held hostage are released.

6 July 1995 – The VRS begins its offensive against the enclave of Srebrenica.

11 July 1995 – The VRS captures Srebrenica.

13–18 July 1995 – The VRS carries out the evacuation of women and children to territories under Bosnian control and the mass execution of men.

14 July 1995 – The VRS begins its offensive against the enclave of Žepa.

- 25 July 1995 – The VRS captures Žepa.
- 4–9 August 1995 – The Croatian army launches its offensive against the “Republic of Serb Krajina.” In five days, the Croatian army takes back most of the territories lost in 1991.
- 29 August 1995 – NATO launches massive air strikes against Serb positions following the deadly shelling of a Sarajevo marketplace.
- 9–19 September 1995 – A joint offensive is launched by the ARBiH and the Croatian army. In ten days, Bosnian and Croatian forces capture a significant amount of territory in western Bosnia.
- 20 September 1995 – NATO ends air strikes against Serb positions.
- 1 November 1995 – Peace negotiations begin on the American air base in Dayton, Ohio.
- 16 November 1995 – The ICTY charges Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić with genocide.
- 21 November 1995 – Peace agreements provide for the division of Bosnia-Herzegovina into the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina (51 percent of the territory) and Republika Srpska (49 percent of the territory). Srebrenica and Žepa remain in Republika Srpska.
- 14 December 1995 – Dayton peace agreements officially signed in Paris, France.
- 1 August 1996 – A debate concerning the circumstances of the fall of Srebrenica is held in the Parliament of Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- 15 November 1999 – The UN report on the fall of Srebrenica is presented by Kofi Annan.
- 5 October 2000 – The regime of Slobodan Milošević is overturned in Serbia.
- 28 June 2001 – Slobodan Milošević is transferred to the Netherlands for trial at the ICTY.
- 2 August 2001 – The ICTY finds General Radislav Krstić, former commander of the VRS Drina Corps, guilty of genocide.
- 22 November 2001 – The French Parliamentary Fact-Finding Mission publishes its report.
- 10 April 2002 – The Netherlands Institute for War Documentation (NIOD) publishes its report.

- 27 January 2003 – The Dutch Parliamentary Inquiry Commission publishes its report.
- 11 June 2004 – The Government of the Republika Srpska adopts a report recognizing the Srebrenica massacre.
- June 2005 – The United States Senate and House of Representatives adopt a resolution qualifying the Srebrenica massacre as genocide.
- 11 March 2006 – Slobodan Milošević dies before the end of his trial.
- 26 February 2007 – The International Court of Justice renders a decision finding Serbia in violation of its obligation to prevent and punish genocide in Srebrenica.
- 22 July 2008 – Radovan Karadžić is arrested in Belgrade and transferred eight days later to the Netherlands for trial at the ICTY.
- 15 January 2009 – The European Parliament passes a resolution qualifying the Srebrenica massacre as genocide.
- 26 October 2009 – The trial of Radovan Karadžić begins at the ICTY.
- 9 January 2010 – The Serbian president, Boris Tadić, asks the Parliament of Serbia to adopt a resolution on the massacre of Srebrenica.
- 31 March 2010 – The Parliament of Serbia votes a resolution condemning the Srebrenica massacre of July 1995, accepting the decision of the International Court of Justice and requiring the arrest of General Ratko Mladić.
- 26 May 2011 – Ratko Mladić is arrested in Serbia and transferred five days later to the Netherlands for trial at the ICTY.



MAP 1. The former Yugoslavia



MAP 2. Bosnia-Herzegovina