 North Macedonia Ethnic Rivalry

Country:Latvia

Committee:Historical North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Delegate:Ahmet Kaan Yılmaz

Sharing borders with Kosovo and Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) managed to avoid becoming directly involved in the drawn-out wars in Bosnia and Kosovo in the 1990s. Inter-ethnic relations between the Slav majority and ethnic Albanian minority in Macedonia, while often tense, never reached the crisis state of Albanian-Serb relations in the province of Kosovo. Since Macedonia's independence in 1991, ethnic Albanian political parties in Macedonia have been represented in government and in parliament. However, in early 2001, ethnic Albanian rebels calling themselves the National Liberation Army (NLA) stepped up attacks on Macedonian security forces first in several villages near the city of Tetovo and by the western border with Kosovo, and later near the capital, Skopje. The NLA was thought to have ties to the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and rebel Albanian forces operating in southern Serbia. In March, the Macedonian government began a counter-insurgency campaign. It opened talks on political reforms with elected ethnic Albanian representatives, but refused to negotiate with the rebels themselves. Clashes between the rebels and government forces continued through the summer of 2001, notwithstanding intermittent cease-fire agreements and ongoing political talks. With U.S. and European diplomatic intervention, the parties signed a framework agreement on August 13, amidst the deadliest violence of the conflict. Implementation of the agreement has progressed slowly and with difficulty. Substantial recent progress enabled the holding of a long-delayed international donors' conference on March 12, 2002. In spite of recent achievements, some observers continue to fear the prospect of a new uprising by ethnic Albanian extremists or armed provocations by forces supporting Macedonian hardliners. In June 2001, NATO formulated and approved plans to launch a limited operation in Macedonia to oversee the disarmament of the ethnic Albanian rebel forces. On August 22, NATO gave final approval for the deployment of Operation Essential Harvest comprising about 4,500 troops in total. The operation completed collection of a targeted amount of rebel weapons (nearly 4,000) on September 26, 2001. NATO then deployed a smaller follow-on force (Task Force Fox) to provide security for international civilian monitors. NATO's peacekeeping force in Kosovo (KFOR) has also been involved in patrolling and reinforcing the Kosovo border in order to try to cut off Albanian rebel supply routes. The United States maintains some KFOR support forces in Macedonia, but did not contribute forces to either the Task Force Harvest or Task Force Fox missions in Macedonia. In early 2002, the European Union agreed to consider taking over the military mission in Macedonia from NATO.

The current study aims to provide a better and deeper understanding of the
relations between the two major ethic groups living in the Republic of North Macedonia before and following the signing and the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, an agreement which is generally viewed as being based on a consociational approach.
The purpose of this research is not to see only the roots of nationalism in North Macedonia and how this led to an armed conflict in 2001 and to the signing of the Ohrid Framework agreement but also to examine whether the implementation of a consociation agreement such as the Ohrid Framework Agreement has worked in practice for the country and for the North Μacedonian society. Do we have the creation and development
of cross-cutting (as opposed to segmental) cleavages as Arend Lijphart suggests on his work about consociationalism or a divided country?
Contrary to other cases in Europe where the Theory of Consociationalism was
applied, North Macedonia was not an EU member like Northern Ireland, where we had the Good Friday Agreement nor did the international community appoint a High Representative (as in the case of Bosnia) to oversee the civilian implementation of the Dayton agreement. So by examining the case of North Macedonia we can understand how a consociational approach in a country like North Macedonia can be affected by the lack of a multilateral framework between key outside parties in the original conflict and whether a multilateral framework can be considered important to sustaining functional consociational agreements.

In 2003, Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga was re-elected to the presidency for the second term, until 2007. On 20 September 2003, Latvia voted to join the European Union in a referendum. Virtually all of the major political parties and major Latvian-language media supported the 'YES' vote. Latvian government also spent a significant amount of money for the 'YES' campaign. The 'NO' campaign lacked both funding and media access. Out of voters who participated in the referendum, 66.9% of cast votes in favour of EU. The vote was largely along the ethnic lines. It is estimated that 84% of ethnic Latvians voted 'YES', while 91% of ethnic Russians voted 'NO

I think the policy that should be followed against ethnic competition

ending wars and

ethnic rivalry

resources that make up

is to close

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=LEGISSUM:e01104>

<https://theses.gla.ac.uk/81603/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Latvia>