

Cut out these events and try to put them in chronological order:

Death of Marshal Tito,  
President of Yugoslavia, whilst still in office aged 89 years.

Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia break away from Yugoslavia and declare their independence.  
UK Census records that there are 338 registered Albanians in England.

Protests and purges in the Communist Party. Rights that had been recently granted to Albanians in Kosovo are rescinded – including ending the provision of Albanian professors and Albanian language textbooks in the education system. Kosovar Albanian students of the University of Prishtina organise protests seeking that Kosovo become a republic within Yugoslavia, along with human rights. Protests are brutally suppressed by the police and army.

Ethnic Albanian leaders declare independence from  
Serbia. Belgrade dissolves the Kosovo government.  
Sacking of more than 100,000 ethnic Albanian workers, including government employees  
and media workers, prompts general strike.

War breaks out in the Balkans.

2,500 registered Albanians are now registered in England, mainly in London. Most of them are young Kosovars avoiding conscription in the Yugoslav Army, who request political asylum.

The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), an ethnic Albanian guerrilla paramilitary group- in contrast to the non-violent resistance movement - engages in armed resistance to Serbian and Yugoslav security forces. In the UK, a High Court decision accepts that Kosovo Albanians are persecuted in former Yugoslavia.

The Albanian community estimates 30,000 Albanians, including Kosovars, are living in the UK.

Open conflict between Serb police and separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Serb forces launch a brutal crackdown. Civilians are driven from their homes. In September NATO gives an ultimatum to President Milosevic to halt the violent attacks on Kosovo Albanians.

Internationally-brokered peace talks fail. NATO launches air strikes against Yugoslavia lasting 78 days before Belgrade yields. Hundreds of thousands of Kosovo Albanian refugees pour into neighbouring countries, telling of massacres and forced expulsions. A million ethnic Albanians are forcefully driven from Kosovo. One of numerous humanitarian responses, Manchester Aid to Kosovo (MaK) forms in the UK and sends a humanitarian convoy to the camps

In the midst of the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, Milosevic is charged by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) with war crimes including genocide and crimes against humanity in connection to the wars in Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo. More than 11,000 deaths are reported to Carla Del Ponte at The Hague by her prosecutors.

In a global humanitarian response to the conflict, the British government evacuates dispossessed Kosovars to Manchester, Leeds and Scotland. 4,346 of the most vulnerable men, women and children are selected from refugee camps. 2,400 arrive in the North West.

In the UK, the Health Emergency Planning Advisor (HEPA) co-ordinates health, housing and education resources in the first major United Kingdom government led operation to receive refugees into the United Kingdom since the Ugandan Asians were accepted. In the North West, networks prove to be robust. Emergency planning and preparation and co-ordination with voluntary groups ensure needs are met on arrival. A warm welcome and practical help is given.

The UN Security Council passes UN Security Council Resolution 1244, which places Kosovo under transitional UN administration (UNMIK) and authorises Kosovo Force (KFOR), a NATO-led peacekeeping force.

**The Liberation of Kosovo.** KFOR enters the country. Much of the country has been destroyed. KFOR, an international peace keeping force, moves in. A programme of rebuilding begins. Mines clearance and the re-building of housing, schools, roads and hospitals are prioritised. Ethnic Albanians begin flooding back into Kosovo; within three weeks over 600,000 return in one of the most rapid refugee returns in history.

The first flight of returnees in the IOM Kosovo Voluntary Assisted Return Programme leaves the UK. The liberation creates conditions for the return of the evacuees though some 60% of housing stock is completely destroyed or very damaged. Many want to return to Kosovo to rebuild their homes and lives. IOM organises 32 flights enabling 2,906 Kosovo Albanians to quickly return. Others make alternative return arrangements. In Manchester many refugees, including children, need long term medical help due to injury. For many, healing and recovery will be a slow process.

In Serbia, Milosevic is arrested by Yugoslav federal authorities on suspicion of corruption, abuse of power, and embezzlement. The initial investigation into Milosevic falters for lack of evidence, prompting the Serbian Prime Minister, Zoran Djindjic, to extradite him to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), to stand trial for charges of war crimes instead. Milosevic is then charged with genocide and crimes against humanity in a number of indictments spanning from the wars in Croatia and Bosnia to the fighting in Kosovo.

Ibrahim Rugova is elected as President of Kosovo by parliament.

Kosovo's total population is estimated between 1.9 and 2.2 million with the following ethnic composition: Albanians 92%, Serbs 4%, Bosniaks and Gorans 2%, Turks 1%, Roma 1%. Survey of the Statistical Office of Kosovo.

President Rugova dies in Pristina after losing his battle with lung cancer. He is succeeded by Fatmir Sejdiu.

Milosevic dies in his prison cell. Described as the 'ruthless manipulator of Serbian nationalism who became the most dangerous man in Europe' (obituary, The Guardian), his trial was in its fourth year.

United Nations envoy Martti Ahtisaari unveils a plan to set Kosovo on a path to independence, welcomed by Kosovo Albanians but rejected by Serbia.

Kosovo declares independence. Serbia says declaration illegal. Europe's major powers including France, Germany, the UK and the United States, recognise independence.