



Kosovo Conflict: India

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1 India's Stance on the Kosovo Conflict

In the many years after Kosovo unilaterally declared their independence in 2008, India has expressed their pro-Serbian views numerous times. The 2nd most populated country not only refuses to recognize Kosovo's secession, but also argues in a joint statement (May 15, 2008) about the legality of the new Republic, claiming that Kosovo's one-sided decision is in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1244! [1]

Another example of India's pro-Serbian policies happened in 2018, when a Kosovan boxer Donjeta Sadiku was refused visa prior to a boxing competition. This came as quite an unexpected surprise, as both the Indian Boxing Federation and Olympic Association had already agreed to her participation. This sparked outrage all over the world and the International Olympic Committee threatened to remove Indian bids for the upcoming Olympic games. [2]

Although it is easy to find and list out examples of India's anti-Kosovan sentiment, it is important to understand the roots of such policies. Why does India even care about the independence of a tiny European country? Officially, the Indian Government explains it's political views through the "Non-Aligned Movement", which India adopted after WW2. The main axioms being non-interference with internal affairs of other countries and respecting their absolute sovereignty. In other words, India views the Kosovo Conflict as an inter-Serbian issue, which is best resolved without foreign interference. [3]

Although the official reason is clear, let's look at some major unofficial "conflicts of interest". First of all, it is important to remember that India itself is in a similar situation as Serbia - Kashmir and Khalistan is India's Kosovo! Indian leadership fears setting a dangerous precedent of supporting a unilateral secession could undermine their internal interests. This would put India in an awkward situation and give pro-Independent Kashmir rhetoric the moral high ground. Another unofficial reason could be India's relationship with Russia, which is one of the biggest suppliers of the Indian military. Russia is a staunch supporter of a unified Serbia and Indian fears the consequences of upsetting India-Russian relations. [3]

In conclusion, there is almost no political reality where Indian will or could recognize Kosovo without Serbia accepting the outcome. It would be against it's own interests! As a representative of India, the most reasonable move would be to keep pushing for internal dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo, while at the same time limiting the presence of foreign powers.

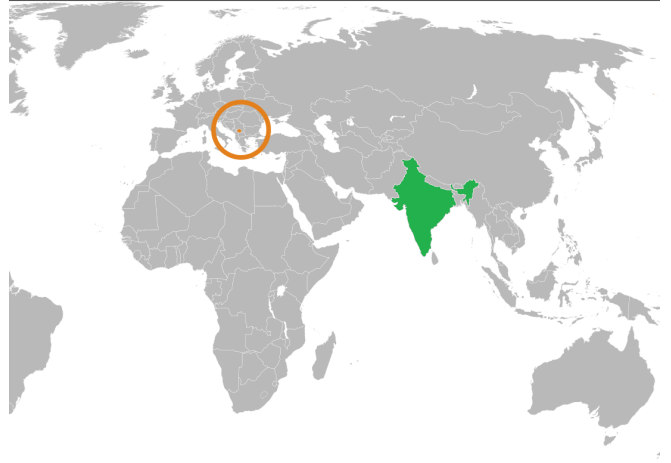


Fig. 1: Geographical Locations of Kosovo and India

2 References

- 1 Wikipedia: 'India's reaction to the 2008 Kosovo Conflict'
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India,_eaction
- 2 Wikipedia: 'India-Kosovo Relations'
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India_Kosovo_relations
- 3 Civil Daily: 'Why does India not recognize Kosovo?'
<https://www.civildaily.com/news/op-ed-snap-why-does-india-refuse-to-recognise-kosovo/>