

CONSTRUCTIVE INCOHERENCE? CONTESTING KOSOVO'S STATUS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Talk at the London School of Economics, European Institute,

Research on South Eastern Europe

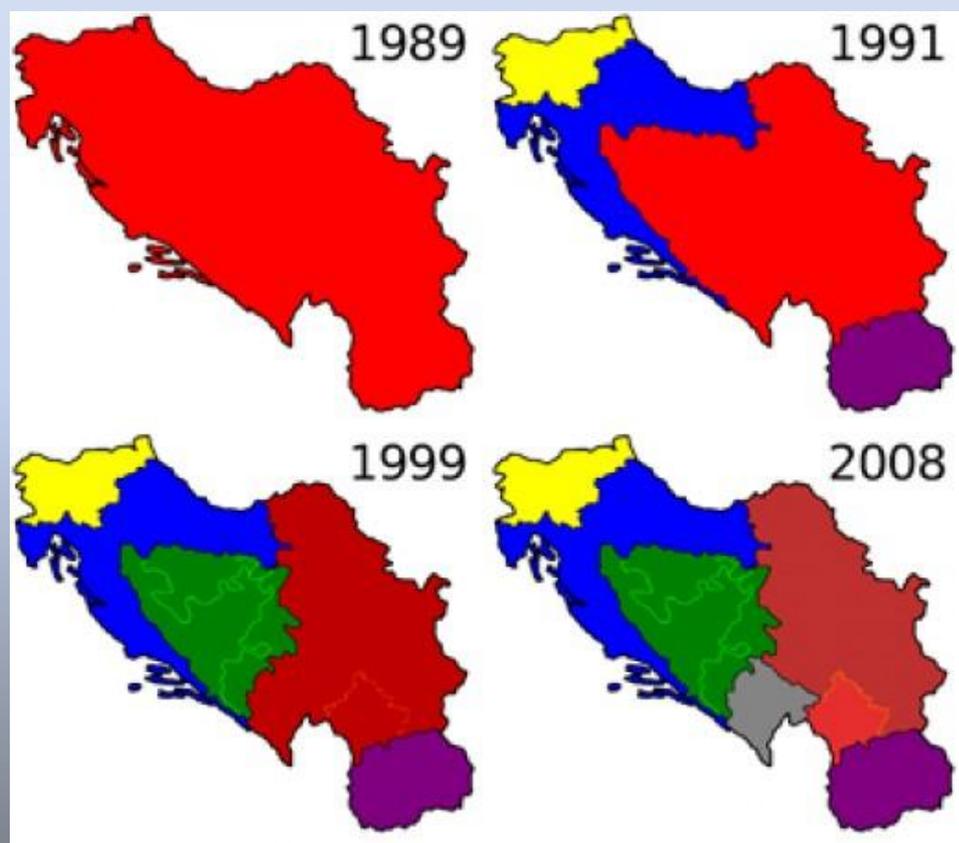
2 December 2015



Outline

- Background
- Analysis of EU incoherence
 - Council
 - Commission
 - Parliament
- Constructive Incoherence?

Background on Kosovo's Status



- 1998-1999: Kosovo War
- UNMIK administration
- 2007: Status Process failed
- 2008: unilateral declaration of independence

EU Coherence, Pt. 1: The Council

Lack of Consensus

- 5 of 27 EU member states did not recognize Kosovo
- Unanimity rules in Council meant “no position”
- Led to absurd outcomes



Security Frame

- By 2006, EU committed to take over from UNMIK
- Was set to launch its biggest civilian mission in Kosovo
- Kosovo’s independence became an obstacle to launching this police reform/rule of law mission

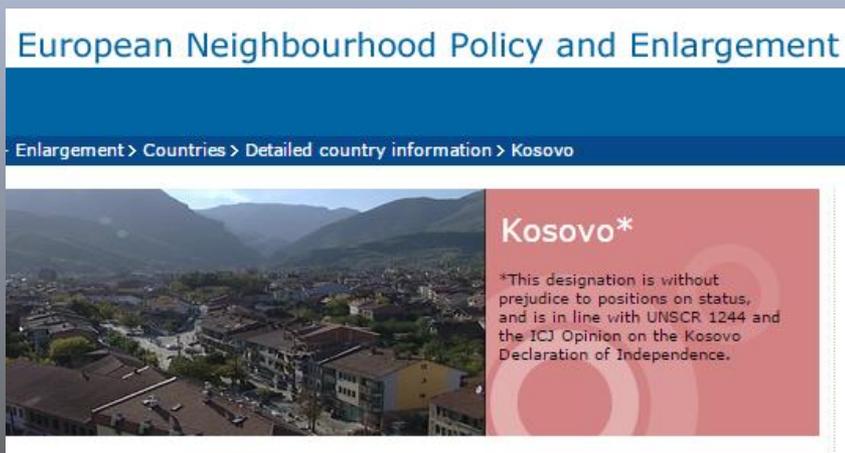
EU Coherence, Pt. 2: The Commission

Bureaucratic Creativity

- Stabilisation and Association Process **Dialogue**
- Kosovo*
- Strategic patience until Treaty changes work in its favor

Enlargement Frame

- Commission worked with Kosovo on accession details
- Consensus: long-term future of Kosovo was in the EU
- Kosovo's status threatened to disrupt existing processes



EU Coherence, Pt. 3: The Parliament

Advocacy for Recognition

- Accepted Kosovo's claim
- Pushed for recognition through protocol precedents
- Majority rules in Parliament



Democracy Frame

- Independence stemmed from the will of the people
- Real issue was the state of democracy in Kosovo
- Election observation missions, critiques of Kosovo authorities

Constructive Incoherence?

EU Coherence Literature

- EU must act as a coherent unit in international affairs—should speak with one voice
- EU policies must be coherent—should not work at cross-purposes

EU Coherence and Kosovo

- Member states & different EU institutions held incompatible views on Kosovo's status
- EULEX/EU Enlargement/ Inter-parliamentary links were incongruent regarding status

Constructive Incoherence?

- Was the EU's policy effective?
- The EU has:
 - Helped keep Kosovo peaceful
 - Made progress on EU accession
 - Helped broker a Serbia-Kosovo deal on normalization of ties



- The EU's incoherence can be an asset for its activities.

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Thank you and I welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions!

