

A complicated civil conflict that was part of the process of disintegration of Yugoslavia took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the years of 1992–1995. The civil war, during which the warring parties received significant support from external actors, attracted a lot of attention internationally. The approach of the international community to the crisis developed significantly throughout the war. Initially, the strictly neutral peace and humanitarian intervention presented primarily by UNPROFOR did not have a sufficient mandate and was long ineffective in seeking a peace resolution. A major breakthrough in the international community's approach occurred during the summer of 1995 when NATO decided for the first time in its history to conduct a large-scale military campaign following repeated violations of UN Security Council resolutions. The demonstration of NATO's air power through the Operation *Deliberate Force* is often seen as the key factor in forcing the Bosnian Serb leadership to start the process of peace talks which eventually led to the end of the conflict. However, the primary objective of the operation was not to end the war itself, but merely to end the siege of Sarajevo and prevent attacks on other so-called safe areas under the auspices of the UN. Furthermore, *Deliberate Force* was conducted in parallel with a massive Bosniak-Croat ground offensive. The primary objective of the thesis is to analyze the impact of the Operation *Deliberate Force* on ending the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the context of other political and military factors. It aims to evaluate which factors contributed the most to ending the Bosnian conflict in 1995 and how significant the use of NATO air power was. The main research questions of the thesis are why it took the international community so long to find the necessary consensus for effective intervention, and what role the NATO Operation *Deliberate Force* played in the accelerated ending of the war. Through analysis of primary and secondary sources, the thesis concludes that although the Operation *Deliberate Force* was one of the key moments of the last phase of the Bosnian War, it was not the only, nor the most important factor that forced the Bosnian Serbs to the negotiating table. The establishment of the Bosniak-Croat Federation in 1994 and its offensive across BiH in the summer of 1995, during which the Bosnian Serbs lost vast territories, had a key impact on ending the war. A key measure of the international community was the introduction and escalation of economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which eventually forced Milosevic to break his relations with the Bosnian Serbs. As a result of the loss of Milosevic's support, Bosnian Serbs became internationally isolated. The Bosnian Serbs' agreement to start the peace talks was achieved by a cumulative effect of their economic-political isolation and inability to hold against the simultaneous ground operations of the Bosniak-Croat Federation and NATO air strikes.