

# Political solutions to conflict

To end conflict, or to prevent the escalation of conflict:

1. Partition = separation by borders
2. Federalism / Decentralization = devolve power to more local levels so groups can govern and protect themselves
3. Power-sharing = structure government so each group has a share of power and a veto over major decisions
4. International policing & administration = put power into hands of neutral international body

# Partition

## Pros:

- Most likely to last. Other solutions face longevity problem
- Solves within-state security dilemma, which would persist in other solutions (especially in weak states)

## Cons:

- May only move conflict from within-state to interstate
- Severe, unnecessary, difficult to implement
  - Population transfers are not easy
- Doesn't actually produce ethnically-pure states, as it intends
  - Minorities in new states likely to face discrimination & threaten security for majority
- Could encourage more secessionist movements
  - For this reason, international community is adverse to promoting partition

# Bosnia

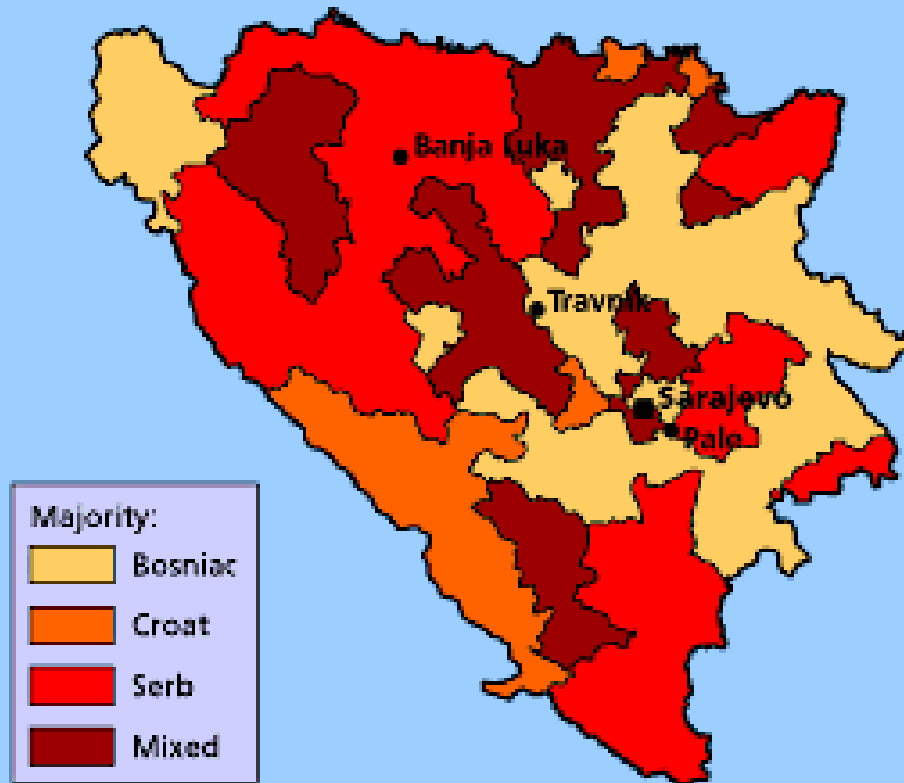
- Federalism rather than full partition. Dayton kept Bosnia together
  - US was concerned about viability of Muslim mini-state, geopolitics (Iran), & spreading conflict (eg, Kosovo)
  - Doesn't resolve ethnic nationalism... geographic partition is holding, but federal arrangement has problems
- Structure: Bosnian central government & two sub-national governments (entities)
  - Muslim-Croat Federation & Serb Republic, which have most political power (Bosnia has little)
    - There's also a third entity, an autonomous region—Brčko—an ethnically-mixed region formally controlled by both sub-national govts
  - Sarajevo is the capital of Bosnia & the Muslim-Croat Federation, and the *de jure* capital of the Serb Republic (*de facto* capital is Banja Luka)

# Dayton division of Bosnia



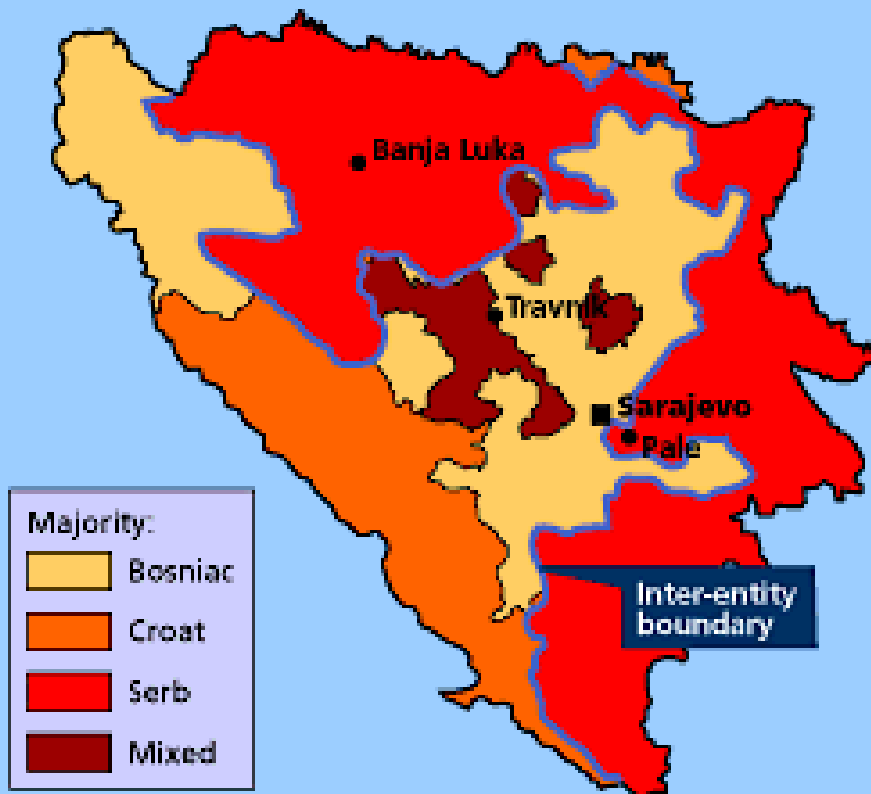
# An ethnically cleansed Bosnia

Pre-war



Source: UNHCR

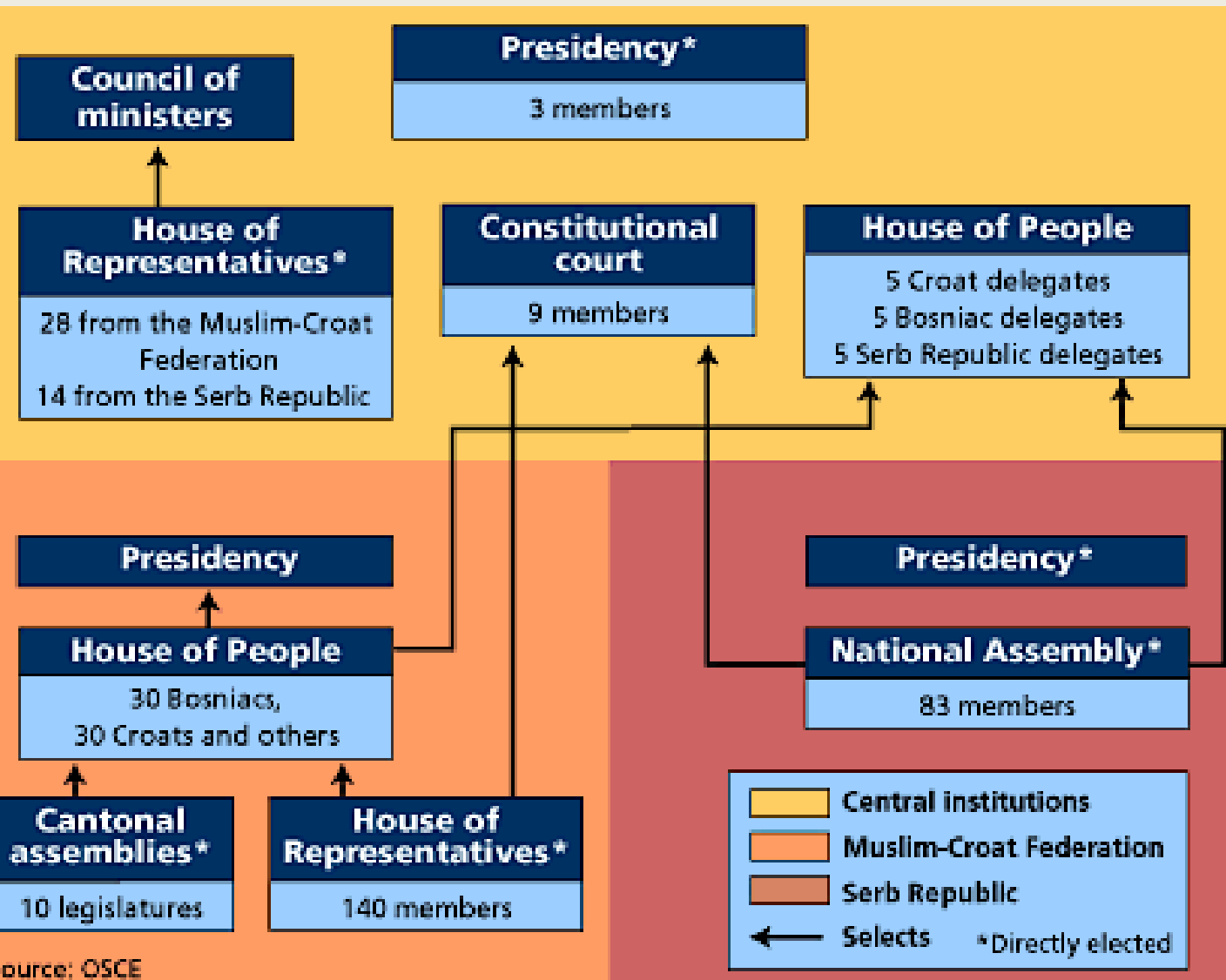
Post-war



# Bosnia's central government

- Limited powers: can sign treaties, print money, confer citizenship, control air traffic, etc. Most budget and policy powers are with entities
- *3-person presidency*: responsible for foreign policy and proposing national budget
  - 1 Muslim, 1 Croat, 1 Serb: each with veto power
- *Council of Ministers*
  - Runs national government, relations between sub-national governments
  - Prime Minister is nominated by the Presidency and elected by the House of Representatives
- *Parliament*
  - House of Representatives
  - House of Peoples: 9 members is a quorum, but must have 2 from each group
- *Constitutional Court*
  - 9 members, 4 from MC Fed., 2 from SR, and 3 from European Court of Human Rights

# Bosnia's federal system



Source: OSCE

# International Control by High Representative

- **Represents EU and Peace Implementation Council**
    - *Ad hoc* international institution responsible for overseeing implementation of Dayton
    - Oversees the national government
    - Mandate is to mobilize and coordinate civil aspects of Dayton. In 1997, given more powers: binding decisions, impose legislation where no consensus, and dismiss ministers & local officials
  - 1999-2001 showdown over electoral law... led to resignation of PM and one President, boycotts by HDZ
  - 2007 PM resigns as OHR tries to push centralizing reforms. Council keeps blocking police centralization, HR tries to change quorum & majority requirement
  - 2006, 2007: PIC decides to end HR, but then changes mind (in part after nationalist rhetoric in 2006 election)
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- International control has bred discontent
  - Power sharing prevents reforms, breeds corruption