



## ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ОБУЧЕНИЕ – БАИ

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### **Basic Information:**

Course Title: International Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution in the Balkans

Lecturer: Professor Nadia Boyadjieva, Ph.D. in History (Modern and Contemporary World History (Balkan History), Doctor of Sciences in Law (International Law & International Relations)

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Total Teaching Hours: 30 hours lecture course, 20 credits

### **Annotation** (up to 150 words)

Nearly four decades after the end of the Cold War, the need for effective conflict resolution and peacekeeping remains urgent. Ongoing conflicts such as the wars in the former Yugoslavia, Eastern Ukraine since 2014, Afghanistan, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 highlight the continuing human cost of instability. This course explores whether and how such conflicts can be resolved.

It begins by examining key mechanisms and techniques for conflict resolution, including peacekeeping, peacebuilding, peace enforcement, and preventive diplomacy. Case studies from the Balkans—such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and North Macedonia—illustrate different approaches and the role of international organizations like the UN, EU, NATO, and OSCE.

The course combines academic literature with practical simulations, where students take roles in conflict scenarios.

### **Course content** (brief description by topics or modules)

Topic / Module 1: The nature and evolution of armed conflicts after the Cold War.

Topic / Module 2: Theories and mechanisms of conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Topic / Module 3: Preventive diplomacy and early intervention strategies.

Topic / Module 4: Peacekeeping operations and their effectiveness.

Topic / Module 5: Case studies of conflict resolution in the Balkans.

Topic / Module 6: The role of international organizations in managing conflicts.

Topic / Module 7: Negotiation strategies and mediation techniques.

Topic / Module 8: Justice, reconciliation, and post-conflict recovery.

Topic / Module 9: Communication and decision-making in conflict situations.

Topic / Module 10: Simulation and practical approaches to conflict resolution.

### **Teaching and assessment methods**

Hybrid form of learning

Written form of assessment

### **Competencies acquired as a result of training** (3–5 points)

- Students will be able to evaluate the functions of peacekeeping and diplomacy through the lens of international organizations (UN, OSCE, EU and NATO).



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- To execute negotiation strategies and political decision-making via role-playing in simulated conflict scenarios.
- To analyze historical and modern conflicts in the Balkans (and other regions: former Soviet Union, Africa, Middle East, etc.) and to identify successful peacebuilding patterns.
- To apply concepts of justice and long-term stability to transform temporary ceasefires into lasting, sustainable peace.

### Literature:

Binder, Martin. *The United Nations and the Politics of Selective Humanitarian Intervention*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2018

Cohen, Ben, and George Stamkowski (eds.), *With No Peace to Keep: United Nations Peacekeeping and the War in the Former Yugoslavia*, London: Grain Press, 1995  
Diehl, Paul, *International Peacekeeping*, Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1994

Chomsky, N. *A New Generation Draws the Line: Humanitarian Intervention and the “Responsibility to Protect” Today* (3rd ed.). Routledge, 2025

Burg, Steven, and Paul Shoup, *The War in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Ethnic Conflict and International Intervention*, Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1999

Boyadjieva, Nadia. *Sasht i konfliktat v Bosna i Herzegovina (1989–1995)*. [USA and the Conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina] Sofia: Daniela Ubenova Publishers, 2000 (in Bulgarian, summary in English)  
Boyadjieva, N. *NATO on the Balkans: Patterns of Peacekeeping in the Post-Cold War Era (the Cases of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo)*. 2003, NATO/EAPC...

Dobbie, Charles, *A Concept for Post-Cold War Peacekeeping*. Oslo: Institute for Forsvarstudier (Norge), 1994.....

Boyadjieva, N. *The International Community and Peacekeeping Operations in the Balkans in the 1990s*. – In: *Knowledge, Power and Freedom in a Changing World. Proceedings of the Fifth Fulbright Conference*, Sofia, May 16-18th, 2002, Sofia, 2002, pp. 180-192.....

Boyadjieva, N. (co-author K. Grozev). "Setting the Research and Teaching Agenda of Transatlantic Security Studies: Some Notes on Multi-rack Diplomacy and International Intervention". – *Managerial Law*, Vol. 47 No. 3/4, 2005, pp. 61-69

Boyadjieva, N. *The Kosovo Crisis (1999) and Its Consequences for Russian Security Policy and Russian-NATO Relations*. – *Proceedings Annual University Conference 28-29 May 2020*. Veliko Tarnovo, Vol. 9, National Military University Vasil Levski Publishers, 2020, pp. 186-196

Boyadjieva, N. *The Search for Regional Stability: The United States and the War in Bosnia-Herzegovina*. – *Proceedings Annual University Conference*. Veliko Tarnovo, Vol. 8, National Military University Vasil Levski Publishers, 2021, pp. 279-288

Boyadjieva, N. "NATO Peacekeeping and Balkan Security". – In: "Knowledge, Science, Technologies, Innovations". *Scientific Conference Proceedings*, Veliko Tarnovo, 2024, Vol.1, pp. 703-718.

Kramer, Mark. "International Borders and Armed Conflicts in Europe and Northeast Asia since 1945: The Moral Hazard of Great-Power Encroachments." *International Politics* (Hague, Netherlands) [London], vol. 62, no. 3, June 2025, pp. 588–614

Krause, Joachim, and Natalino Ronzitti. *The EU, the UN and Collective Security: Making Multilateralism Effective*. Routledge, 2012.



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Lewis, William H., and National Defense University. Institute for National Strategic Studies. Peacekeeping: United Nations Role Sharing. National Defense University, Institute for National Strategic Studies, 1996

MacQueen, Norrie. “Humanitarian Intervention and Coercive Action: The Balkans.” – Humanitarian Intervention and the United Nations, Edinburgh University Press, 2022, pp. 141–76

Pinchuk Ivanna Ivanovna. “Balkan Crisis and ‘Humanitarian Interventions’ Concept Development.” *Sovremennye Issledovaniia Sotsial’nykh Problem*, no. 4, April 2013

Smidt, Hannah M. “United Nations Peacekeeping Locally: Enabling Conflict Resolution, Reducing Communal Violence.” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* [Los Angeles, CA], vol. 64, no. 2/3, February 2020, pp. 344–72

**Additional information** Lists of recommended reading (in addition to required reading) will be provided to students as the course progresses.

The course is held in English.