

Introduction (For Students)

Did you know that literature based on a medieval battle could help start a world war on June 28, 1914? could shape a dramatic break in diplomatic relations on June 28, 1948? could inspire events in June 28, 1989 that led 10 years later to genocide and the US/NATO bombing of a country? Well, according to the Serbs, that's exactly what happened - and why June 28 is a portentous date in their history!

So what's up with this date, and why is it so important in the history of the Yugoslav area? And what does poetry have to do with history and history have to do with poetry? Answering these questions is more than just an intellectual exercise for you; it may make or break your career.

Your Job:

You work for an intelligence agency that advises your country's leaders about important social/political ideas and trends in southeastern Europe. (You will find out later in what country and what year you are working.) June 28 is fast approaching, and you must report to your superiors about what is happening in the Balkans and what problems *could* arise on that day. Remember that not only your job, but your country's well-being AND the lives of millions of people hang in the balance.

Assignment Overview

Day 1:

As a class, you will discuss the geography, both physical and human, of Kosovo.

Day 2:

As a class, you will read and discuss a few of the legends of Kosovo. You will learn about what the stories mean to Serbian history and how they shaped the course of that history.

Homework:

You and your partner for the project will read a background section on one of two historical crises stemming from the legends of the Battle of Kosovo. Either you will read about the Sarajevo assassination in Bosnia in 1914 or about the Kosovo crisis in 1999.

Day 3:

You and a partner will research a topic in Serbian history that is related to June 28. You will write a one-page report on the day's possible significance using the template that you

are given. According to your teacher's instructions, you will either print out 3 copies of your paper (one for the teacher to grade; two for the class file to be shared with your classmates), OR if your teacher has created a blog, you will post it there.

Homework:

You must read at least one other student's work (either on the blog or by taking a copy of a paper from the file) and write a thoughtful response to it.