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**YUGOSLAVIA**

**Slobodan MILOSEVIC**  
(Phonetic: meeLOshehveech)


*President, Republic of Serbia (since 1989)*

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic faces mounting challenges to his regime, but for now he remains defiant and in control. He holds the reins of the Serbian media and has strong influence over the Yugoslav Army. A clever tactician, Milosevic is keeping the opposition off-balance; his backing of nominally independent and immensely popular Serbian novelist Dobrica Cosic as president of the rump Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and his stated willingness to bring opposition party members into a new government have undermined his critics. For the first time, however, Milosevic is facing criticism from within his own party, from members of the Serbian Academy of Sciences--once a stronghold of Milosevic supporters--and from the Serbian Orthodox Church. His ability to stave off unrest caused by mounting economic problems--worsened by UN sanctions --is also decreasing as hyperinflation and a lack of foreign credits limit his ability to continue flooding the printing presses. 

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Milosevic has put aside his slogan of "all Serbs in one state" and is concentrating instead on legitimizing a rump Yugoslavia composed only of Serbia and its ally, Montenegro. He has been cultivating strong ties to Serb leaders outside Serbia and Montenegro, probably to enable him to eventually attach to his evolving state areas where there are Serb majorities. Although Milosevic does not uniformly control Serb leaders outside Serbia, he is largely responsible for their rise to power and is in close contact with them. Goran Hadzic, president of the "Serbian Republic of Krajina" (in Croatia) has said he has good relations with Milosevic and has called him the "greatest politician alive." 

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In our judgment, the primary motive underlying Milosevic's political behavior is a strong drive to exercise power and control. 




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Milosevic, in our view, sincerely identifies with his ethnic heritage and appeals to the intense nationalism of Serbs and to their feelings of manifest destiny. He uses an emotional national appeal to avoid being outflanked by those who criticize him for abandoning Serb brethren in other republics. 



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In 1989, Milosevic forced his former mentor out of the Serbian presidency and was subsequently elected to the post in December 1990 with 65 percent of the vote. Since then, Milosevic has considered himself unbeatable and as having few restraints on his actions within Serbia. 



 He apparently sometimes listens to Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic, however, and has made attempts to improve his international image. 

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**The Drive to Power**

Milosevic was born in Pozarevac on 20 August 1941. His father, an orthodox priest, abandoned his family and then committed suicide. Milosevic's mother also killed herself, according to press reports. Milosevic joined the Communist Party at 18. After graduating from the Law Faculty of the University of Belgrade in 1964, he held a series of economic-related party positions. Milosevic joined the Belgrade firm Technogas in 1968 and became its director in 1973. In 1978 he took up the post of president of the Bank of Belgrade, one of Yugoslavia's largest financial institutions. He returned to full-time politics as Belgrade party chief in 1984 under the tutelage of his mentor, then Serbian Communist party chief Ivan Stambolic. Milosevic took over as head of the Serbian party in 1986 [redacted]

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[redacted] In April 1987, Milosevic captured international attention with his dramatic appearance at a protest meeting of Kosovo Serbs, where he initiated an inflammatory campaign to "right the wrongs" they were suffering and demanded rapid progress toward full democracy and a market economy. On 8 May 1989 he became President of Serbia. [redacted]

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**One on One**

Milosevic is impressively articulate, self-confident, and in command of his brief in face-to-face meetings. Usually affable and relaxed--during meetings in his office [redacted] he is a master at thinking and acting under pressure,

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Milosevic has been to Beijing and Moscow once and has visited the United States more than a dozen times, mostly as a banker. Since returning to politics, he has made private trips to Western Europe about once a year. He is on good terms with Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis [redacted]

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[redacted] On 7 March 1992 he suffered a light concussion in a car accident, according to press reports. Milosevic speaks English. He is married to his childhood sweetheart, Mirjana Markovic, now a hardline university professor, assertive Communist Party ideologue, and niece of a onetime party chief. The couple has a daughter and a son. [redacted]

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