

Kosovo

Ethnicity in Kosovo

Group selection

We identify the following politically relevant ethnic groups: **Albanians, Bosniaks, Gorani, Roma, Serbs, and Turks**. Group sizes originate from the 2011 census, which however excluded the Serb minority in the North, and are thus, harmonized with the ethnic group sizes that were estimated in 1995.

Power relations

2008-2017

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia on 17 February 2008.

Albanians are the politically dominant demographic majority in Kosovo. For the entire period, Albanians are coded as “dominant” and all other groups as “powerless”.

Official and societal discrimination persists against Kosovo Serbs and Roma in employment, education, social services, language use, freedom of movement, the right to return, and other basic rights (²³⁹⁰). Although the Serbs and Roma face widespread societal and economic discrimination, they are not politically discriminated. Due to the international pressure associated with the creation of the new state, the Albanian majority is obliged to formally include Serbs and other minorities in the political process. For instance, occasionally Serbs are included in the governing coalition, such as in 2011, when two ethnic Serbs filled minister positions (²³⁹¹). However, the Serbs in Northern Kosovo mostly boycott elections and only the Serbs in the rest of Kosovo have voter participation rates similar to Albanians (²³⁹²). This indicates that an alleged exclusion of the Serbs is rather voluntary, because many ethnic Serbs do not accept Kosovo as an independent state and are still orientated towards Serbia, wherefrom they receive support (e.g. welfare). The Serbs are not coded as being self-exclusionist or regionally autonomous, despite the separatist tendencies of the Serbs in northern Kosovo, because these northern Serbs do not constitute the majority of Serbs in Kosovo, who are spread across the entire country.

In the first assembly (120 members) after independence, there were 24 ethnic minority members, including 10 Kosovo Serbs and 14 members of other groups, including ethnic Turks, Gorani, and Roma and Ashkali (²³⁹³). This indicates that these groups are politically relevant.

²³⁹⁰ [U.S. State Department, 2008-2009]

²³⁹¹ [Republic of Kosovo Assembly, 2011]

²³⁹² [BBC, 2010]

²³⁹³ [U.S. State Department, 2008-2009]

In the 2010 parliamentary elections, 100 seats were elected on the basis of national proportional representation. For the 20 minority reserved seats in the Kosovo parliament, 10 seats are reserved for Serbs, 4 seats for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians, 3 seats for the Bosniaks, Montenegrins, Croats, Hungarians, 2 seats for the Turks, and 1 seat for the Goranis (²³⁹⁴).

²³⁹⁴ [Election Guide, 2010]

In the following parliamentary election in 2014, the Serbs received 10 seats, the Roma 1, the Gorani 1, the Turks 3, the Bosniaks 2, the Ashkali 2 and the Egyptians 1 (²³⁹⁵). After the election, a constitutional crisis took place for several months, until a government was formed. The government coalition, however, still consists of Albanian representatives only.

²³⁹⁵ [European Union, 2014]

Although an important agreement on relations between Serbia and Kosovo was reached in 2013, the relationship between the Kosovo Serbs and the Kosovo Albanians is tense (²³⁹⁶). The agreement was never fully implemented. The elections in 2014 were still marked by boycotts and a very low turnout in the Northern districts, and the “Association of Serb Majority Municipalities in Kosovo”, the founding of which had been proposed in the agreement and should facilitate the provision of local autonomy for Serbs, has never been established (²³⁹⁷).

²³⁹⁶ [Spiegel, 2017]

²³⁹⁷ [Group for Legal and Political Studies, 2017]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Kosovo

From 2008 until 2017

| Group name | Proportional size | Political status |
|------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Albanians | 0.9 | DOMINANT |
| Serbs | 0.053 | POWERLESS |
| Bosniaks | 0.016 | POWERLESS |
| Roma | 0.011 | POWERLESS |
| Gorani | 0.01 | POWERLESS |
| Turks | 0.004 | POWERLESS |



Figure 493: Political status of ethnic groups in Kosovo during 2008-2017.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Kosovo

From 2008 until 2017

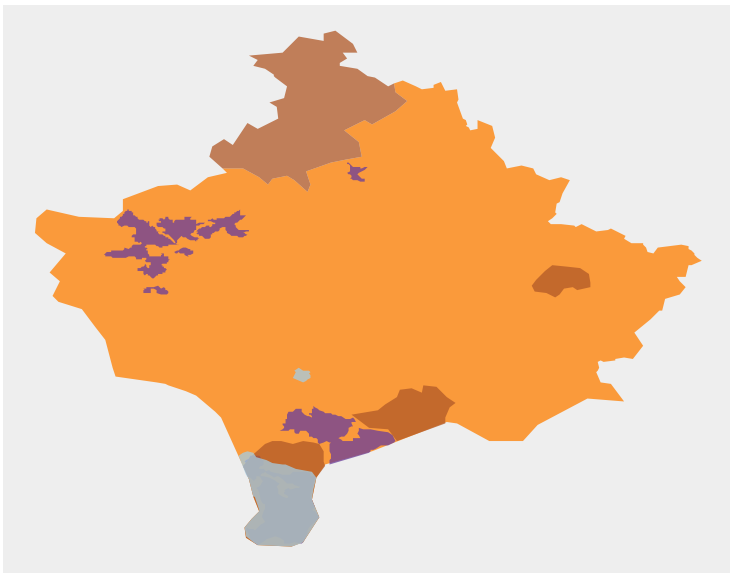


Figure 494: Map of ethnic groups in Kosovo during 2008-2017.

| Group name | Area in km ² | Type |
|------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Albanians | 9776 | Regionally based |
| Serbs | 1216 | Regionally based |
| Bosniaks | 645 | Regionally based |
| Gorani | 441 | Regionally based |
| Turks | 356 | Regionally based |
| Roma | | Dispersed |

Table 168: List of ethnic groups in Kosovo during 2008-2017.