

find the optimal ways—*according to their specific circumstances*—to do it.

Countries join the EU and NATO on their own merits, not on sufferance, and when they do join they make their own distinctive contribution.

They learn from us, and we certainly learn from them.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's contribution to the larger bodies that it now seeks to join derives from its particular geopolitical experience, its paradoxical tradition of unity through diversity that the Nobel Prize-winning Bosnian novelist Ivo Andric so skillfully evokes, a unity that comes from centuries of shared experience—of tragedy as well as triumph.

This is a powerful and compelling tradition, one that was challenged in the terrible bloodletting of the 1990s but that was not defeated. It is a tradition that Europe and the world must tap into, faced as we are by a new and endemic global instability masquerading under the guise of cultural or religious incompatibility.

BiH shows that the notion of incompatibility is fraudulent. We have to live together; we *can* live together.

The international community came to Bosnia and Herzegovina (more slowly and more tentatively than it should have done) in order to maintain peace. (I might add that Canada's contribution to this effort has from the beginning been substantial and robust; more than 40,000 Canadian peacekeepers served in BiH during and after the war and the Canadian government has maintained a multi-million dollar aid program, now focusing on rule of law, health and education projects.) Yet in BiH we have learned a deeper lesson about our own struggle to find a basis for peace in the wider world. The Bosnians taught us what was wrong with their business environment and how to fix it. They can teach us a great deal about what is wrong with our world and how to fix that, too. 🍁

**Find out more about Canada's continuing involvement in the Balkans through the Web sites of Canadian embassies in the region:**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
[www.international.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/country\\_bos-en.asp](http://www.international.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/country_bos-en.asp);

**Croatia** [www.international.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/country\\_cro-en.asp](http://www.international.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/country_cro-en.asp);

**Serbia and Montenegro**  
[www.international.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/country\\_ser-en.asp](http://www.international.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/country_ser-en.asp).

**Visit the Office of the High Representative at [www.ohr.int](http://www.ohr.int).**

## Canada in the region

**July 1992** – United Nations Protection Force opens the Sarajevo Airport for humanitarian flights under the command of Canadian Major-General Lewis Mackenzie.

**September 1993** – Canadian troops fight Croatian forces in breach of a ceasefire agreement in the Medak Pocket—Canada's largest military engagement since the Korean War.

**1996 to 1999** – Louise Arbour serves as chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, trying Slobodan Milosevic and others accused of war crimes.

**1997** – Canada sends RCMP and police officers to Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of a UN police mission. Six police officers continue to serve with what is now the EU police mission.

**Spring 1999** – Canadian Forces aircraft participate in the 78-day NATO bombing campaign to end human rights abuses in Kosovo.

**Summer 1999** – 7,000 Kosovar refugees come to Canada in a humanitarian evacuation. Although many eventually return to Kosovo, thousands of Canadians act as sponsors, volunteers and donors.

**2003** – Canadian Brigadier-General Stuart Beare assumes command of one of the three brigades that make up NATO's mission in BiH.

Canadian contribution: A Canadian Forces patrol monitors the devastated Tomislavgrad region of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in 2002. More than 40,000 Canadian peacekeepers served in BiH during and after the war and the Canadian government has maintained an extensive aid program there.

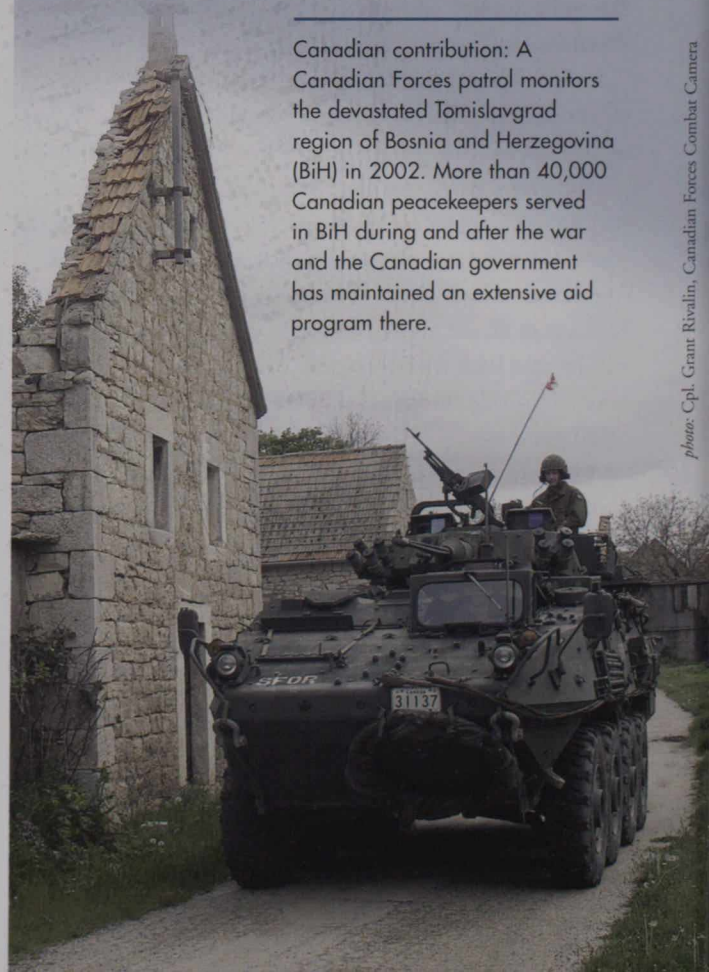


photo: Cpl. Grant Rivalin, Canadian Forces Combat Camera