Starting in the A.D. 500s, Slavic people migrated from Poland and Russia and settled in the Balkan Peninsula. Hundreds of years later, in 1389, the Ottomans defeated the Serbs at the Battle of Kosovo Polje and took over Serbia. Even though they were ruled by Muslims, the Serbs clung to their Christian religion. However, many people in Bosnia converted to Islam. Eventually, in 1878, Serbia broke free of the Ottoman Empire. The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes was soon formed, and in 1929 the king renamed the nation Yugoslavia. After World War II, the Communists took control of Yugoslavia’s government. In 1980, the Yugoslavian dictator Tito died, and the presidency began to rotate among leaders from the six republics and two provinces. Seven years later, the political leader Milosevic began to propose the creation of a Greater Serbia; a plan that the Croats and the Bosnians viewed with alarm. In response, Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina declared their independence. The Bosnian Serbs opposed this declaration by Bosnia and Herzegovina. Supported by the country of Serbia, the Bosnian Serbs launched a brutal war that involved ethnic cleansing, a policy of violently trying to eliminate an ethnic group. In response to Serbia’s attempts to control Kosovo, a group called the KLA began to carry out attacks in the late 1990s against Serbian officials. The Serbian government responded by bombing villages in Kosovo, and then in March 1999 NATO started bombing Serbia to force it to stop the violence.