Behind the Headlines: Kosovo at a Critical Juncture

America and Europe at last have a chance to “get it right” in the Balkans

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Perspective

Courageous political leadership and imaginative diplomacy will be necessary to break this deadlock. Quite literally, the future of the international community and statesmanship on the order of Anwar Sadat’s historic 1979 trip to Tel Aviv to achieve a breakthrough in the Arab-Israeli conflict is at stake.

Whether there are any Balkan peacemakers of this caliber remains to be seen. What is clear, however, is that this is a rare historical opportunity to get Kosovo and the Balkans. For the first time in decades—if not centuries—the Balkans are not divided by rival power blocs, and all the peoples in the region share the same domestic and foreign policy goals develop economic and market eco-nomies that will one day qualify them for EU membership.

It is to be hoped that American and European leaders, along with their counterparts in in the region, will find the vision and the courage to meet this historic moment to the fullest.

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