

The Albanian Federation-A New Balance Between Centrifugal Forces Within Southeastern Europe

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Citation: RAMABAJA S (2025) The Albanian Federation-A New Balance Between Centrifugal Forces Within Southeastern Europe. American J Sci Edu Re: AJSER-263.

Received Date: 04 September, 2025; **Accepted Date:** 12 September, 2025; **Published Date:** 18 September, 2025

Abstract

The Albanian Federation should now be treated as an inevitable process, the point is that it should be created in accordance with the political will of the Albanians and in the spirit of the European school of political thought of federalism.

European federalists categorically claim that Europe must take a step towards integration if it wants to affirm itself in a dangerous environment, then it is more than clear that we Albanians also have this right, many times more reasonable and more based on our right, not only historical, but also existential.

Current world jurisprudence, theory and practice have also accepted the centripetal application of the principle of self-determination, the unification of two or more states into one. For our case, the model of the unification of the Federal Republic of Germany with the German Democratic Republic on October 3, 1990 is particularly relevant.

Keywords: Albanian Federation, centrifugal forces, Southeast Europe, Hamiltonian Moment, survival strategy.

Introduction

As a promoter of the idea of the Albanian Federation, more or less in the spirit of the European school of political thought of federalism, which sees Europe facing a "Hamiltonian moment" of statehood, I want to believe that in this age of the New World Order, the Albanian Federation is like a sine qua non for our Nation.

If the New World Order is emerging as the result of a major crisis on a global scale and the death of the liberal Order, marking a historical turning point, where the crisis will have the dimensions of a political, economic or military challenge, forcing Europeans to align and unite in a stronger federal entity, leaving behind partial sovereignties to create a more centralized authority, for our Nation it is a historical and political momentum that must be used to the benefit of the creation of the Albanian Federation through accelerated procedures.

The Concept of the "Hamilton Moment"

Wanting to highlight the critical historical moment, I return once again to the original concept of the "Hamilton Moment". It comes from Alexander Hamilton, one of the founders of the United States and one of the main architects of the American federal system. In 1780, during the Revolutionary War, the American states faced major economic problems due to the lack of an effective central government. Hamilton argued that this crisis forced the states to surrender part of their sovereignty in order to create a stronger federal system (e.g., through the US Constitution in 1787).

The Great Crisis as a Real Positive Provocation

European federalists (such as Altiero Spinelli, Jean Monnet or Jacques Delors) believe that Europe will achieve true federal integration only when a great crisis (of the magnitude that is now present in the transatlantic plane and the very relations on the global plane in this age of the New World Order) forces the

member states to give up national sovereignty in favor of a more centralized European government.

If the European federalists are right "when they say that Europe must take a step towards integration if it wants to assert itself in a dangerous environment" [1], then it is more than clear that we Albanians have this right, which is much more reasonable and based on our not only historical but also existential right.

In this process, the withdrawal of American guarantees of defense to the neighboring peoples of Germany would likely revive the old fear of a rearmed and potentially dominant Germany.

This was stated in a recent interviews with the German daily Die Welt, Jens Spahn, the head of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group, has called for a European nuclear shield, including a leading role for Germany.

"I know what defensive reflexes will immediately arise, but yes: We need to have a debate about an independent European nuclear shield. And that only works with German leadership," [2] he said when asked whether Germany should become a nuclear power, Der Spiegel quotes him as saying.

According to experts, the nuclear balance between Washington and Moscow has so far prevented the two superpowers from going to war directly. As a result, non-nuclear-weapon states, including Russia's neighbors and those in southeastern Europe, have been able to feel secure for decades because the US has always stressed that its arsenal also protects Europe. But with Trump's return to the White House, this protection is no longer assured. Thomas Jäger, professor of political science at The University of Cologne sees a "real risk of blackmail"[3] from Russia's military power without the US, not only for Germany, but also for other European countries that Moscow may consider to be areas of strategic interest for Russia.

The 76-year-old historian of Eastern Europe, Karl Schlögel, who has been a professor in Konstanz and Frankfurt (Oder), also expresses concern in this line of thought: "Russia is a country that has started a war in Europe and the Germans must prepare for this. That means: to be ready for defense, to be ready to resist." [4]

This is why Germany has opened up the issue of the possible possession of its own nuclear weapons for discussion on a theoretical level. "We are now at a point where we can no longer completely rule it out," says Fabian Hoffmann, a nuclear weapons expert at the University of Oslo, in an interview with BR24 for "Possoch klärt."

Theoretically, Germany could develop its own nuclear missiles in a relatively short time. According to Hoffmann, the country already has the necessary resources and know-how. Germany has highly enriched uranium for research purposes, which could produce up to 15 nuclear warheads. Compared to the high costs of conventional tanks and aircraft, these nuclear missiles would be much cheaper to produce. [5]

The "Hamilton Moment" in Inter-Albanian Relations

The different perceptions of threat between Eastern, Western and Southern Europe will also intensify centrifugal forces between European states. If German politicians are looking to create new balances, be they of a nature such as nuclear weapons, always in the name and function of defense, our demands to treat the Albanian Federation as a new balance between centrifugal forces within Southeast Europe are completely reasonable.

The "Hamilton Moment" in inter-Albanian relations, not only between the two existing republics [political Albania and the Republic of Kosova], should be understood as a metaphor for a historical turning point, where our two entities, in function of also the prosperity of the rights of Albanians in North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia [not only in its south in the three municipalities: Preševo, Bujanovac and Medoc, but also in Sandžak], due to the emergency need, would create the Albanian Federation, treating it also as a kind of new balance between centrifugal forces within Southeast Europe.

The Albanian Federation as a political entity in Southeast Europe should no longer be a controversial concept, and should be seen as something interesting for political and theoretical discussion, which could affect the balance of power in the region, but as a necessity. This would involve the unification of the two existing republics, leaving open the possibility of including North Macedonia, or rather its Albanian-populated parts, if the existence of the MV as a sovereign state is further questioned.

Effect on the EU and NATO

A federally united Albania would be a stronger actor in negotiations with the EU, reducing dependence on neighboring countries.

An Albania united with Kosova would be a stronger actor in the region, reducing the destabilizing influence of Serbia and Russia.

A stable federation would more easily meet the Copenhagen criteria (democracy, market economy, rule of law).

A federation would have a coordinated army, making it easier to defend the borders against Russian intervention.

NATO could support it as a stabilizing factor, but there could be resistance from states that do not recognize Kosova (Spain, Greece, etc.).

An Albanian Federation would have a number of benefits:

- It would strengthen the security of the Balkans against Russia and Serbia.
- It would accelerate Euro-Atlantic integration.
- It would create a more economically and militarily powerful state.

Unification in the European context

Current world jurisprudence, theory and practice have also accepted the centripetal application of the principle of self-determination, the unification of two or more states into one.[6] For our case, the model of the unification of the Federal Republic of Germany with the German Democratic Republic on October 3, 1990 is particularly relevant.[7]

Albania and Kosova, like Germany, are in almost the same situation. From November 28, 1912, until the decisions of the Great Powers and the beginning of their implementation, in the first months of 1914, Albania was and behaved as an independent state. It had a legitimate government and other state bodies, which had declared and established its authority over a population living in territories that formally and legally included the four former vilayets of the Ottoman Empire inhabited by Albanians. They also included Kosova and other Albanian territories in Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Greece, traditionally known under the name Albania. This Albania, according to the declarative theory of recognition, which prevails in international law, was formally a state and its subject, and therefore also a member of the world community of that time. [...] Albania was divided by the Powers after about a year, when it already existed as a separate state, just like Germany...[8]

In the new circumstances, especially after the unprovoked Russian aggression against Ukraine and provocations by the Serbian side to open a second front of the war in Europe [let us recall the failed aggression of September 24, 2023, Banjë, northern Kosova], but also the extremely shaky positions on the transatlantic plane, the ideas for the creation in accelerated procedures of the Albanian Federation take on specific weight, with an emphasis on the security plane. This unification of Albanians will certainly take place within a European context.

Albanian Federation - a new Switzerland in the heart of the Balkans

An Albanian Federation could function as the Federal Republic of Germany functions today, transforming into a Balkan Switzerland - where the two existing republics, even if for a certain period, maintain autonomy, but unite in foreign and security policy. And if managed well, it could be a model of success for the region, providing economic and political stability.

If implemented wisely, and the historical moment is for it to be implemented, it could be a means of balance and stabilization, without the need to impose it by force, which would risk new conflicts.

Imposing it by force does not mean that it can be done only by the Albanian side. On the contrary, any possible new adventure of Serbia towards the Republic of Kosova could forcefully impose the realization of the Albanian Federation, but then as a means not only of balance but above all as a guarantee of the biological existence of the Nation.

The fight against foreign infiltrators

The immediate result is the fight against foreign infiltrators (be they neo-Ottomans, Slavs, or suspicious Europeans).

The profound changes in the field of political standards of a neighborhood of our political parties in our national space, with an emphasis on that in Kosova, now worry, are conflicting with the national interest, consequently all this cannot remain without serious consequences.

The disregard for the fundamental values of Albanian civilization, of the painful lessons of our modern history, with such venerable negligence, shows not only a lack of political and intellectual formation, of historical awareness, for the bias and support of non-European interests [neo-Ottoman and Slavic], over Albanian ones, while in one of its neighborhoods [the opposition] also a lack of suitability for public office.

See for this, the Albanian Federation should also be seen from this angle as a correction of any possibility of abuse by currents that could return us to the era of Haxhi Qamili.

Therefore, we need a resurgence of national consciousness – not just “unification”, but unity with purpose. And along with this, new elites who are not easily sold – politicians with character, not with short-term interests.

If Germany conceives its determined commitment to the EU as a process in which it carries out historical cleansing, as a restoration of its moral and political reputation, as Brzezinski would say, Albania as part of NATO and a candidate for accession to the EU in the short term, ensures the Nation a full and rapid return to the European family, from which it was accidentally separated in the Middle Ages.

By fully returning to the West, the Albanian Federation would restore the greatness of the Nation, while at the same time undertaking a mission that does not automatically mobilize the dissatisfaction and fear of its neighbors against the Albanians. Neglecting Albanian history and values, especially in this prolonged period of democratic transition, was a fatal mistake, which has enabled and allowed the penetration of external powers (neo-Ottoman, Slavic, or even pseudo-European ones) to exploit the weak parts of Albanian society.

By diversifying the form of minimal historical correction [the decisions that made Albania a torso – the Berlin Congress -1878 and with emphasis those of the London Conference -1913] and the rights and responsibilities associated with this act, the Albanian Federation and with it Europe can gain the flexibility that counteracts the centrifugal forces that have meanwhile become dangerous.

Confronting Serbia - a strategy for political survival

On the eve of World War I - more specifically around 1910, in Western Europe, nation-states were engaged in an arms race never seen before. The proverb "if you want peace, prepare for war" belongs to this period.

Within 3-4 years, the IPL broke out.

Military historian Stig Förster, a lecturer at the University of Bern, is one of the leading experts on military history in the German-speaking world. Born in Berlin, he has just compiled his knowledge into an impressive book on German military history. In a long interview for NZZ, he states, among other things, that "if we have learned anything from the history of the 20th century, it is this: You cannot negotiate with an aggressor. You cannot compromise with an aggressor. You have to confront them..."[9]

Serbia's positioning in relation to Kosova continues to be traditional - aggressive and expansionist. This was repeated in the last speech of the Serbian president, when he angrily insulted the internationals as parties to the Albanian-Serbian dialogue in Brussels, calling them shameless and deceitful.

See, for this reason, readiness for military confrontation turns out to be the best strategy for the possible avoidance of a new Albanian-Serbian war, respectively for the political survival of Kosova.

Confronting Serbia is not a choice, but a necessity. It is essential for preserving the sovereignty, territorial integrity and international subjectivity of Kosova.

Only then can Kosova move from political survival to sustainable national development – and win not only against Serbia, but also against history, becoming a locomotive for the construction of the Albanian Federation.

The Strategy of the Albanian Federation in a World in Transition

In the context of the New World Order and the struggle of powers for hegemony, the Albanian Federation has two existential priorities:

- 1. Self-realization** (preserving identity, expanding cultural and political influence).
- 2. Survival** (avoiding annihilation in geopolitical clashes).

To this end, it must build intelligent strategies of partnerships and balancing.

The strategy implies, first of all, finding partners who would support this objective, guaranteeing sovereignty and territorial integrity (avoiding new divisions or occupations).

The domination of the cultural and linguistic space (protecting the identity of Albanians wherever they are against assimilation).

Meanwhile, tactics have to do with what balancing between the poles of power implies. Why is it necessary to apply this tactic? We are not a regional power, big enough to become a superpower, but we are quite strategic in geopolitical realignments in this historical process that we are entering, which I am inclined to call the age of the New Order. The great powers (USA, Russia, EU, China) will fight for influence in the Balkans – we must avoid becoming a "battleground".

The clear pro-Western positioning of the governments of Tirana and Pristina helps, but is not enough to create the Albanian Federation in the context of the New World Order. This act must be accompanied by the creation of a full partnership in several areas, especially in the security area. In this framework, accelerated membership in NATO and the EU for Kosova would optimize our pro-leadership position. Meanwhile, the

diversification of strategic partners such as: Croatia, Great Britain [as allies in the construction of the Croatian-Albanian Alliance in the field of security and military cooperation]; Israel [for cooperation in the field of technology and cybersecurity].

Conclusion

The Albanian Federation should be treated as a corrective mechanism to protect national interests. It should also be seen as a preventive mechanism in this geopolitical realignment and the possibilities for possible slippage of reactionary forces into the same mistake as the so-called Haxhi Qamili Movement had made, where Albanians clashed with foreign imperialism without a sustainable strategy. Therefore, the Albanian Federation needs a Skanderbegian spirit for national cooperation and coordination.

Albania and Albanians must learn to decipher the geostrategies of rival powers, formulate their own essential interests and secure the means of power to assert themselves. The Albanian Federation must therefore act essentially in defense, in accordance with the strategy and doctrine of the Albanian League of Prizren, but by making a qualitative step forward, giving meaning to the slogan "The League is alive".

Strategically, the Albanian Federation, both for self-realization and survival, must find partners to save together what can be saved from the expected clashes in this process of creating the New Order.

Tactically, the Albanian Federation must learn to balance between the poles of the concert of powers.

The pro-Western position in itself is not enough to create the Albanian Federation, but it gains weight and is preferable if:

It is used as a platform, not as an obstacle (do not isolate yourself from the non-Western world);

It is coordinated with a strong internal strategy (cooperation in the Tirana-Pristina relationship that must be deeper than just declarations);

It is prepared for different scenarios (every alliance is temporary in geopolitics).

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