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THE PARK OF FRIENDSHIP IN NEW BELGRADE

A Living Monument of Peace and Solidarity

Abstract: The Park of Friendship in New Belgrade was constructed in 1961 as a commemoration of the First Non-Aligned Summit in Belgrade. This Park has offered leaders, visitors of the city the opportunity of planting their trees in the Park to symbolize Friendship, and hope, and a purpose of better life in all parts of the world. This article discusses the background and presents a number of facts concerning the Park of Friendship. Furthermore, there is a comparison between the Park of Friendship and the global situation in the second half of the 20th century. The Park was visited almost 200 world leaders since the founding of the Non-Aligned Movement and the First Conference of Non-Aligned Countries until the end of the 20th century. The practice was to plant a tree that was a significant mark of the Friendship and solidarity, and the desire of peace. To ensure that information about the Park of Friendship is kept, this article gives a list of all countries and the heads of state who have planted their trees.

As time had passed the world changed: by overall progress, but also by a turbulent events. Some of countries do not exist anymore. Some of leaders from the Park finished their political carrier, sometimes a life, under tragic circumstances. By consulting available sources a review of their later life is presented.

Finally, the emerging urban plans of the city of Belgrade may result in the permanent destruction of this monument place that is Yugoslav and, to put it mildly, a monument place to the entire world. Hence, this paper is a call to preserve the Park of Friendship in the form of the memorial site since it is encrypted in the Cultural heritage register of Serbia, besides other values.

Keywords: Park of Friendship, Non-Aligned Countries, Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, Josip Broz Tito

1. Introduction

The Park of Friendship in New Belgrade (*Sr. Park prijateljstva*) was planned as a living peace and international unity memorial in the early 1960s. The Park was constituted during the first meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement held in 1961 in the city of Belgrade. [1,2] Planted with trees by world leaders - presidents, monarchs, and prime ministers - it became a symbolic landscape that embodied Yugoslavia's ambition to position itself as a mediator in a bipolar world.

Some authors have looked at the Park through urban design and Cold War diplomatic history and socialist cultural production lens. This paper introduce a layer as it looks at the Park as a world leaders' scrapbook, with each tree being a hope and a piece of political fate.

The article also covers the later life some of them: some of whom would be killed, overthrown, or disgraced. This contrast renders the Park a place of collective memory but also an archive building of sarcasm, delicate nature and evolving historical interpretation.

2. Global context of the 1960s

The early 1960s witnessed heightened geopolitical rivalry. The Cold War divided the planet into two hostile spheres which included the United States with NATO allies standing against the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact bloc. People lived under nuclear war threat because of international crises like Berlin (1961) and the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962). The superpowers tried to force smaller countries and recently independent nations to choose their side.

Meanwhile, there was a wave of decolonization that transformed the international order. African and Asian countries that got independence from European colonial empires were dozens but their economies and political systems were not strong and secure. Most of these states refused to become the pawns in the Cold War. They wanted a platform that would honour their independence and development objectives. This desire led to the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement, which offered to collaborate with other entities but not the East-West tension. [3]

The decision to join the Non-Aligned Movement was based on economic and political and geographical ties with the affected countries. (Figure 1)

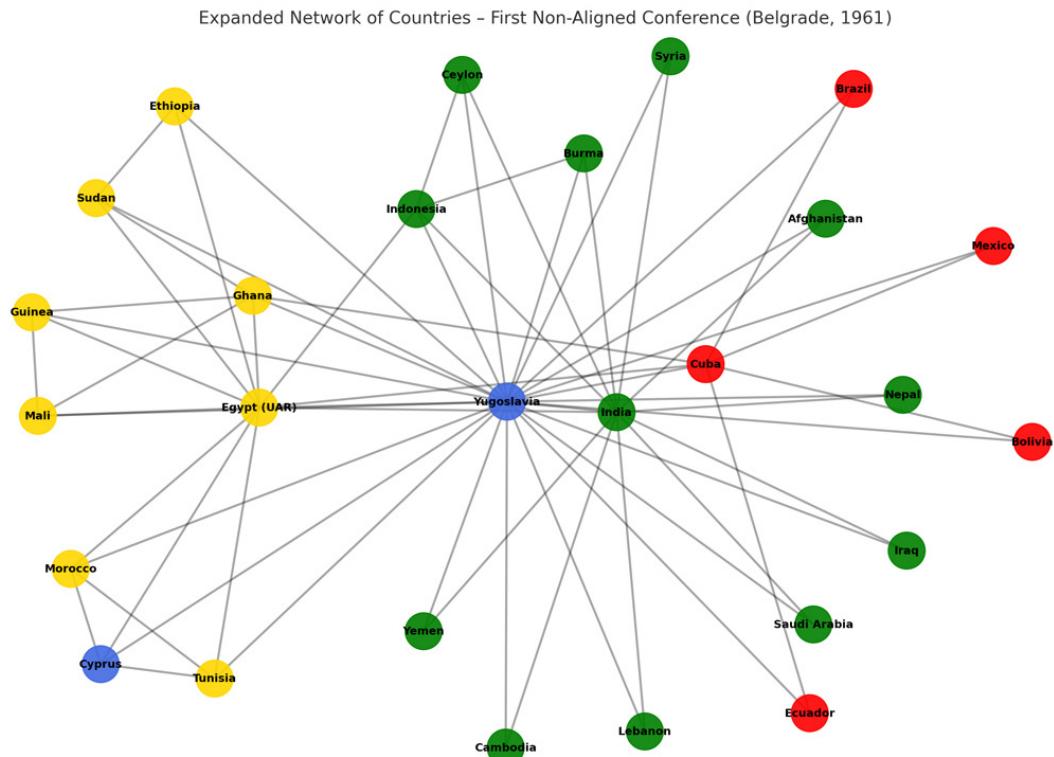


Figure 1. Graph of connections and influences between countries that participated the Belgrade Conference the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961

The graph was created by AI ChatBot. Ranks of nodes confirm that the most influenced countries were Yugoslavia, Egypt (in Africa), India (in Asia), and Cuba (in Middle America).

3. Belgrade and the birth of the non-aligned movement

Josip Broz Tito, who was the head of socialist Yugoslavia, was instrumental in the planning of the Non-Aligned Nations conference and the development of the concept of non-alignment. **Josip Broz Tito**, together with such leaders as **Jawaharlal Nehru** of India, **Gamal Abdel Nasser** of Egypt and **Kwame Nkrumah** of Ghana, advocated Yugoslavia as a link between the East and the West. [3] Yugoslavia opted for its own

course after the Tito-Stalin conflict in 1948, unlike other socialist nations. This independence made Belgrade a credible host for the summit and allowed Tito to emerge as a respected statesman among the leaders of the developing world.[4]

The meeting of the founding of the Non-Aligned Countries was hosted by Belgrade in September 1961 and brought together leaders of 25 countries and representatives of various liberation movements (**Figure 2** and **Figure 3**). It was an experience that went down in history as the first time when quite a significant number of countries declared their desire to remain neutral and autonomous, and co-exist peacefully. [5]



Figure 2
Participants of the First Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Belgrade (Source: Wikimedia)



Figure 3

The Non-Aligned Movement preached not political neutrality but it included a focus on peaceful co-existence, disarmament and economic cooperation, and respect of countries. [6] During the Conference the **Park of Friendship** was constructed to symbolize this idea and unity among countries.

4. The creation of the park of friendship

To commemorate the First Non-Aligned Summit, the Park of Friendship opened in 1961. Located in the newly built district of New Belgrade (Figure 4), the Park was designed not just as a recreational space but as a symbolic landscape of unity. [2]



Figure 4. The white marble obelisk is the central object in the Park of Friendship

The main idea was simple and yet profound. All the visiting heads of state and kings and prime ministers could plant a tree to the Park as a sign of Friendship and peace. **Plane tree (platanus)** was selected as the species to be used and it is reputed to have a long life span and can survive in different environments. Its deep roots and wide branches were meant to show power, stability, and the emerging relations between the countries. The trees built the “**Avenue of Peace**” (*Sr. Aleja mira*) and many of the international leaders added to the living monument. (Figure 5)



Figure 5. Plane trees in the Avenue of Peace constitute the main corridor of the Park

The Park was envisaged in accordance with the vision of Tito. He personally participated in the ceremonial plantings, and his presence gave the space political and emblematic weight. The first tree in the Park of Friendship was planted on 7 September 1961 by Josip Broz Tito, the host of the Summit (Figure 6 and Figure 7) and Gamal Abdel Nasser (Figure 8 and Figure 9).

Josip Broz Tito's international stature was crucial for the Park's further development. As one of the key architects of the Non-Aligned Movement, he was frequently visited by world leaders. Each visit offered an opportunity to expand the "Avenue of Peace". Thus, the Park gradually became a unique diplomatic archive, inscribed besides in documents also in living trees. The list of trees is reviewed in the Table 1.



Figure 6. Josip Broz Tito is planting the first tree in the Park of Friendship, 7 Sept. 1961
(Source: Wikimedia)

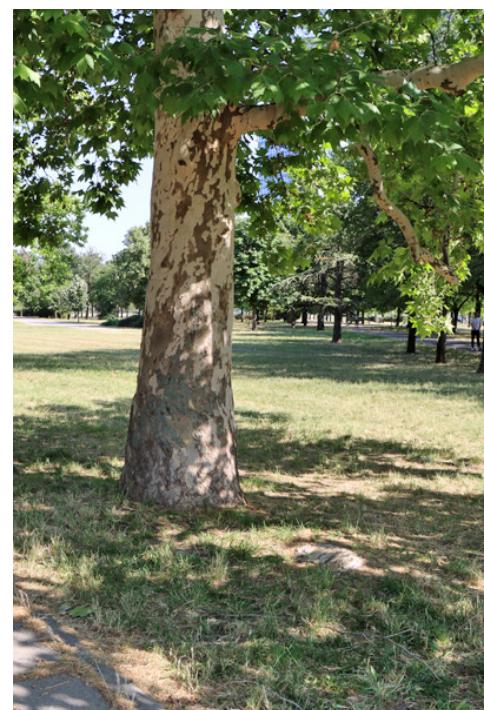


Figure 7. The tree planted by Josip Broz Tito in 2025 (Z. Cvetković, 21 June 2025)

Table 1. The list of trees planted by participants of the First Conference of the Non-Aligned in 1961 at the "Avenue of Peace"

No	Country	Politician / Person	No	Country	Politician / Person
1	FNRJ	Josip Broz Tito	2	Saudi Arabia	Abdullah Al Suwaiyel
3	Tunisia	Hakib Bourguiba	4	Iraq	Jawad al-Maliki
5	India	Jawaharlal Nehru	6	Libanon	Nawaf Abdallah Salim Salam
7	Bolivia	Felma Valorde	8	Ghana	Francis Kwame Nkrumah
9	Cyprus	Archbishop Makarios III	10	Algeria	Benyoucef Benkhedda
11	Sudan	Ibrahim Abboud	12	Nepal	Mahendra of Nepal
13	Ecuador	Jose Joaquim Silva	14	Yemen	Prince Saiful Islam Al-Hassan

					of Yemen
15	Cambodia	Prince Norodom Sihanouk	16	Indonezija	Ahmed Soekarno
17	Congo - Leopoldville (Republic of the Congo - Leopoldville, Zaire)	Cyrille Adoula	18	United Arab Republic (Egypt & Syria)	Gamal Abdel Nasser Hussein
19	Tanganyika (United Republic of Tanzania)	Julius Kambarage Nyerere	20	Ethiopia	Haile Selassie
21	Cejlon / Sri Lanka	SirimaRatwatte Dias Bandaranaike	22	Somalia	Aden Abdullah Osman Daar
23	Burma (Myanmar)	U Nu	24	Mali	Modibo Keita
25	Serbia	Youth afforestation organization (<i>sr. Pokret mladih gorana</i>)			

Since the 1960s to 1980s and until 2000 a high number of prominent individuals throughout the world participated in the tradition. **Indira Gandhi** of India, **Emperor Haile Selassie** of Ethiopia, **Willy Brandt** of West Germany (Figure 8), **Richard Nixon** of United States, **Queen Elizabeth II** of Great Britain (Figure 9) and **Col Muammar Gaddafi** of Libya and many others were among them. By late 1980s the Park had almost two hundreds of trees and each tree was dedicated to a certain dignitary who had planted a tree, marked by the name at the stone plaque.



Figure 8. Gamal Abdel Nasseris planting the tree, 7 Sept. 1961 (Source: Wikimedia)



Figure 9. The tree planted by Gamal Abdel Nasser in2025, (Z. Cvetković, 21 June 2025)

As time passed, the Park of Friendship had become a small, neutral territory, where politicians, of sometimes confronted countries, has planted a tree: **South - North Vietnam** (Figure 10 and Figure 11); **USSR** (Figure 12 and Figure 13), **Cuba - USA** (Figure 14 and Figure 15); **West Germany - East Germany, India - Pakistan, Iraq - Iran**, etc.



Figure 10. The plaque of Pham Van Dong, North Vietnam, 1974 (Z. Cvetković, 21 June 2025)



Figure 11. The plaque of Nguyen HuuTho, South Vietnam, 1975 (Z. Cvetković, 21 June 2025)

There were four major periods of change that the Park underwent, which were between 1961 and 1969, then between 1970 and 1979, and then after the death of Tito in 1980. The complete list of planted trees and plaques are reviewed in the APPENDIX I.



Figure 12. The plaque of Leonid Brezhnev, USSR, 1976 (Z. Cvetković, 21 June 2025)



Figure 13. The tree planted by Mikhail Gorbachev, USSR, 1988 (Z. Cvetković, 21 June 2025)

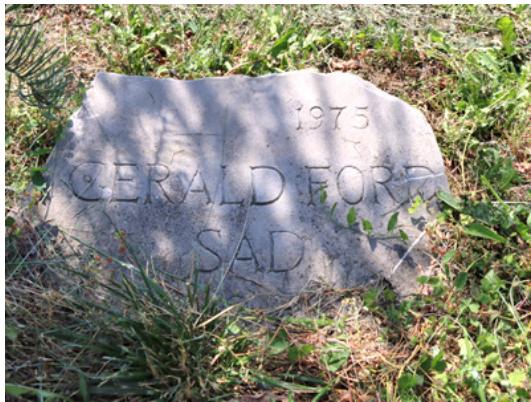


Figure 14. The plaque of Gerald Ford, USA, 1975 (Z. Cvetković, 21 June 2025)



Figure 15. The plaque of Jimmy Carter, USA, 1975 (Z. Cvetković, 21 June 2025)

5. Violent, dramatic, or historic ends of leaders from the Park of Friendship

The lives of many of these leaders later took dramatic turns, and their trees in Belgrade stand today as poignant reminders of both their aspirations and their fates. **Indira Gandhi**, who planted her tree during a visit in the 1960s (Figure 16), was assassinated in 1984. Her son **Rajiv Gandhi**, who continued her political legacy (Figure 17), met the same tragic end in 1991.



Figure 16. Plaque and the tree planted by Indira Gandhi, India, 1976 (Z. Cvetković, 21 June 2025)



Figure 17. Plaque and the tree planted by Rajiv Gandhi, India, 1988 (Z. Cvetković, 21 June 2025)

Emperor Haile Selassie, once celebrated as a symbol of African independence, was overthrown in 1974 and later murdered in captivity (Figure 18), Swedish Prime Minister **Sven Olof Joachim Palme** assassinated on 28 February 1986, **Col Muammar Gaddafi**, president of Libya was killed during the Civil war and NATO campaign in 2011 (Figure 19), **Willy Brandt**, the Nobel Prize-winning chancellor of West Germany, was forced to resign in 1974 after a major espionage scandal, known as Günter Guillaume affair.



Figure 18. The plaque of Haile Selassie, 1961
(Z. Cvetković, 21 June 2025)



Figure 19. The plaque of Muammar Al-Gaddafi, 1973 (Z. Cvetković, 21 June 2025)

The first American president to plant a tree in Belgrade was **Richard Nixon**. In 1974, he resigned because of the Watergate scandal, etc. Others, like Queen Elizabeth II, who planted her tree during a 1972 state visit, lived long enough to see the end of Yugoslavia itself.

The later lives of many leaders from the Park of Friendship were shaped by turbulent events, which did not spare the young, unstable states of Asia and Africa, nor the leading countries of the world. The list of victims of tragic events is reviewed in the Appendix II. By consulting available sources, this overview summarizes the lives of some of the leaders who planted their tree in the Park of Friendship.

These examples illustrate how the Park of Friendship became more than a ceremonial space: it turned into a living chronicle of international politics. The trees still grow, even as many of the leaders who planted them met violent, dramatic, or historic ends.

6. Symbolism and legacy

The Park of Friendship is not a mere green space. It is a product of political symbolism. The trees planted represent the promises of Friendship, unity and mutual respect. They embody the spirit of peace between the states and the Non-Aligned Movement in general. It symbolized the ambition of Yugoslavia to make a moral statement in world politics. The Park represented Friendship hence life, growth and harmony rather than other monuments that honour military achievements. (Figure 20) The Park of Friendship took the form of a peaceful monument that advocated hope for a better future other than the traditional monuments that remembered the dead and the destroyers.



Figure 20. The “Avenue of Peace” in the Park of Friendship (Z. Cvetković, 13 June 2025)

Even after Yugoslavia collapsed and the political collapse of the 1990s, and when the world transformed, this Park remains a monument of a different approach to countries interacting with each other. The trees still remain in the avenue with their silent witnesses of years after years of diplomatic activities. To the present generation of visitors, the trees depict a period when Belgrade was an essential point of international conversation among countries.

The Park of Friendship became not only a symbol of international goodwill and a demonstration of Yugoslav diplomatic success. The Park of Friendship is a monument to international solidarity and, at same time, demonstrates the international diplomatic success of Yugoslavia.

7. The place of the Park of Friendship in the Belgrade's urban redevelopments

Belgrade's urban modifications, already made and future ones, generate intense disagreements among people. The first group involves ordinary people together with professional specialists who work as architects and urban planners and art historians. The second group involves the current political authorities who lead Serbia. The most controversial issue that generates maximum opposition involves three events. The first is the destruction of the Sava Tram Bridge. The second event involves the rumoured demolition of the Belgrade Fair. The third event involves the complete renovation of the Terazije Terrace located in Belgrade's central area.

The Serbian Parliament made its most controversial decision when it officially permitted the demolition of General Staff buildings which suffered damage from NATO bombing in 1999. (Figure 21) This decision received widespread attention not just in Serbia but throughout international media outlets [7,8]. The protected status of these buildings as cultural properties under Serbian law triggered responses from international cultural property protection organizations [9].



Figure 21. Buildings of the Serbian General Staff (Z. Cvetković, 14 July 2025)

The current situation places The Park of Friendship as a secondary concern compared to the already mentioned events. The newest approved urban development plan of New Belgrade demonstrates that the Park of Friendship has been renamed to the Complex of the Park of Friendship Complex. Although there has been an insignificant change in the name, it provides an opportunity to build unidentified facilities in the Park, which will consequently result in the destruction and total elimination of the Park. [10] In 2024 the Park of Friendship was absorbed into the CONFLUENCE (Sr. UŠĆE) development project (a section of New Belgrade, located at the confluence of Sava and Danube rivers). [11] In the new, winning conceptual design (Figure 22), the aquarium and panoramic wheel are the main objects, but The Park of Friendship is no more. [12]



Figure 22. The conceptual design of the development project “Confluence” (Source: www.gradnja.rs)

8. Conclusion

The Park of Friendship may be visualized not only as a building project created by the Yugoslav government but also as a historical artefact of the Non-Aligned Movement. In some cases it embodies a story that brings the tree-planting friendly ceremonies into direct opposition with the tragic lives of their organisers, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were assassinated, Haile Selassie was overthrown and assassinated, Willy Brandt and Richard Nixon were forced to resign. The approach of perceiving the Park as a scrapbook informs one about the value of international solidarity, but sometimes discovers a short-term nature of political Friendships. The frame of interpretation provides an understanding that the Park in Belgrade is presently used as a recreational area and at the same time a historical record of 20th-century international political activities that are incorporated in the landscape.

Nowadays urban planners must ensure the Park and memory trees remain part of their plans. Also, the existing plagues with inscriptions about person who seeded the tree are to be conserved and protected, as some of them are damaged or totally destroyed. Instead of demolition and destruction the Park of Friendship could additionally become a unique place to exhibit and host some abandon artefacts that represent Yugoslav history from the second part of the XX century and remanence to Yugoslav socialism. Therefore, this article is an appeal to spare the Park as memorial place, as it unscripted in the Serbian Register of the cultural heritage. [13]

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APPENDIX I: List of trees planted in the Park of Friendship in New Belgrade

Table 1. The list of trees planted in 1961 at the “Avenue of Peace”

No	Country	Politician / Person	No	Country	Politician / Person
1	FNRJ	Josip Broz Tito	2	Saudi Arabia	Abdullah Al Suwaiyel
3	Tunisia	Hakib Bourguiba	4	Iraq	Jawad al-Maliki
5	India	Jawaharlal Nehru	6	Libanon	Nawaf Abdallah Salim Salam
7	Bolivia	Felma Valorde	8	Ghana	Francis Kwame Nkrumah
9	Cyprus	Archbishop Makarios III	10	Algeria	Benyoucef Benkhedda
11	Sudan	Ibrahim Abboud	12	Nepal	Mahendra of Nepal
13	Ecuador	Jose Joaquim Silva	14	Yemen	Prince Saiful Islam Al-Hassan of Yemen
15	Cambodia	Prince Norodom Sihanouk	16	Indonezija	Ahmed Soekarno
17	Congo - Leopoldville (Republic of the Congo - Leopoldville, Zaire)	Cyrille Adoula	18	United Arab Republic (Egypt & Syria)	Gamal Abdel Nasser Hussein
19	Tanganyika (United Republic of Tanzania)	Julius Kambarage Nyerere	20	Ethiopia	Haile Selassie
21	Ceylon / Sri Lanka	Sirima Ratwatte Dias Bandaranaike	22	Somalia	Aden Abdullah Osman Daar
23	Burma (Myanmar)	U Nu	24	Mali	Modibo Keïta
25	Serbia	Youth organization for afforestation (<i>sr. Pokret mladih gorana</i>)			

Table 2. Period 1961-1969

No	Country	Politician / Person	Year	No	Country	Politician / Person	Year
26		Students of Africa	1962	27	USSR	Герман Степанович Титов	1962
28	India	Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	1962	29	Cuba	Osvaldo Dorticós Torrado	1962
30	Mexico	Adolfo López Mateos	1963	31	Finland	Urho Kaleva Kekkonen	1963
32	OUN	U Thant	1963	33	Romania	Gheorge Gheorghiu-Dej	1963
34	Algeria	Ahmed Ben Bella	1964	34	Czechoslovakia	Antonín Josef Novotný	1964
36	India	Lal Bahadur Shastri	1964	37			
38	Liberia	William Neuman	1965	39	Austria	Josef Klaus	1965
40	Poland	Zygmunt Cyrankiewicz	1965	41	Iran	Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi	1966
42	Norway	King Olav V	1966	43	German Democratic Republic	Walter Ernst Paul Ulbricht	1966

44	Algeria	Houari Boumédiène	1966	45	Bulgaria	Тодор Христов Живков	1967
46	Romania	Nicolae Ceaușescu	1968	47	India	Zakir Husain Khan	1968
48	Mauritania	Moktar Ould Daddah	1968	49	Austria	Franz Josef Jonas	1968
50	India	Morarji Ranchhodji Desai	1968	51	India	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy	1968
52	Zimbabwe	Robert Gabriel Mugabe	1968	53	Italy	Giuseppe Saragat	1969
54	Guyana	Arthur Raymond Chung	1969	55	Poland	Władysław Gomułka	1969

The tradition of planting trees continued. So, many world leaders that visited Belgrade had planted their trees.

Table 3. Period 1970-2010

No	Country	Politician / Person	Year	No	Country	Politician / Person	Year
56	Zambia	Kenneth Kaunda	1970	57	Hungary	Jeno Conte	1970
58	China	Li Xiannian	1970	59			
60	Sudan	Gaafar Muhammad an-Nimeiry	1970	61	USA	Richard Milhous Nixon	1970
62	France	Jacques Chaban-Delmas	1971	63	Luxembourg	Jean, Grand Duke of Luxembourg	1971
64	Bangladesh	Sheikh Mujibur Rahman	1971	65	Burma / Republic of the Union of Myanmar	San Yu	1971
66	Greece	Konstantinos G. Karamanlis	1971	67	PR China	Hua Guofeng	1971
68	Netherlands	Juliana of the Netherlands	1972	69	Central African Republic	Jean-Bédé Bokassa	1972
70	India	Varahagiri Venkata Giri	1972	71	England	Queen Elizabeth II	1972
72	Mexico	Luis María Aguilar Morales	1972	73	Poland	Edward Gierek	1973
74	USSR	Алексей Косыгин	1973	75	Czechoslovakia	Gustáv Husák	1973
76	Libya	Muammar Muhammad Abu Minyar al-Gaddafi	1973	77	Ghana	Hilla Limann	1973
78	North Vietnam	Pham Van Dong	1974	79	Japan	Hademichi Kiram	1974
80	Costa Rica	José María Hipólito Figueres Ferrer	1974	81	Cambodia	Khieu Samphan	1974
82	Mongolia	Yumjaagiin Tsedenbal	1974	83	Burma (Myanmar)	Ne Win	1974
84	Belgium	King Baudouin of Belgium	1974	85	Guinea	Lansana Conté Beavogui	1974
86	USA	William Orville Douglas	1974	87	India	Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed	1975
88	Kingdom of Sweden	Sven Olof Joachim Palme	1975	89	Gabon	Omar Bongo Ondimba	1975
90	USA	Gerald Rudolph	1975	91	Tanzania	Julius	1975

		Ford Jr.				Kambarage Nyerere	
92	People's Republic of Congo	Marien Ngouabi	1975	93	Singapore	Lee Kuan Yew	1975
94	Portugal	Francisco da Costa Gomes	1975	95	Senegal	Léopold Sédar Senghor	1975
96	Finland	Mauno Koivisto	1975	97	Romania	Manea Mănescu	1975
98	India	Indira Gandhi - Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi	1976	99	South Vietnam	Nguyễn Hữu Thọ	1976
100	Somalia	Mohammed Siad Barre	1976	101	Japan	Emperor Akihito	1976
102	Togo	Gnassingbé Eyadéma	1976	103	Syria	Hafez el-Assad	1976
104	USSR	Леонід Ільйч	1976	105	France	Giscard d'Estaing	1976
106	West Germany	Willy Brandt	1977	107	East Germany	Erich Ernst Paul Honecker	1977
108	Denmark	Margarethe II / Princ Henrik	1977	109	Angola	António Agostinho Neto	1977
110	West Germany	Helmut Heinrich Waldemar Schmidt	1977	111	Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros	Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane	1977
112	Nigeria	Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari	1977	113	Venezuela	Jaime Lusinchi	1977
114	Norway	Odvar Nordli	1977	115	Sweden	King Carl XVI Gustaf	1978
116	Cabo Verde	Aristides Maria Pereira	1978	117	Bangladesh	Ziaur Rahman	1978
118	Egypt	Muhammad Hosni El Sayed Mubarak	1978	119	Ethiopia	Mengistu Haile Mariam	1978
120	Sierra Leone	Mengistu Haile Mariam	1978	121	Portugal	Antonio Dos Santos Ramalho Eanes	1979
122	Colombia	Julio César Turbay Ayala	1979	123	Guinea	Ahmed Sékou Touré	1979
124	Italy	Alessandro Giuseppe Antonio Pertini	1979				

Table 4. After the death of Josip Broz Tito (1980-2010)

No	Country	Politician / Person	Year	No	Country	Politician / Person	Year
125	USA	James Earl Carter Jr.	1980	126	Great Britain	Margaret Thatcher	1980
127	Cyprus	Spyros Achilleos Kyprianou	1980	128	Kuwait	Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah	1981
129	Afghanistan	Babruk Karmal	1982	130	Austria	Rudolf Kirchschläger	1982
131	Algeria	Chadli Bendjedid	1982	132	Greece	Andreas Georgiou Papandreou	1982
133	Canada	Pierre Yves Elliott Trudeau	1982	134	Sao Tome and Principe	Manuel Pinto da Costa	1982
135	Turkey	Ahmet Kenan Evren	1982	136	Pakistan	Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq	1982
137	Central	Jules KeAcaboro	1982	138	Upper Volta	Thomas Isidore	1982

	African Republic				BureaFasso	Noël Sankara	
139	Malaysia	Mahathir bin Mohamad	1983	140	Lesotho	Joseph Leabua Jonathan	1983
141	Argentina	Reynaldo Benito Antonio Bignone Ramayón	1983	142	FR Germany	Karl Carstens	1983
143	Botswana	Ketumile Quett Joni Masire	1983	144	France	François Mitterrand	1983
145	Angola	José Eduardo Van-Dúnem dos Santos	1984	146	DPRK Korea	Kim Il Sung	1984
147	Austria	Fred Sinowatz	1984	148	USSR	Николáй Алексáндрович Тýхонов	1985
149	Nicaragua	Sergio Ramírez Mercado	1985	152	Mexico	Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado	1985
153	Guyana	Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham	1985	154	Nicaragua	José Daniel Ortega Saavedra	1985
155	Spain	Juan Carlos I	1985	156	Republic of Kenya	Daniel Toroiticharap Moi	1985
157	Poland	Wojciech Jaruzelski	1985	158	Argentina	Raul Alfonsin	1985
159	Mozambique	Samora Moisés Machel	1986	160	Cuba	Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz	1986
161	Benin	Mathieu Kérékou	1986	162	Union of Burma	U San Yu	1987
163	Uganda	Yoweri Kaguta Museveni Tibuhaburwa	1987	164	Guinea-Bissau	João Bernardo "Nino" Vieira	1987
165	Bangladesh	Hussain Muhammad Ershad	1988	166	USSR	Михаил Сергеевич Горбачёв	1988
167	Zaire	Mobutu SeseSeko Kuku Ngbendu	1988	168	India	Rajiv Gandhi	1988
169	Thailand	Maha Vajiralongkorn	1989	170	Benin	Daniel Tawéma	1989
171	Arab Republic of Egypt	Faiza Abou el-Naga	2010	172	Arab Republic of Egypt	Mohamed Kamel	2010
173	Croatia	Ivo Josipović	2010	174	Austria	Renate Brauner	2010
175	Arab Republic of Egypt	Mohamed Kamel Amr	2010	176	Iran	Ali Hosseini Khamenei	2010
177	Mali	Moussa Traoré	2010	178	OUN / Serbia	Vuk Jeremić	2010
179	San Marino	Renzo Renzi / Germano De Biagi	2010				

Note: There are some trees, planted by people that are not aligned with the initial purpose and aim of the Park. Examples are: Radmila Hrustanović, Ivica Dačić, Yugoslav Olympic Committee, etc.

APENDIX II: The list of leaders that were victims of turbulent times and events

By consulting available sources, this overview summarizes the lives of some leaders who have planted their tree in Park of Friendship, but later become victims of turbulent times and events.

Country	Politician	Event and consequences
Tunisia	President Hakib Bourguiba (3 Aug 1903–6 April 2000)	Tunisian coup d'état involved on 7 November 1987 by his prime minister, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The rest of life he was placed under house arrest [1]
Ghana	President Francis Kwame Nkrumah (21 Sept 1909–27 April 27, 1972)	Coup d'état on 24 February 24 1966 [2]. Later on he went into exile in Romania, where died in April 27, 1972
Cyprus	President Archbishop Makarios III (13 Aug 13, 1913–3 Aug 3 1977)	Coup d'état on 15 July 1974 [3]. He went in exile. Later on he had come back serving as the president during 7 Decembre 1974 – 3 August 1977.
Indonesia	President Ahmed Soekarno (6 June 1901–21 June 1970)	Coup d'état on 1 October 1965 was crashed by General Suharto. [4] On 12 March 1967 General Suharto put Sukarno under house arrest where he was until death on 21 June 1970.
Ethiopia	Emperor Haile Selassie (23 July 1892–27 Aug 1975)	Military coup on 12 September 1974. [5] “Haile Selassie was kept under house arrest in his own palace, where he spent the remainder of his life. Official sources at the time attributed his death to natural causes, but evidence later emerged suggesting that he had been strangled on the orders of the military government.” [6]
Algeria	President Ahmed Ben Bella, (25 Dec 25–11 April 2012)	Military coup . He was overthrown on 19 June 19 1965 by military officer and collaborator Houari Boumediene. Ben Bella was arrested. He was initially held incommunicado, but later under house arrest . [7]
Iran	Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi (26 Oct 1919–27 July 1980)	After the Iranian Revolution , on 16 January 1979, Reza Pahlavi left Iran for asylum in Egypt. [8]
DDR Germany	President Walter Ernst Paul Ulbricht (30 June 1893–1 Aug 1973)	Resignation on 3 May 3 1971 Walter Ulbricht was forced to resign from most of his public functions due to health reasons. [9]
Romania	President Nicolae Ceausescu (26 Jan 1918–25 Dec 1989)	Coup d'état . Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena are shot dead on 25 December 1989 by firing squad, after a trial lasting less than two minutes. [10]
USA	President Richard Milhous Nixon (9 Jan 1913–22 April 1994)	Resignation on 9 August 1974 due to the Watergate affair. Nixon became the first President in the history of USA to resign from office. [11]
Central African Republic	Emperor Jean-Bédel Bokassa (22 Feb 1921–3 Nov 1996)	Military coup . Overthrown in a military coup on 20 September 1979. Bokassa had fled the country , probably for Libya. [12]
Libya	President Muammar Muhammad al-Gaddafi (1942–20 Oct 2011)	Killed during the Civil war . Col Muammar Gaddafi was killed on 20 October 2011 after a failed attempt to escape from the fighters of the National Transitional Council, supported by French aircrafts operating as part of the NATO mission. [13]
Kingdom of	Prime minister	Assassinated on 28 February 1986. The Swedish prime minister

Sweden	Sven Olof Joachim Palme (30 Jan 1927–Feb 1986)	had discharged his guards and had gone to the cinema with his wife Lisbet, their son Marten and his girlfriend. Walking with his wife after the film along Sveavagen St, they were attacked and killed by a gunman from behind. [14]
People's Republic of Congo	President Marien Ngouabi (31 Dec 1938–18 March 1977)	Assassination. Nguabi, the military President of the Republic, was assassinated on 18 March 1977. It is speculated that Ngouabi was assassinated due to his unwillingness to collude with French authorities, who sought greater control over the oil rich Cabinda region of Angola and who urged Ngouabi to annex the region. [15]
India	Prime minister Indira Gandhi (19 Nov 1917–31 Oct 1984)	Assassination. Killed in an assassination attempt on 31 October 1984. No exact motive is known but it is believed the pair were Sikh extremists acting in retaliation for the storming of the Sikh holy shrine of the Golden Temple in Amritsar in June. [16]
FR Germany	Chancellor Willy Brandt (18 Dec 1913–8 Oct 1992)	Resignation. Resigned on 7 May 1974. Brandt accepted political and personal responsibility for neglect in connection with the Guillaume spy case. Gunther Guillaume, one of his personal aides, was arrested a fortnight ago on suspicion of being an East German spy. [17]
DR Germany	President Erich Ernst Paul Honecker (25 Aug 1912–29 May 1994)	Forced to resign on 24 October 1989. Without the support of the reform-minded Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Honecker was forced to resign in October 1989. Later, he was charged with abuses of power and other crimes. In ill health, he was released by the German authorities in 1993 and allowed to go to Chile, where he died. [18]
Pakistan	President Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq (12 Aug 1924–17 Aug 1988)	Plane crash. Zia died in a plane crash on 17 August 1988. The investigators suspected that it was a form of sabotage that may have included the gassing of the flight crew through the use of low-intensity plastic explosives.
Nicaragua	Vice president Sergio Ramírez Mercado (5 Aug 1942 –)	Exiled. He was exiled from the country in Spain in 2021, and the government stripped him of his citizenship. [20]
Mozambique	President Samora Moisés Machel (19 Sept 1933–19 Oct 1986)	Plane crash. Died in plane crash on 19 October 1986 due to the loss of plane's position [21]
Zaire	President Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku (14 Oct 1930–7 Sept 1997)	Overthrown on 16 May 1997. Mobutu went into temporary asylum in Togo, and from 23 May 1997 he lived mostly in Rabat, Morocco [22]
India	Prime minister Rajiv Gandhi (20 Aug 1944–21 May 1991)	Assassination. Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on 21 May 1991 during an election campaign in Tamil Nadu, by a suicide bomber, Thenmozhi "Gayatri" Rajaratnam, a female member of the LTTE. He was killed in the outskirts of Madras, the capital of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, which was a base for many Tamil separatists. It is widely assumed that the LTTE decision to kill him was perhaps aimed at preventing him from coming to power again. [23]
Mali	President Modibo Keïta (4 June 1915–16 May 1977)	Military coup. On 19 November 1968, General Moussa Traoré overthrew Modibo Keïta in a coup d'état, and sent him to prison in the northern Malian town of Kidal. [24]
Bangladesh	President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (17 March 1920–15 Aug 1975)	Military coup. Sheik Mujibur Rahman was assassinated on 15 August 15 1975 by a group of military officers staged a coup. [25]
Ethiopia	President Mengistu Haile Mariam (21	Overthrown on May 21, 1991. Mengistu flled to Zimbabwe in May 1991 after the National Shengo dissolved itself and called

	May 1937 -)	for a transitional government. His departure brought an abrupt end to the Ethiopian Civil War. Mengistu Haile Mariam still lives in Harare, Zimbabwe, despite an Ethiopian court verdict which found him guilty of genocide in absentia. [26]
Mali	President Moussa Traoré (25 Sept 1936–15 Sept 2020)	Military coup. Traoré was overthrown on 26 March 1991. He and his wife were sentenced to death in 1993 for political crimes and in 1999 for economic crimes. President Alpha Umar Konaré commuted their sentences to life imprisonment, then pardoned them in 2002, in the interests of national reconciliation. [27]
Upper Volta Burkina Faso	President Thomas Isidore Noël Sankara (21 Dec 1949–15 Oct 1987)	Coup d'état. On October 15, 1987 Sankara and twelve other officials were assassinated in a coup d'état organized by his former colleague Blaise Compaoré. [28]
Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros	President Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane (12 June 1919–26 Nov 1989)	Assassinated in the military coup. Abderemane was assassinated on 16 November 1989 in his office in a failed coup by members of the military [28, 30]
Sierra Leone	President Joseph Saidu Momoh (26 Jan 1937–3 Aug 2003)	Military coup and asylum. On 19 April 1992, soldiers, led by Captain Valentin Strasser, announced a military coup over the radio. Momoh fled to Guinea and sought political asylum. [31]
Egypt	President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak (4 May 1928–25 Feb 2020)	Military coup. On 11 February 2011, Hosni Mubarak has stepped down as president of Egypt, after weeks of protest in Cairo and other cities. Vice President Omar Suleiman announced that Mubarak had resigned and that power would be handed over to the Egyptian military. [32, 33]
Zimbabwe	President Robert Gabriel Mugabe (1 Feb 1924–6 Sept 2019)	Military coup. On 15 November 2017, the Zimbabwe National Army placed Mugabe under house arrest at his Blue Roof mansion as part of what it described as a crackdown on "criminals" in Mugabe's inner circle. [34]

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