

Croatia in Perspective

An Orientation Guide



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Geography

Introduction

Croatia is located in the northwestern region of the Balkan Peninsula, a part of central and southeastern Europe. With an area of 56,594 sq km (21,851 sq mi), Croatia is relatively small by international standards. Among the six nations that formerly constituted Yugoslavia, only Serbia is bigger.¹ Croatia's territory represents one of Europe's most unusual shapes, often compared to a boomerang or even a bird in flight.² It shares borders with Montenegro at its extreme southern tip, the Vojvodina autonomous province of Serbia to the northeast, Hungary to the north, Slovenia to the northwest, Bosnia and Herzegovina to the east along almost the entire length of the Dalmatian coast, and the Adriatic Sea to the west.³ Croatia is a country of diverse terrain, ranging from limestone mountain peaks to hilly grasslands, rocky shores, and porous karst lowlands. It is lined by numerous rivers, lakes, and other water features, which have now been recognized as requiring conservation and protection.



Geographic Divisions

Croatia consists of three main regions: the Pannonian and peri-Pannonian plains, which extend east-west across the northern interior; the Dinaric Alps, which form a northwest-to-southeast spine parallel to the Adriatic coast; and the Adriatic (or Dalmatian) coast and islands, whose beaches and harbor towns are the center of Croatia's flourishing tourist industry.

Pannonian and Peri-Pannonian Plain

The Pannonian Plain is a vast flatland with scattered rolling hills spreading across most of Hungary and parts of Romania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Ukraine, the Slovak Republic, and Austria. Between 12 and 4 million years ago, this plain was closed off from the sea and was the site of a large



© Katarina Stefanović
Pannonian Plain from the Serbian side

¹ Central Intelligence Agency. *The World Factbook*. "Country Comparison: Area." 2010. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2147rank.html?countryName=Croatia&countryCode=hr®ionCode=eu&rank=126#hr>

² *Walking in Croatia*. Abraham, Rudolf. "Chapter 1: Introduction [pp. 16-17]." 2004. Milnthorpe, Cumbria, UK: Cicerone Press Limited.

³ Central Intelligence Agency. *The World Factbook*. "Croatia." 24 July 2010. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/hr.html>

inland lake.⁴ Today, eastern Croatia makes up the southwestern corner of the Pannonian Plain. Most of this Croatian region is bounded by the Drava River to the north, the Sava River to the south, and the Danube River to the east. The rich alluvial soils of Slavonia, the eastern-most section of the Croatian Pannonian Plain, make this the most productive farmland in the country.⁵ Moving westward, the Pannonian Plain becomes hillier, especially in the central region between the Sava and Drava Rivers. This hilly area is known as the Peri-Pannonian Plain, a transitional region between the Pannonian Plain proper and the high mountains to the west. Here, pasturelands and vineyards become more common.⁶ The highest peaks of these hills—Papuk and Psunj near the town of Požega, Sljeme on Medvednica Mountain located immediately north of Zagreb, and Ivančica near the northern city of Varaždin—are in the range of 950-1060 m (3,120-3,480 ft) in height.⁷

Dinaric Alps

Moving westward, the Peri-Pannonian Plain briefly transitions into the Kordun Plateau. This region is marked by numerous sinkholes produced by the chemical dissolution of the plateau's limestone and dolomite rocks.⁸ To the west of the Kordun Plateau lie the Dinaric Alps, or Dinarides, a broad series of ranges running roughly parallel to the Adriatic coastline along a northwest-southeast direction. The Dinaric Alps, which are interwoven with several highland plateaus, extend from the Julian Alps of Slovenia and Italy to the Drin River of northern Albania.⁹



© Zoran Knez & Dražen Radujkov
Mount Dinara

Among the largest of the ranges that make up the Croatian portion of the Dinaric Alps are the Velika Kapela, which extend southeastward from the Slovenian border; the Plješevica (or Lička Plješevica) and the Dinara, both of which mark Croatia's eastern border with Bosnia and Herzegovina; and the Velebit, a coastal range of craggy limestone peaks pitted with numerous caves and sinkholes.^{10,11} Most of the higher elevations in these

⁴ Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Wisconsin, Madison. "Molluscan and Paleoenvironmental Evolution in Lake Pannon." No date. <http://www.geology.wisc.edu/~paleo/>

⁵ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Croatia: Economy: Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-42770>

⁶ TripWolf.com. Footprint Guides. "Croatia: Essentials & FAQ." 2010.

<http://www.tripwolf.com/en/croatia/info/background-land-and-environment-geography-pannonian-basin>

⁷ PeakWare.com. "Peaks of Europe." 2010. <http://www.peakware.com/peaks.html?choice=EuE>

⁸ Convention on Biological Diversity. "Part I: An Overview of the State of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Croatia. 1.1. Landscapes [p. 10]." No date. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/hr/hr-nr-01-p2-en.pdf>

⁹ Answers.com. Columbia Encyclopedia. "Dinaric Alps." 2010. <http://www.answers.com/topic/dinaric-alps>

¹⁰ *Nations in Transition: Croatia*. Schuman, Michael A. "Introduction [p. viii]." 2004. New York, NY: Facts on File.

¹¹ SummitPost.org. "Velebit." 29 May 2007. <http://www.summitpost.org/area/range/151564/velebit.html>

ranges are between 1,200 to 1,800 m (4,000 to 6,000 ft) in height. Croatia's highest point, Mount Dinara (1,830 m/6,004 ft), lies within the Dinara Range and is the namesake for the entire Dinaric Alps.¹²

The karst plateaus of the Dinaric Alps, which impede direct access to the interior agricultural basins, are barren at the very highest elevations but heavily forested at lower levels.^{13,14} Fir, spruce, beech, and oak forests are common.¹⁵ The karst formations, which are made of highly porous limestone and dolomitic rock that has been eroded, range in shape from ridges, dells, and peaks to sinkholes and caves. Limestone is vulnerable to acid rain that dissolves the rock.¹⁶ Underground streams, rivers, and pools that flow through caves, springs, and out to the Adriatic Sea are common in the karst areas.¹⁷

The Adriatic Coast and Islands

Coastal Croatia is marked by a continuous lowland continental coast dotted with numerous offshore islands. Together with the mountainous interior areas to the east, much of the central and southern parts of this region have long been collectively known as Dalmatia, and thus the coastal stretches are frequently referred to as the Dalmatian coast.



© Tom Kelly
Sunset on the Adriatic Coast

The Adriatic coastal areas adjacent to the mountains tend to be very narrow, with the widest lowlands occurring in a coastal plateau just south of the Velebit Mountains.¹⁸ In the far northern part of the Adriatic coastal region, the triangular-shaped Istrian Peninsula juts out along the northern Adriatic Sea coast. Along much of the 1,777 km (1,104 mi) of the Croatian coast, the shoreline is rugged, lined with limestone cliffs and coastal plateaus that are frequently treeless.¹⁹ Croatia's coastal margin is jagged in shape, carved with numerous bays and harbors. Sandy beaches are rare along the rock- and pebble-strewn coastal shoreline. A small portion of southern Croatia, which includes the city of Dubrovnik, is separated from the rest of the country

¹² SummitPost.org. "Dinara." 6 December 2006.

<http://www.summitpost.org/mountain/rock/151472/dinara.html>

¹³ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Croatia: Land: Relief." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-42761>

¹⁴ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Dinaric Alps." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-9030487>

¹⁵ World Wildlife Fund. Regato, Pedro. "Dinaric Mountains Mixed Forests." 2001.

http://www.worldwildlife.org/wildworld/profiles/terrestrial/pa/pa0418_full.html

¹⁶ *World and its Peoples: Western Balkans*. "Geology of the Western Balkans: Karst [p. 1594]." 2010.

Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish.

¹⁷ *Walking in Croatia*. Abraham, Rudolf. "Chapter 1: Introduction [pp. 16-18]." 2004. Milnthorpe, Cumbria, UK: Cicerone Press Limited.

¹⁸ Convention on Biological Diversity. "Part I: An Overview of the State of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Croatia. 1.1. Landscapes [p. 13]." No date. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/hr/hr-nr-01-p2-en.pdf>

¹⁹ *Footprint Croatia*. Foster, Jane. "Land and Environment: Geography [p. 338]." 2004. Bath, UK: Footprint Travel Guides.

by a narrow coastal corridor that is part of neighboring Bosnia and Herzegovina to the east.

Croatia's offshore islands represent the eroded remnants of peaks that once marked the outer ridges of the Dinaric Alps. As a result, many of the islands are long and narrow, stretching in the same general northwest-southeast direction as the main ranges of the continental Dinaric Alps. More than 1,100 islands, reefs, and islets lie off Croatia's coast, but only 67 of these are inhabited.²⁰ To the north, the largest islands are Krk, Cres, and Pag, while Brač, Hvar, and Korčula are the dominant islands south of the city of Split on the southern Dalmatian coast.

Climate

Two distinct climate zones exist in Croatia: Mediterranean and continental. The Mediterranean climate affects the low-lying land along the Adriatic as well as the islands, with mild, short, rainy winters when average temperatures range from 2 to 8 °C (36 to 46 °F) and dry, sunny, warm summers with average temperatures between 18 and 24 °C (64 and 75 °F).²¹ The hot, dry summer weather has contributed to forest fires and required water rationing measures in recent years.^{22,23}



© Ferran Cerdans Serra
Winter in Plitvice Lakes National Park

The Pannonian and Peri-Pannonian Plains, separated from the Adriatic coast by the Dinaric Alps, have a continental climate, characterized by warm summers and cold winters. Such a climate is also typical of the karst plateaus of the Dinaric Alps.²⁴ Here, winter temperatures average -2 to 2 °C (28-36 °F), rising to summer averages of 20 to 24 °C (68 to 75 °F).²⁵ In contrast to the coast, summer is the wettest season in the continental region.²⁶

Several regional wind systems play a role in Croatia's climate. The sirocco (*yugo*) is a southerly wind that initially blows hot and dry from North Africa. Crossing the Mediterranean Sea, the sirocco shifts to a southeasterly wind, picking up moisture and bringing warm, moist air that often produces clouds and rain on the Croatian Adriatic

²⁰ *Footprint Croatia*. Foster, Jane. "Land and Environment: Geography [p. 338]." 2004. Bath, UK: Footprint Travel Guides.

²¹ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Croatia: Land: Climate." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-42762>

²² Southeast European Times. Cuk, Kristina. "Water Shortages in Croatia Hurting Tourism." 1 August 2006. http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2006/08/01/feature-02

²³ BBC News. "Dubrovnik Fire Threat Subsiding." 6 August 2007. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6932578.stm>

²⁴ *Croatia: A History*. Goldstein, Ivo. "Climate [pp.3-4.]" 1999. London, UK: C. Hurst & Co.

²⁵ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Croatia: Land: Climate." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-42762>

²⁶ BBC Weather Centre. "Country Guide: Croatia." 2006. http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/country_guides/results.shtml?tt=TT005250

coast during the spring.^{27,28} Etesian winds are northerly summer winds that provide relatively cool, dry air that helps clear the skies because of the lack of moisture. Bora (*bura*) winds are cold winds that blow from the northeast. The dense air of these winds sinks as it flows through the mountain passes of the Dinaric Alps. Depending on the location of surrounding air pressure systems, the bora may bring either dry, cold air to the Adriatic coast (“white bora”) or cold, moisture-filled clouds that produce heavy rain and even snow in the coastal region (“black bora”).²⁹

Bodies of Water

Adriatic Sea

The turquoise waters of the Adriatic Sea are the crowning jewel of Croatia; fishing is a locally important industry, while diving, kayaking, windsurfing, sailing, snorkeling, and sunbathing are just a few of the many coast-based activities that help support a thriving tourist industry. In summer, the water temperature can reach 23 °C (73 °F).³⁰ The Adriatic is the northernmost gulf of the Mediterranean Sea and lies between the Italian and Balkan Peninsulas.³¹ There exists a complex network of straits between Croatia’s many islands and the continental coast. For this reason, ferry service is a vital form of transportation between the islands and continental Croatia, among the islands themselves, and between locations on the mainland.



© Bea Kotecka
Adriatic sea-view from Fortica

Lakes

Croatia has no large natural lakes. The country’s largest body of water is Vransko Lake (about 30 sq km/12 sq mi), located in a flooded karst valley that runs parallel to the nearby Adriatic coastline. Along with the surrounding areas, the lake was made a nature

²⁷ Istriamet.org. “Mediterranean Winds: Sirocco – Scirocco – Jugo Wind.” 20 June 2002. <http://www.istriamet.org/istria/geosciences/meteorology/winds/sirocco.htm>

²⁸ *World and its Peoples: Western Balkans*. “Climate of the Western Balkans: Regional Winds and Maritime Influences [p. 1596-1597].” 2010. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish.

²⁹ *World and its Peoples: Western Balkans*. “Climate of the Western Balkans: Regional Winds and Maritime Influences [p. 1596-1597].” 2010. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish.

³⁰ *Croatia*, 5th Ed. Maric, Vesna; and Anja Mutic, Will Gourlay. “Environment [p. 69].” 2009. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

³¹ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. “Adriatic Sea.” 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-9003799>

park in 1999 and is known for the many rare birds that can be spotted along its shoreline.³²

Perhaps the most famous of Croatia's lakes are found in Plitvice Lakes National Park, located near the Bosnia and Herzegovina border, halfway between Zagreb and Zadar. These 16 beautiful lakes of various blue and green hues are linked by caves, waterfalls, and cascades and surrounded by heavily forested hills. The dolomite and limestone karst landscape is continually changing and has been a tourist draw since the late 19th century when the first hotels were built. In 1979, the area was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.³³ In 1991, the war in the former Yugoslavia began in the park when a Croatian police officer was killed. Four years later, the Croatian Army took the park back from Serb control; all the facilities have since been repaired and tourists have returned.³⁴

Major Rivers

Danube

The Danube has its origins in the Black Forest of Germany and flows easterly through nine more countries for 2,850 km (1,770 mi) before emptying into the Black Sea. It is navigable by river ships for the majority of its length and forms the northern two thirds of the border between Croatia and Serbia.³⁵ Vukovar is the largest Croatian town and river port on the Danube and was nearly destroyed during the early 1990s war.



© anjči / flickr.com
Dunabe river, Vukovar

The medieval town of Ilok sits on a hill and is the last port before the border with Serbia. There has been cooperation between Croatia, Serbia, and other countries in the Danube region on the management of fisheries, due in part to the near extinction of sturgeon, a species of fish famous for its caviar.³⁶ The fisheries of the Danube and the challenges they face are in several ways similar to those of the Mississippi River.³⁷

³² AdriaGate.com. "The Vransko Lake – Nature Parks." No date.

http://www.adriagate.com/en/croatia/nature_parks.aspx?ID=16

³³ UNESCO World Heritage Centre. "Plitvice Lakes National Park." 2010. <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/98>

³⁴ *Croatia*. Oliver, Jeanne. "Zadar Region: Plitvice Lakes National Park [pp. 164-165]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

³⁵ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Danube River." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-9106065>

³⁶ International Association for Danube Research. "Expert Groups: Fishery/ Fish Biology." No date. http://www.iad.gs/content/research/expert_groups/fishery_fish_biology.php?PHPSESSID=e5056bb80bbff969dc77a8e4fc1916df

³⁷ International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River. Hoover, Jan Jeffrey and K. Jack Killgore. "Catfish, Carp, and Caviar: Fisheries of the Danube and Mississippi Rivers." Danube Watch, January 2009. http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/dw0901_p_09.htm

Sava River

The headwaters of the Sava rise in the Julian Alps in Slovenia. The river then flows southeast through the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana and the Croatian capital of Zagreb before it eventually empties into the Danube River at the Serbian capital of Belgrade. The Sava runs through Croatia for 510 km (317 mi) and forms the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina for 311 km (193 mi) of that distance. The Sava is the Danube River's second largest tributary and is one of Europe's most biologically prized rivers due to its intact floodplain wetlands.³⁸ It is navigable upstream for 583 km (362 mi) for small cargo boats, linking the Danube to the town of Sisak.³⁹



© anjči / flickr.com
Sava river, Croatia

Drava River

The Drava River is the fourth longest and fourth largest tributary of the Danube, rising in the Italian Alps and flowing through Austria into Slovenia.⁴⁰ It then enters Croatia from Slovenia, forming most of the Croatian border with Hungary before joining the Danube downstream from Osijek.⁴¹ Twenty-two hydropower dams, three of which are located in Croatia, have changed its floodplains from their natural state. Considerable degradation is evident along the free-flowing Lower Drava due not only to the dams, but also to the construction of embankments and sediment extraction efforts that have changed the natural course of the river into a “uniform canalized river corridor.”^{42,43}



© Sandy Kemslev
Drava river along Osijek

³⁸ Protection of the Biodiversity of the Sava River Basin Floodplains. “The Sava River.” No date. <http://www.savariver.com/>

³⁹ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. “Sava River.” 2010. <http://library.eb.com/eb/article-9065915>

⁴⁰ International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River. “Drava Basin.” 21 July 2009. http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/drava_basin.htm

⁴¹ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. “Croatia: Land: Drainage.” 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-42763>

⁴² World Wildlife Fund Austria and Euronatur. Schwarz, Ulrich and Arno Mohl. “Lifeline Drava-Mura 2009-2020: A Plan for Conserving and Restoring the Drava and Mura Rivers for Nature and People [pp. 9-12].” January 2009. <http://www.sterna-albifrons.net/xoops/files/Drava-Vision-2009-2020.pdf>

⁴³ World Wildlife Fund Water and Wetland Index. “Results Overview for the Drava River Basin (Croatia).” 2003. <http://assets.panda.org/downloads/wwidravacroatia.pdf>

Kupa River

The Kupa forms part of the border between northwest Croatia and southeast Slovenia and flows into the Sava at the city of Sisak.⁴⁴ The karst region within Croatia that drains into the Kupa contains a large quantity of high quality spring water, which is quite vulnerable as well as strategically important to western Croatia.⁴⁵



© helti / flickr.com
Bridge over Kupa river

Una River

The Una rises in the mountainous Lika region of Croatia and flows for 19 km (12 mi) before entering the karst mountains of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The river briefly forms the border between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in this mountainous region and then does so again for a more extended portion before draining into the Sava River.⁴⁶ It has a total length of 214 km (133 mi). While the upper and lower parts of the river in Croatia are not densely populated, the portion of the river that flows through Bosnia and Herzegovina is affected by the dumping of sewage and other garbage directly into or near the water.⁴⁷ The Una region is known for its rapids and waterfalls, 28 species of fish, and over 170 types of medicinal herbs.⁴⁸



© Javier Novo Rodriguez
Shallow rocks in Una River

⁴⁴ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Croatia: Land: Drainage." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-42763>

⁴⁵ Materials and Environment. Biondić, Božidar and Ranko Biondić, Sanja Kapelj. "Protection of the Karst Aquifers in the River Kupa Catchment Area and Sustainable Development." 2003. http://www.rmz-mg.com/letniki/rmz50/rmz50_0033-0036.pdf

⁴⁶ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Croatia: Land: Drainage." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-42763>

⁴⁷ INWEB.org "Una River Sub-Basin." No date. http://www.inweb.gr/workshops/sub_basins/3_Una.html

⁴⁸ GreenVisions. "Environment: Conservation Areas and Natural Parks/ Una River." <http://www.greenvisions.ba/gv/clanak.php?lang=2&ids=87>

Cities

City	Census Population 2001	Estimated Population 2010 ⁴⁹
Zagreb	691,724	706,353
Split	175,140	177,793
Rijeka	143,800	137,860
Osijek	90,411	85,217
Zadar	69,556	73,442
Slavonski Brod	58,642	63,496
Pula	58,594	59,690
Karlovac	49,082	46,889
Sesvete	44,914	64,005
Varaždin	41,434	42,279

⁴⁹ World Gazetteer "Croatia: Largest Cities and Towns and Statistics of Their Population." 2010.
<http://www.world-gazetteer.com/wg.php?x=&men=gcis&lng=en&des=wg&srt=npan&col=abcdefghinoq&msz=1500&geo=-98>

Zagreb

The recorded history of Zagreb dates back to 1094, with the founding of a diocese by the Hungarian King Ladislaus. The religious settlement Kaptol developed as a city center on one hill, and the secular Gradec settlement developed on the other. In the 16th century, the area was first designated the capital of Croatia; at this time, much of the region was either under the control of the Ottoman Turks or under siege by Ottoman forces.⁵⁰ During the 17th and 18th centuries, the city suffered from the constant threat of Ottoman attack, fires, and the plague.⁵¹ For 20 years during the second half of the 18th century, the Croatian government was forced to move the capital north to the town of Varaždin for fear of imminent Ottoman attack.⁵²



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Panoramic view of Zagreb

Zagreb's fortunes had reached a nadir by the beginning of the 19th century, when the city's population had declined to only 2,800 people. Shortly thereafter, however, the city began to revive as it reclaimed its historical role as an important market town on the Sava River. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the city experienced increasing prosperity during a period of industrial development and growth. A railroad linking the city with Vienna and Budapest cemented Zagreb's importance as a trading center.⁵³ Zagreb forfeited its status as a capital city after World War I when Belgrade was chosen as the seat of government for the newly formed Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (later to be known as Yugoslavia). Following the dissolution of Yugoslavia in 1991, Zagreb once again became the capital of the newly independent Republic of Croatia, and the city was fortunate to suffer no major damage from the subsequent war.

Today Zagreb is the primary political, economic, intellectual, commercial, and cultural center of the country, with museums and academies of art, theater, and music.⁵⁴ Zagreb serves as a crossroads for railways and highways from west and central Europe to the Adriatic Sea and south to the Balkans. Over the past two decades, Zagreb and its greater urban area have grown in population while the rest of Croatia has been experiencing a population decline.⁵⁵

⁵⁰ *Fodor's Croatia & Slovenia*. "Zagreb [p. 28]." 2008. New York, NY: Fodor's Travel.

⁵¹ LonelyPlanet.com. "Zagreb History." 2010. <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/croatia/zagreb/history>

⁵² CroatiaTraveller.com. "Zagreb History." No date.

http://www.croatiatraveller.com/Zagreb_region/History.htm [retrieved 14 July 2010]

⁵³ LonelyPlanet.com. "Zagreb History." 2010. <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/croatia/zagreb/history>

⁵⁴ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Zagreb." <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-9078195>

⁵⁵ Rasprave. Drazen Njegac. "Zagreb in the Network of European Cities [p. 12]." 2004. http://www.ff.uni-lj.si/oddelki/geo/Publikacije/Dela/files/Dela_22/005_njegac.pdf

Split

Split, the second largest city in Croatia and the most prominent city in the southern region of Dalmatia, is a major transportation center and ferry hub located on a small peninsula with a deep sheltered harbor. It is best known for the ruins of Roman Emperor Diocletian's retirement palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which was completed in the early 4th century C.E. The palace eventually developed into the urban center, and the city expanded beyond the walls of the palace by the 11th century.⁵⁶ From the 12th to the 14th centuries, medieval Split enjoyed substantial autonomy. The Venetians next ruled Split, for almost 380 years. They were followed by the Austrians, who ruled continuously from 1797 to 1918, with the exception of a brief period of French control during the Napoleonic Wars.⁵⁷ Split's shipbuilding industry and port were important during the time of Yugoslavia,⁵⁸ and the port has continued to serve as the main center of trade traffic along Croatia's central and southern Adriatic coast.⁵⁹ Tourism is a major industry, and there are plans to build a wind energy plant near the city.⁶⁰



© Remus Pereni
City shoreline in Split

Rijeka

Rijeka, Croatia's third largest city and the nation's main seaport, dates from Roman times and is located on a narrow coastal strip at the head of Kvarner Bay, an inlet of the Adriatic Sea. Beginning in the 15th century, the Austrian Hapsburgs controlled the port. During the 18th and 19th centuries, a period in which control of Rijeka bounced back and forth between various kingdoms, the first modern shipyards were built in Rijeka and the adjoining coastal environs.^{61,62} After World War I, Rijeka became a pawn in the subsequent peace talks, fiercely contested by Italy and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (Yugoslavia). The city briefly became an independent state under a League of Nations mandate until 1924, when Italy and Yugoslavia signed a treaty splitting the city

⁵⁶ *Fodor's Croatia & Slovenia*. "Split [pp. 229-230]." 2008. New York, NY: Fodor's Travel.

⁵⁷ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Split." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-9069189>

⁵⁸ Visit-Croatia.co. "History of Split." 2009. <http://www.visit-croatia.co.uk/split/history.htm>

⁵⁹ Split Port Authority. "Port History." No date.

http://www.portsplit.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=category§ionid=4&id=13&Itemid=30

⁶⁰ Southeast European Times. "Business: Turkey Anticipates Economic Growth." 19 March 2010.

http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/roundup/2010/03/19/roundup-bs-03

⁶¹ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Rijeka." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-9063689>

⁶² *Croatia*. Oliver, Jeanne. "Kvarner Region: Rijeka [p. 93]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

between them.⁶³ Rijeka subsequently came under extensive Allied bombing during Germany's occupation in the latter part of World War II. Before Yugoslav partisan forces were able to liberate the city, the retreating Germans blew up much of the port facilities. One of Yugoslavia's highest priorities following the war was to rebuild the port; by 1980, over 20 million tons of cargo were flowing through Rijeka. The war in the 1990s again affected shipping commerce and only a little over 12 million tons were recorded in 2008.⁶⁴

Rijeka's main industries are shipbuilding and repair, oil refining, paper production, and diesel engine manufacture.⁶⁵ Tourism, mostly centered in the nearby coastal town of Opatija, is also an important contributor to the economy.⁶⁶ Rijeka has good rail and highway connections to Slovenia and Italy, and through to Zagreb, Budapest, and Vienna, as well as ferry connections within Croatia.⁶⁷ Every spring the city celebrates Carnival, the largest such festival in Croatia.⁶⁸

Osijek

The largest city in the eastern Croatian region of Slavonia and the fourth largest city in Croatia is Osijek, located on the Drava River just upriver from its confluence with the Danube. Since Roman times it has been an important market city located on a strategic transportation corridor. Osijek was controlled by the Ottoman Empire from 1526 to 1687, when the Austrians defeated the Turks and subsequently built the baroque fortress that still stands.⁶⁹ Osijek (and Slavonia as a whole) once had one of the most ethnically diverse populations in Europe, but various conflicts—most recently, the 1990s war—have taken their toll. During the latter conflict, many of the city's buildings were damaged or destroyed during artillery shelling by Serbian forces.⁷⁰ While the city and its industries are still recovering, landmines remain in the swampland north of the Drava.



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Osijek

⁶³ *Croatia*. Oliver, Jeanne. "Kvarner Region: Rijeka [p. 95]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

⁶⁴ Port of Rijeka Authority. "Statistics." No date. http://www.portauthority.hr/english/rijeka/info_statistics.shtml

⁶⁵ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Rijeka." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-9063689>

⁶⁶ *Croatia*. Oliver, Jeanne. "Kvarner Region: Opatija [p. 100]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

⁶⁷ *Croatia*. Oliver, Jeanne. "Kvarner Region: Rijeka [p. 93]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

⁶⁸ *Croatia*. Oliver, Jeanne. "Kvarner Region: Rijeka [p. 95]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

⁶⁹ *Croatia*. Oliver, Jeanne. "Slavonia: Osijek [pp. 83-85]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

⁷⁰ *Croatia*. Vesna, Marić and Anja Mutić. "Slavonia: History [p. 107]." 2009. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

Some of the mined areas overlap with the Kopački Rit Nature Park, one of the largest remaining stretches of wetlands along the Danube.⁷¹

Dubrovnik

Dubrovnik, today famous for its grand city walls and fortress towers, began as a Roman settlement that later became highly prized as a maritime port by Venice, Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire. As the independent “*Respublica Ragusina*” (Republic of Ragusa), Dubrovnik developed into a great mercantile power with land and sea trade routes across the Balkan Peninsula and beyond. This “South Slav Athens” flourished until a destructive 1667 earthquake killed thousands and destroyed the cathedral and most of the city’s monasteries and palaces.^{72,73}



© Kolby / flickr.com
Stari Grad Dubrovnik

While these were rebuilt over time, the 1990s war and siege of Dubrovnik, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, again damaged many historic buildings. The buildings, as well as the tourist industry, have since been restored with international assistance.^{74,75} Serbian tourists are slowly returning to Dubrovnik, and Croatian businesspeople have begun to put aside past grievances to welcome their financial presence.⁷⁶

Many of the tourists who visit Dubrovnik, which is located at the extreme southern tip of the Croatian Dalmatian coast, arrive via a land route that includes a border crossing through a short stretch of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Construction of a controversial bridge, which will create a continuous highway from northern Dalmatia to Dubrovnik while avoiding Bosnia and Herzegovina, has begun. The project was subsequently stalled due to Bosnian objections that the bridge might infringe on their territorial water and could potentially block future ship access to their port at Neum.^{77,78}

⁷¹ *Fodor's Croatia & Slovenia*. “Kopački Rit Nature Park [pp. 90-91].” 2008. New York, NY: Fodor’s Travel.

⁷² Encyclopædia Britannica Online. “Dubrovnik.” 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-9031336>

⁷³ *Croatia*. Oliver, Jeanne. “Southern Dalmatia: Dubrovnik [pp. 229-230].” 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

⁷⁴ *Croatia*. Oliver, Jeanne. “Southern Dalmatia: Dubrovnik [p. 234].” 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

⁷⁵ UNESCO. “World Heritage Committee Removes Old City of Dubrovnik and Wieliczka Salt Mine from Its List of Endangered Sites.” 1 December 1998. <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/147>

⁷⁶ New York Times. Bilefsky, Dan. “Croatia Courts Old Enemy and its Tourism Spending.” 18 March 2009. <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/19/world/europe/19croatia.html?fta=y>

⁷⁷ BBC News. “Bosnia Vexed by Croatian Bridge.” 25 October 2007. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7062107.stm>

⁷⁸ Houston Chronicle. Steves, Rick. “What’s New in Eastern Europe.” 23 March 2010. <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/travel/steves/6925821.html>

Natural Hazards

Natural hazards in Croatia include earthquakes, floods, drought, high winds, windstorms, extreme temperatures, and wildfires.⁷⁹ Croatia and adjacent regions constitute an active earthquake zone with an average of 65 temblors per year and one that exceeds Richter magnitude 6 every two years; small tremors occur regularly, mostly in coastal areas.⁸⁰ The 1667 earthquake that destroyed most of Dubrovnik is probably the best-known temblor to strike Croatian territory, but other major earthquakes also occurred in 1880 and 1909.⁸¹ More recently, a 1996 quake with an epicenter in the Adriatic Sea destroyed three villages in the coastal region surrounding Dubrovnik; it was the largest temblor in that area since 1667.^{82,83}



© Niccolò Tempini
Pollution in Croatia

Karst areas, of which there are many in Croatia, are particularly prone to hazards such as sinkholes, flooding of tunnels and depressions, flash floods from overflowing springs, and landslides.⁸⁴ An example is the December 2004 flash flood that inundated the small village of Marina, located near Split along the Adriatic coast. Nearly USD 1.5 million worth of damage occurred in a settlement of fewer than 500 people.⁸⁵

Droughts can be particularly costly disasters, causing extensive agricultural losses in the Pannonian Plain, Croatia's breadbasket. The worst drought in 50 years hit Croatia in 2003, causing over USD 200 million in crop losses.⁸⁶ During this drought, the Danube River receded to its lowest levels in nearly 100 years. As the river level dropped, military

⁷⁹ European Center for Risk Prevention. Drace Project. "Croatia: Country Profile." No date. <http://drace-project.org/index.php/map/croatia>

⁸⁰ Department of Geophysics, University of Zagreb. Herak, Marijan and Davorka Herak, Snježana Markušić. "Seismicity Map of Croatia and Adjacent Areas (B.C. to 1995) after the Croatian Earthquake Catalogue." 1996. <http://www.gfz.hr/eng/seismap.php>

⁸¹ Department of Geophysics, University of Zagreb. Herak, Marijan; and Dragutin Skoko, Davorka Herak. "Seismology in Croatia." No date. <http://www.gfz.hr/eng/seizmologija/nizvjestaj.php>

⁸² U.S. Geological Survey. "Significant Earthquakes of the World: 1996." 5 January 2010. http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eqarchives/significant/sig_1996.php

⁸³ European Center for Risk Prevention. Drace Project. "Croatia: Country Profile." No date. <http://drace-project.org/index.php/map/croatia>

⁸⁴ *Geomorphological Hazards and Disaster Prevention* Gutiérrez, Francisco. "Hazards Associated with Karst [p.173]." Gutiérrez, Francisco. In *Geomorphological Hazards and Disaster Prevention*. Alcántara-Ayala, Irasema, and Andrew Goudie, Eds. 2010. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

⁸⁵ *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences*, Vol. 6. Bonacci, O. and I. Ljubenkov, T. Roje-Bonacci. "Karst Flash Floods: An Example from the Dinaric Karst (Croatia)." 2006. <http://www.nat-hazards-earth-syst-sci.net/6/195/2006/nhess-6-195-2006.pdf>

⁸⁶ TheHeatisOnline.org. Reuters. "Croatia Says Drought Causes \$215 Million Crop Damage." 15 May 2003. <http://www.heatisonline.org/contentserver/objecthandlers/index.cfm?id=4275&method=full>

equipment previously submerged during World War II revealed itself in the muddy riverbanks.⁸⁷

Dry Mediterranean-style summers combined with the brisk *maestral* winds blowing from the west create fire hazards along the Adriatic coast.⁸⁸ Wildfires were prevented from reaching Dubrovnik in August 2007, following a regional heat wave during which temperatures in many parts of the Balkans reached 40 °C (104 °F).⁸⁹ Unexploded land mines in the area left over from the fighting in the 1990s created a further threat to the firefighters battling the blaze.^{90,91}

Environmental Issues

In general, Croatia's coasts, rivers, air, and forests are beautiful and inviting. The country has suffered less environmental damage than most other Central and Eastern European countries. Yet it confronts many of the same environmental issues that challenge nations around the world.⁹² River pollution, dam construction, and the introduction of non-native species have all contributed to a decline in indigenous fish species.⁹³ Forests have been damaged by acid rain, much of which today comes from outside Croatia's borders. However, industrial areas such as Zagreb, Rijeka, and Split are also significant contributors to the sulfur dioxide emissions of acid rain.^{94,95} One positive note is that forest cover in Croatia has been modestly increasing due to "the natural restoration of vast primary forests in the area between the Rivers Sava and Drava and karst region south of the River Kupa."^{96,97}



© Aram Perez
Fighting forest fire

⁸⁷ BBC News. "Drought-Hit Danube Reveals War Secrets." 20 August 2003.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3166863.stm>

⁸⁸ *Croatia*. Vesna, Marić and Anja Mutić. "Environment: Environmental Issues [p. 69]." 2009. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

⁸⁹ BBC News. "Europe Bakes in Summer Heatwave." 25 July 2007.

<http://www.heatisonline.org/contentserver/objecthandlers/index.cfm?id=4275&method=full>

⁹⁰ BBC News. "Dubrovnik Fire Threat Subsiding." 6 August 2007.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6932578.stm>

⁹¹ The Guardian. Walker, Peter. "Historic Dubrovnik Saved from Fires." 6 August 2007.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2007/aug/06/weather.environment>

⁹² Strategic Environment Assessment. "Croatia." 15 May 2007. <http://sea.unu.edu/wiki/index.php/Croatia>

⁹³ The Republic of Croatia Ministry of Culture. "Fourth National Report of the Republic of Croatia to the Convention on Biological Diversity [p. 19]." Zagreb. 2009. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/hr/hr-nr-04-en.pdf>

⁹⁴ *Croatia*. Oliver, Jeanne. "Environment [p. 44]." 2007. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

⁹⁵ Strategic Environment Assessment. "Croatia." 15 May 2007. <http://sea.unu.edu/wiki/index.php/Croatia>

⁹⁶ Mongabay.com. "Croatia." 2006. <http://rainforests.mongabay.com/deforestation/2000/Croatia.htm>

Overall, the many varying land, marine, coastal, cave, and underground habitats in Croatia are negatively affected in several ways. Unsustainable hunting, fishing, and forestry practices reduce biodiversity. Irrigation and drainage projects are the biggest threat to Croatia's wet grasslands and marshes. Croatia's coastal regions struggle to balance the economic benefits of tourism with the environmental stresses placed on the local karstic environment by the infrastructure (roads, increased number of buildings, need for greater waste-disposal capacity) that supports the tourism industry.⁹⁸

Each distinct ecosystem requires different interventions to either prevent or remediate environmental harm. In 2004, the World Bank supported a project to improve coastal wastewater treatment and discharge infrastructure.⁹⁹ A United Nations Development Programme project called "Greening Coastal Development" is currently underway. It aims to develop tourism, agriculture, and aquaculture along the Dalmatian coast by implementing practices that help sustain biodiversity and landscape conservation.¹⁰⁰ Further inland, the "biodiversity hotspot" along the Mura, Drava, and Danube Rivers shared by Croatia and Hungary, has been nominated by both governments to become a Trans-Boundary UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. This riverine environment contains large floodplains, forests, river islands, gravel banks, and oxbows and is a critically important region for migratory waterfowl.^{101,102}

Self Study Questions

Croatia's highest point is Mount Dinara. True or False?

Croatia's climate is uniform. True or False?

Three of the Drava's hydropower dams are located in Croatia. True or False?

Split is the capital of Croatia. True or False?

Croatia does not experience earthquakes. True or False?

⁹⁷ The Republic of Croatia Ministry of Culture. "Fourth National Report of the Republic of Croatia to the Convention on Biological Diversity [p. 10]." Zagreb. 2009. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/hr/hr-nr-04-en.pdf>

⁹⁸ The Republic of Croatia Ministry of Culture. "Fourth National Report of the Republic of Croatia to the Convention on Biological Diversity [p. 8]." Zagreb. 2009. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/hr/hr-nr-04-en.pdf>

⁹⁹ America.gov. "Croatia Gets World Bank Help on Coastal Pollution Control." 2 June 2004. <http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2004/June/200406021352441ACnosnohJ8.446902e-02.html>

¹⁰⁰ United Nations Development Programme. "Croatia: Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Dalmatian Coast (COAST)." <http://www.undp.hr/show.jsp?page=57734>

¹⁰¹ World Wildlife Fund. "Croatia and Hungary to Establish Europe's Largest River Protected Area – 20 Years after the Fall of the Iron Curtain." 17 September 2009. http://www.panda.org/about_our_earth/biodiversity/news_events_updates/?174122/Croatia-and-Hungary-to-establish-Europes-largest-river-protected-area---20-years-after-the-fall-of-the-Iron-Curtain

¹⁰² UNESCO. "Item 10.4 of the Provisional Agenda: World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR): d. Proposals for New Biosphere Reserves and Extensions/Modifications to Designated Biosphere Reserves That are Part of the WNBR." 31 May—4 June 2010. http://www.unesco.org/mab/doc/icc/2010/e_newBRs.pdf

History

Introduction

Situated near the northwestern tip of the Balkans, Croatia has long been within the boundaries of larger kingdoms, beginning with the Roman Empire and continuing with the Hungarian, Austrian, and Ottoman Empires. Despite the numerous divisions of the Croatian regions between these larger powers and the regional distinctions that are the legacy of the past,¹⁰³ Croatia is not a recent political creation. The first Croatian kingdom dated back to medieval times and consisted of most of modern-day Croatia. In the 20th century, Croatia was amalgamated into Yugoslavia, a multi-ethnic state that was part of the communist Eastern Bloc, though it charted an independent course. When Yugoslavia fell apart in the 1990s, civil war ensued and it took outside forces to restore the peace. Today, Croatia is once again an independent nation.



© ahenobarbus / flickr.com
13th century Mirabella Fortress

The Slavic Migration

Ancient Croatia fell under the control of both Greeks and Romans. From the late 4th century through the 5th century, the lands of the weakened Roman Empire were invaded by a succession of armies from the north and east. Vandals, Visigoths, Huns, and Ostrogoths were just some of the groups that swept through the Roman regions, often leaving destruction in their wake. The Roman Empire, which had formally split into eastern and western parts in 395, was unable to survive intact under the onslaught.¹⁰⁴ In 476, the Western Roman Empire, which included present-day Croatia, collapsed and was made part of a Kingdom of Ostrogoths. The latter's grip on this region would be a relatively short one, as the armies of the Eastern Roman Empire (or Byzantine Empire) dislodged the Ostrogoths less than 100 years later.



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Crowning of the Croatian king Tomislav

When the Ostrogoths were in retreat, another invading army from outside the region entered the Balkan fray. The Avars, who may have originated from what is now Mongolia, swept westward through Pannonia and eventually took control of the key coastal city of Salona in 614.¹⁰⁵ Fighting alongside the Avars (and sometimes against them, depending on the circumstances) were a group of Slavic tribes who apparently

¹⁰³ *Croatia: A History*. Goldstein, Ivo. "Chapter 1: An Introduction [p. 2]." 1999. Montreal, Quebec, CA: McGill-Queens University Press.

¹⁰⁴ UNRV.com. Heaton, Chris. "Roman Timeline 4th Century AD." 2010.
<http://www.unrv.com/empire/early-roman-timeline.php>

¹⁰⁵ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. "Dalmatian Beginnings [p. 23]." 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

migrated from the marshy plains that lie today within the countries of Poland, Ukraine, and Belarus.¹⁰⁶ Unfortunately, the period of Slavic migration coincided with a period in which little written contemporary historical information has survived (the so-called Dark Ages).

The Croats

Among these Slavic tribes were the Croats. While the Croats were almost certainly a Slavic tribe by the time they migrated south across the Danube and Sava Rivers, it is argued that they were originally Persian-speaking people who migrated from Asia.^{107,108} Others point to evidence that the Croats were not a separate ethnic group, but rather a social class of elite warriors who policed the borders of the Avar empire.¹⁰⁹ Whatever the origin of the Croats, by the 8th century they had moved across the Pannonian Plains to eastern Istria and Dalmatia, where they encountered the remnant Illyrian tribes people of these regions. The Illyrians were subsequently either pushed out by the Croats¹¹⁰ or absorbed by them.¹¹¹



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Pope John X

By the beginning of the 9th century, the Croat settlements had come under the imperial domain of the Germanic Franks, led by Charlemagne. While the Croats had certainly been exposed to Christianity in Byzantine enclave cities such as Zadar and Split, the period of Frankish rule marked a time in which large numbers of Croats converted to the western, Latin-based church.¹¹² By the middle of the 9th century, virtually all Croats had become Roman Catholics and numerous churches had been constructed.¹¹³

The Croatian regions, although under Frankish sovereignty, enjoyed a substantial amount of autonomy. A duchy was established within Dalmatia (minus a few isolated coastal

¹⁰⁶ *Croatia*, 3rd Ed. Oliver, Jeanne. "History: Migration [p. 20]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

¹⁰⁷ *Croatia: A Nation Forged in War*. Tanner, Marcus. "Chapter 1. The Unfaithful Croats [p. 2]." 1997. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=sfcpsAoSoewC&printsec=frontcover&dq=croatia+history&cd=5#v=onepage&q=croatia+history&f=false>

¹⁰⁸ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. "Dalmatian Beginnings [p. 28]." 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹⁰⁹ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. "Dalmatian Beginnings [p. 28]." 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹¹⁰ *Croatia: A Nation Forged in War*. Tanner, Marcus. "Chapter 1. The Unfaithful Croats [p. 6]." 1997. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

¹¹¹ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. "Dalmatian Beginnings [p. 25]." 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹¹² *Croatia: A Nation Forged in War*. Tanner, Marcus. "Chapter 1. The Unfaithful Croats [p. 7]." 1997. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

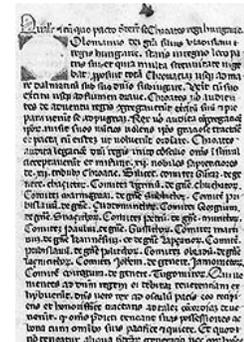
¹¹³ *Nations in Transition: Croatia*. Schuman, Michael A. "Chapter 1. Prehistory to Early 1910s [p. 6]." 2004. New York: Facts on File.

cities and islands that remained under Byzantine rule) and grew over time.¹¹⁴ Eventually this Croatian state would encompass much of the territory that is in modern-day Croatia (Dalmatia, Slavonia) as well as the westernmost section of Bosnia and Herzegovina and parts of the Montenegrin coast.¹¹⁵ In 925, the ruling duke of the Croatian duchy, Tomislav, was recognized by Pope John X as the King of the Croats, establishing the first independent Croatian state. The Croatian kingdom would thrive during most of the 11th century. In 1091, however, a succession struggle took place after the heirless King Stephen II died. One of those contesting the crown was Hungarian King Ladislav I, who invaded Pannonia that same year, initially without resistance.^{116,117} At nearly the same time, the Byzantine emperor Alexius I Comnenus sent naval forces into the Adriatic to take control of Dalmatia. Venice, meanwhile, staked its own claims to the coastal regions of Dalmatia.¹¹⁸ The end had clearly come for the independent Kingdom of Croatia. For the next 800 years, Croatia's destiny would be largely tied to that of Hungary, either directly or indirectly.¹¹⁹

A Unified Kingdom

In 1102, Croatian nobles from Dalmatia signed the *Pacta Conventa*, which united Croatia with Hungary under the Hungarian crown. Although the pact acknowledged Croatia's separate status within the kingdom, only the Dalmatian part of Croatia was accorded such liberties.¹²⁰ The Pannonian region, then referred to as Slavonia, was more tightly linked to Hungary, although it was never incorporated into Hungary proper.

In 1115, Hungary and Venice began vying for control of the coastal regions of Dalmatia, waging more than 20 wars over the course of 300 years. Cities such as Split, Zadar, and especially Dubrovnik, regularly switched allegiances between the two powers.^{121,122} By



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Pacta Conventa

¹¹⁴ *Croatia: A Nation Forged in War*. Tanner, Marcus. "Chapter 1. The Unfaithful Croats [p. 8]." 1997. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

¹¹⁵ *Croatia*, 3rd Ed. Oliver, Jeanne. "History: Croatian Kings [p. 20]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

¹¹⁶ *Nations in Transition: Croatia*. Schuman, Michael A. "Chapter 1. Prehistory to Early 1910s [p. 7]." 2004. New York, NY: Facts on File.

¹¹⁷ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. "Dalmatian Beginnings [p. 25]." 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹¹⁸ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. "Dalmatian Beginnings [p. 48]." 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹¹⁹ *Croatia: A Nation Forged in War*. Tanner, Marcus. "Chapter 1. The Unfaithful Croats [p. 15]." 1997. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

¹²⁰ *Croatia: A Nation Forged in War*. Tanner, Marcus. "Chapter 2. Croatia Under the Hungarians [p. 16]." 1997. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

¹²¹ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. "The Triune Kingdom [p. 56]." 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

1420, the balance of power had shifted to Venice, with nearly all the Dalmatian cities except Dubrovnik now under its control, a situation that would remain unchanged until the end of the 18th century.^{123,124} During the same period of time, the Byzantine Empire, which had long exerted its own claims to Croatia's Adriatic coast, was in the final stages of collapse, under siege from Ottoman Turk forces. The Ottoman Empire had already conquered much of the southern Balkans, and within a few decades would be waging battle on the plains of Slavonia.

The Ottoman Era

In 1389, an army of Serbs, Bosnians, Bulgars, Croats, Wallachians (Romanians), and Albanians fought a historic battle against the Ottoman army at Kosovo Polje ("Kosovo Field"), near the modern Kosovan capital of Pristina. The bloody battle left the Ottoman forces battered but victorious. Regrouping, the Ottomans later swept through Bosnia and by the early part of the 16th century had conquered all of Croatia south of the Sava River.¹²⁵ Eastern Slavonia would fall



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Battle of Mohács

soon after, and by 1526, the Ottoman Sultan Suleyman was in the Hungarian capital of Buda. The portion of Croatia not yet conquered by the Ottoman army (including the city of Zagreb) now attached itself to the Hapsburg royal dynasty of Austria. As the Ottomans continued to move northward, the Hapsburgs established a narrow defensive buffer zone of fortified castles, forts, and watchtowers known as the *Vojna Krajina* ("Military Frontier"). Into this mostly de-populated border region came the Vlachs, a nomadic people who mostly belonged to the Serbian Orthodox Church.¹²⁶ Much to the consternation of the Croatian nobility, these immigrants, who filled important military and agricultural manpower needs in the border region, were mostly allowed to avoid the feudal rents that had been part of Slavonian peasant life for centuries.^{127,128}

¹²² Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Yugoslavia: A Country Study*. Curtis, Glenn E. "Chapter 1: Historical Setting: Histories of the Yugoslav People to World War 1: The Croats and Their Territories [pp. 10-16]." 1990. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

¹²³ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Yugoslavia: A Country Study*. Curtis, Glenn E. "Chapter 1: Historical Setting: Histories of the Yugoslav People to World War 1: The Croats and Their Territories [pp. 10-16]." 1990. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

¹²⁴ *Croatia: A Nation Forged in War*. Tanner, Marcus. "Chapter 2: Croatia Under the Hungarians [p. 27]." 1997. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

¹²⁵ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Yugoslavia: A Country Study*. Curtis, Glenn E. "Chapter 1: Historical Setting: Histories of the Yugoslav People to World War 1: The Croats and Their Territories [pp. 10-16]." 1990. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

¹²⁶ *Croatia*, 3rd Ed. Oliver, Jeanne. "History: Hapsburgs 1 Ottomans 0 [pp. 23-24]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

¹²⁷ *Croatia*, 3rd Ed. Oliver, Jeanne. "History: Hapsburgs 1 Ottomans 0 [p. 24]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

¹²⁸ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. "The Ottoman Wars [p. 108]." 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

The Ottoman advances stalled in 1683 after a siege of Vienna was broken by an army of combined forces from Austria, Poland, and several German states. Thereafter, the Hapsburgs pushed back the Ottoman borders in a series of military victories. The Treaty of Karlowitz (1699) subsequently established the Croatian-Slavonian border with the Ottoman Empire at the Sava River. In the same treaty, Austria received both Croatia-Slavonia and Hungary, while Venice obtained control of most of Dalmatia, all the coastal islands running northwest of Dubrovnik, and a large portion of Istria.^{129,130} The Venetian-held Dalmatian lands would later be lost to France during the Napoleonic Wars. They would be joined at that time with the non-Slavonian part of Croatia, most of Slovenia, and southern Austria to form the short-lived Illyrian Provinces (1809-1813).¹³¹ While it only spanned a few years, a number of significant developments occurred. Among the most important were the French modernization of education, infrastructure, and agriculture within the Croatian regions, the spread of social reforms, the practical application of nationalist ideas, and an emphasis on secularization that was vehemently opposed by the Catholic clergy.^{132,133}

The Illyrian Movement

Following the Napoleonic Wars, the Croatian lands were once again split up. Austria took control of Dalmatia and Istria. It also continued to retain the *Vojna Krajina*, which had not yet demilitarized, despite the decaying state of the Ottoman Empire. (Part of the reason for this was that the *Vojna Krajina* was increasingly being used to recruit personnel for Austria's conflicts with its neighbors in other parts of Europe.¹³⁴) The remainder of Croatia and Slavonia became the Kingdom of Illyria, frustrating Hungarian nationalists who viewed these regions as historically part of a Greater Hungary.^{135,136}



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Ljudevit Gaj

Nevertheless, Hungary continued to press heavily in Croatian affairs, both politically and culturally. Maygarization—the spread of the ethnic Hungarian (Maygar) language—in particular became a symbol of Hungarian domination to a group of Croatian nobles inspired by the nationalist ideals of the Napoleonic era.

¹²⁹ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. “Carlowitz, Treaty of.” 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-9020364>

¹³⁰ *Historical Atlas of East Central Europe*. “20. The Ottoman Empire, the Hapsburgs, Hungary-Croatia, and Transylvania, 16th-17th Centuries [p. 65].” 1993. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press.

¹³¹ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. “Illyrian Provinces.” 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-43556>

¹³² *Croatia*, 3rd Ed. Oliver, Jeanne. “History: Enter Napoleon [p. 22].” 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

¹³³ *The Balkans: From Constantinople to Communism*. Hupchick, Dennis P. “Chapter 9: The Rise of Romantic Nationalism [p. 197].” 2002. New York, NY: Palgrave.

¹³⁴ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. “Borderland [pp. 142-143].” 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹³⁵ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Yugoslavia: A Country Study*. Curtis, Glenn E. “Chapter 1: Historical Setting: Histories of the Yugoslav People to World War 1: The Croats and Their Territories [pp. 10-16].” 1990. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

¹³⁶ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. “Language and Literacy [pp. 208-209].” 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

Emerging in the 1830s, this early wave of proto-Croatian nationalism, which took its name from the earliest settlers in the area, became known as the “Illyrian Movement.” A central figure in the movement was Ljudevit Gaj, a journalist gifted in linguistics, who standardized the Latin orthography for the Croatian language. He published journal articles promoting the creation of a kingdom that embraced all the South Slavs living within the Hapsburg (Austrian) Empire. Ultimately, he advocated the inclusion of some, such as the Bosnians, still living within the Ottoman Empire.¹³⁷ Hungarian nationalists, who had become increasingly powerful, felt threatened by such pan-Slavic nationalism and successfully pressured Vienna to ban the use of “Illyrian” within the empire.¹³⁸

Croatia and Austria-Hungary

The year 1848 ushered in numerous revolutions in the Hapsburg Empire. In April the Hungarian parliament voted to break away from Vienna, and thus declared Slavonia (and, to a lesser extent, “Croatia proper”¹³⁹) as integral parts of the Hungarian kingdom.¹⁴⁰ Not surprisingly, this position was met with resistance in Croatia, and within a few months Croatian and Hungarian forces were meeting on the battlefield. The Croatian Sabor (its parliament) hoped that such military support of Austria would also lead to a more open attitude within Vienna toward increased Croatian autonomy. This outcome did not prove to be the case, however.¹⁴¹



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Emperor Franz Joseph visits Zagreb

After the Hungarian revolt was thwarted with Russian assistance, Austria asserted greater centralized control over its domains, including Hungary and Croatia. German became the official language of the empire, a policy widely unpopular in both vassal states. In Croatia, resentment toward Austria’s heavy-handed rule fostered two new political parties. The Croatian Party of Rights (*Hrvatska stranka prava* or *HSP*), pushed for the establishment of an independent Croatia free from Austrian and Hungarian oppression. The other party known as the Illyrian, or National, Party, led by Catholic Bishop Josif

¹³⁷ *The Balkans: From Constantinople to Communism*. Hupchick, Dennis P. “Chapter 9: The Rise of Romantic Nationalism [p. 198].” 2002. New York, NY: Palgrave.

¹³⁸ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. “Illyrian Croatia [p. 225].” 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹³⁹ Croatia has traditionally been divided into four historical units: Istria, Dalmatia, Croatia proper (consisting of the mountainous regions north of Dalmatia and east of Istria, as well as the western section of the Pannonian Plain), and Slavonia. These regions, particularly Croatia proper and Slavonia, have had different boundary definitions through history as a result of changing political alignments. See *Eastern Europe: An Introduction to the People, Lands, and Culture*. Biondich, Mark. “Croatia [p. 413].” 2005. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

¹⁴⁰ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. “Illyrian Croatia [p. 227].” 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹⁴¹ *Croatia*, 3rd Ed. Oliver, Jeanne. “History: The 1948 Revolution [p. 23].” 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

Juraf Strossmayer advocated the creation of a South Slav federated state within the Hapsburg Empire (an idea that came to be known as Yugoslavism).^{142,143}

In 1867, Hapsburg Emperor Franz Joseph I signed an agreement establishing a dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary, with each kingdom independent from the other except for foreign policy, military defense, and the finances necessary to fund these joint responsibilities.¹⁴⁴ After a decisive defeat in the Austro-Prussian War, Austria's weakened state was the most significant factor in the imperial court's decision to share power with the Maygars (ethnic Hungarians).¹⁴⁵ Within the dual kingdom, Dalmatia and Istria remained under Austrian rule, while Croatia proper and Slavonia were politically tied to Hungary. A year later, a separately negotiated compromise agreement between Hungary and Croatia acknowledged Croatia-Slavonia-Dalmatia¹⁴⁶ as a separate "political nation" within the Hungarian kingdom and granted Croatia autonomy in certain internal affairs, including the right to establish its own parliament.¹⁴⁷

Croat-Serb Relations

In 1881, the *Vojna Krajina* was disbanded, three years after the region ceased to be a "military frontier" when Austria-Hungary assumed control of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Ottoman Empire. This region, which even after the establishment of the dual monarchy had remained under Austrian control, now became part of Croatia-Slavonia. The percentage of Serbs¹⁴⁸ within Croatia-Slavonia increased to 26%, due to the incorporation of the *Vojna Krajina*. The military borderlands had long harbored a large population of Orthodox Christians who had moved into the region during the Ottoman



¹⁴² Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Croatia: History: Croatian National Revival." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-43556>

¹⁴³ *History of the Balkans: Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries*. Jelavich, Barbara. "Chapter 6: The National Issue in the Habsburg Empire [p. 308]." 1983. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

¹⁴⁴ Michigan State University. Sowards, Steven W. "Lecture 7: Nationalism in Hungary, 1848-1867." 11 June 2009. <http://staff.lib.msu.edu/sowards/balkan/lect07.htm> [retrieved 30 July 2010]

¹⁴⁵ *The Balkans: From Constantinople to Communism*. Hupchick, Dennis P. "Chapter 9: The 'Eastern Question' [p. 254]." 2002. New York, NY: Palgrave.

¹⁴⁶ The 1868 compromise referenced the nonexistent Kingdom of Croatia-Dalmatia-Slavonia, because of Dalmatia's inclusion within the Austrian domain. The inclusion of Dalmatia in the 1868 compromise showed support by Hungary of Croatia's desire to reunite the historical Croatian lands. See *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. "The Croatian-Hungarian Compromise [p. 298]." 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹⁴⁷ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. "The Croatian-Hungarian Compromise [p. 298]." 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹⁴⁸ Serbs (Orthodox) and Croats (Catholic) during this time separated along religious lines. Many Serbs in the *Vojna Krajina* had originally been ethnic Vlachs, but were considered Serbs in the *Vojna Krajina* because of their adherence to the Orthodox faith. The Ottoman policy of organizing religious communities into semi-autonomous *millet*s responsible for local legal and administrative affairs contributed to religion's importance in forging ethnic identity.

era.¹⁴⁹ Tensions between the two communities heightened as both Croatian and Serbian nationalist ideologues resisted attempts toward assimilation in a Croatian state. The Croats, viewed as less supportive of the dual monarchy (especially Hungary's tight grip on Croatia-Slavonia), were subjected to a divide-and-rule strategy by Hungary during the last two decades of the 19th century. Serbs, during this time, were given preferential political and economic treatment under the Hungarian-appointed *ban* (the chief government official of Croatia-Slavonia).¹⁵⁰

In the first decade of the 20th century, however, Serbs and Croats, both in Croatia-Slavonia and Dalmatia, overcame their differences and began to unite in common cause against the policies of the dual monarchy.¹⁵¹ Although these efforts ultimately failed to bring about a union of Dalmatia and Croatia-Slavonia, they established a precedent of Serb-Croat cooperation that paved the way for their later political unification.

The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes

Archduke and heir presumptive Francis Ferdinand was assassinated by a Serb nationalist in 1914, setting off a series of events that triggered numerous military alliances among the Great Powers. Eventually, most of Europe would be engulfed in one of the most deadly wars in history. For Croatia, the end of World War I brought the defeat of Austria-Hungary and the threat of new domination by Italy along the Adriatic coast. (Italy's intervention in World War I on the side of the Entente powers had come only after a treaty was signed guaranteeing them future territorial concessions in this region.) With a new political realignment of the Balkans soon to be decided in Versailles, hastily arranged alignments of western Balkan groups were created. A provisional state of Slovenes, Croats, and Dalmatians formed from territories of the former Austrian-Hungarian Empire merged with the greatly expanded Kingdom of Serbia. (The latter now included the Kingdom of Montenegro and the regions of Kosovo, Vojvodina, and Macedonia). The product of this union—the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes—was later formally approved at the Versailles Peace Conference. Italy's claims on the Adriatic coastline were mostly dismissed; eventually, however, the Italians won a small enclave centered in the city of Zadar, some of the offshore islands, all of Istria, and dominance over the port city of Rijeka.¹⁵²



© The Library of Congress
Archduke Franz Ferdinand
of Austria

The new kingdom was marked by major ethnic, language, and religious differences from the very beginning. Despite the kingdom's name, a large number of minority populations,

¹⁴⁹ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. "Croatia and Its Serbs [p. 346]." 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹⁵⁰ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. "Croatia and Its Serbs [p. 346]." 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹⁵¹ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. "The Road to Yugoslavia [pp. 445-449]." 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹⁵² *The Balkans: From Constantinople to Communism*. Hupchick, Dennis P. "Chapter 15: World War I and Versailles [p. 333]." 2002. New York, NY: Palgrave.

who were neither Serb nor Croat nor Slovene, found themselves within its borders. Some, such as the ethnic Albanians of Kosovo and the ethnic Hungarians of Vojvodina, were not even Slavs. One of the biggest challenges for King Alexander I, who formally assumed the Serb, Croat, and Slovene throne after his father's death in 1921, was the continuing Croat-Serb rivalry. The latter culminated in the murder of Croatian opposition leader Stjepan Radić in parliament by a Montenegrin member of the dominant Serb political party.^{153,154}

Opposition and Autonomy

With Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina demanding a federated state, King Alexander declared a royal dictatorship in 1929, disbanding the kingdom's parliament and outlawing political parties. The new nation-state was called Yugoslavia, and its internal borders were redrawn by creating a number of smaller political units. Known as *banovinas*, they had few ethnic or historical associations and were named after physical features such as rivers.¹⁵⁵ Unfortunately, this political "rebranding" of the kingdom did little to ease existing tensions or induce a greater sense of national unity. Extremist elements continued to emerge, including the *Ustaše* ("insurgents"), a Croatian separatist group co-founded by former Party of Right member Ante Pavelić.¹⁵⁶ The *Ustaše* established training grounds in Italy, and in 1934 they are thought to have been part of a successful assassination plot against Alexander. It was staged while the king was on a state visit in Marseille.¹⁵⁷

While the *Ustaše* remained exiled in Italy, tolerated but no longer actively supported by the fascist government of Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini, opposition forces with a more diplomatic approach were successfully negotiating with the Yugoslav government for increased Croatian autonomy within Yugoslavia.¹⁵⁸ In August 1939, a *Sporazum* ("agreement") was signed allowing a new Croatian *banovina* (consisting of the two existing *banovinas* that contained the majority of Dalmatia and Croatia proper¹⁵⁹) self-

¹⁵³ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. "Between Italy and Serbia [p. 520]." 2007. London, NY: Saqi Books.

¹⁵⁴ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Croatia: History: Croatia in Yugoslavia, 1918-1941." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-223955>

¹⁵⁵ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Yugoslavia: A Country Study*. Curtis, Glenn E. "Chapter 1: Historical Setting: The Balkan War, World War I, and the Formation of Yugoslavia (1912-1918): The Royal Dictatorship [pp. 33-34]." 1990. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

¹⁵⁶ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Croatia: History: Croatia in Yugoslavia, 1918-1941." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-223955>

¹⁵⁷ *Croatia*, 3rd Ed. Oliver, Jeanne. "History: WWII and the Rise of Ustaše [pp. 24-25]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, AU: Lonely Planet Publications.

¹⁵⁸ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Croatia: History: Croatia in Yugoslavia, 1918-1941." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-223955>

¹⁵⁹ These two *banovinas* also included a substantial portion of western Bosnia and Herzegovina, which concerned Bosnian Muslims. See *Croatia: A Nation Forged in War*. Tanner, Marcus. "Chapter 10: The *Sporazum* [p. 133]." 1997. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

governance in all matters except foreign affairs, defense, and transportation infrastructure.^{160,161}

¹⁶⁰ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Croatia: History: Croatia in Yugoslavia, 1918-1941." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-223955>

¹⁶¹ *Croatia: A Nation Forged in War*. Tanner, Marcus. "Chapter 10: The *Sporazum* [p. 133]." 1997. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

The Ustaše: Blood and Soil

World War II came early to the Balkans, commencing in April 1939 when Italian forces overran Albania. A subsequent Italian invasion of Greece in 1940 failed badly, forcing Mussolini to request assistance from his German allies. Under threat of German invasion, the previously neutral Balkan nations of Romania and Bulgaria soon thereafter aligned themselves with the Axis powers under the Tripartite Pact. Put under similar pressure, Yugoslavia eventually signed the



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Ustasa militia point their rifles at a group of bodies

Pact. However, a military coup in Belgrade, followed by anti-Tripartite demonstrations in the streets, convinced German leader Adolph Hitler that force was necessary. Germany invaded Yugoslavia on 6 April 1941. The Yugoslav army collapsed quickly, and the remaining pockets of armed resistance surrendered unconditionally just 11 days later.¹⁶²

Yugoslavia was divided into several parts after the German invasion. The Croatian *banovina* became part of the “Independent State of Croatia,” which was neither independent (Italian and German troops occupied the western and eastern halves of the country, respectively) nor wholly Croatian (Bosnia and Herzegovina was also included within the state’s boundaries, while Italy annexed much of Dalmatia). Pavelić’s *Ustaše*, long exiled in Italy, was given control of the new state, a decision that would prove disastrous. With no real base of support in Croatia, Pavelić called on his small cadre of supporters to carry out a “blood and soil” mission. According to the plan, all Croatian lands would be freed of non-Croatians—by genocidal means if religious conversions and forced removals were not enough.¹⁶³ For Pavelić and his followers, Bosnia and Herzegovina—the “heart” of Croat lands—was a primary target of this strategy.¹⁶⁴

The *Ustaše* unleashed a reign of terror on Serbs, Jews, Roma (Gypsies), and non-supportive Croats so brutal and widespread that even the Nazi Germans were said to be appalled. The Nazis feared that the *Ustaše*’s campaign of extermination was helping to build support for the Partisan resistance fighters.^{165,166} Estimates of the number of Serbs killed vary widely depending on source. The numbers that seem most reliable indicate

¹⁶² Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Yugoslavia: A Country Study*. Curtis, Glenn E. “Chapter 1: Historical Setting: The Balkan Wars, World War I, and the Formation of Yugoslavia (1912-1918): The Sporazum, Tripartite Pact, and Outbreak of World War II [pp. 36-37].” 1990. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

¹⁶³ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. “Reform, Reaction and Revolution [p. 565].” 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹⁶⁴ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. “Reform, Reaction and Revolution [p. 564].” 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹⁶⁵ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Yugoslavia: A Country Study*. Curtis, Glenn E. “Chapter 1: Historical Setting: Yugoslavia in World War II (1941-1945): Partition and Terror [pp. 37-39].” 1990. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

¹⁶⁶ *U.S. Intelligence and the Nazis*. Goda, Norman J. W. “The Ustaša: Murder and Espionage [p. 204].” 2005. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

that over 300,000 Serbs were either killed directly by the *Ustaše* or executed in the concentration camps located around the Sava River village of Jasnovač. Jews fared even worse, with an estimated 80% of the Jewish population of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina killed during the war.¹⁶⁷

Yugoslavia Reborn

The most potent resistance force in Yugoslavia during World War II was the Communist Partisans, led by Josip Broz Tito, a Croatian-Slovenian. As a young man, Tito had journeyed to Russia and joined the Red Guards during the Russian Revolution. Both Croatian Serbs fleeing the *Ustaše* and anti-fascist Croats were included among the Partisan forces. After some early missteps, Tito toned down his communist ideology in favor of a postwar federated Yugoslavia, a position that both Serbs and Croats could support.¹⁶⁸ Partisan recruiting efforts took off, aided in no small part by hatred of the *Ustaše*, now widespread across all ethnic groups.¹⁶⁹ The Chetniks would not try to recruit Croats to their cause for a “greater Serbia” since it was something no Croat could support.¹⁷⁰ By 1944, the Italians had surrendered, and the Partisans controlled much of the Croatian countryside. The Partisans entered Belgrade in conjunction with Soviet forces in October of that year, and Tito’s army moved against the remaining *Ustaše* strongholds. Pavelić was one of the few *Ustaše* leaders to escape, ultimately finding a haven in Argentina. In 1957, he survived an assassination attempt by the Yugoslav secret police in Buenos Aires and once again fled. This time he ended up in Madrid, where he died in 1959 of complications resulting from the gunshot wound suffered in Argentina.¹⁷¹



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Marshal Josip Broz Tito

After the war ended, Croatia became a republic within the newly created Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a communist state led by Prime Minister Tito. Yugoslavia initially adopted a Soviet-style economic model. Private property was nationalized and a centrally planned economy was created. Tito quickly eliminated all potential opposition figures who might become lightning rods for nationalist causes within Yugoslavia or otherwise impede his agenda. Thus, Dragoljub “Draža” Mihailović, the Serbian Chetnik leader, was captured and executed after a short show trial in 1946; Alojzije Stepinac, the

¹⁶⁷ *Croatia: A Nation Forged in War*. Tanner, Marcus. “Chapter 11: The Ustashe [p. 149].” 1997. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

¹⁶⁸ *Croatia: A Nation Forged in War*. Tanner, Marcus. “Chapter 11: The Ustashe [p. 159].” 1997. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

¹⁶⁹ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Yugoslavia: A Country Study*. Curtis, Glenn E. “Chapter 1: Historical Setting: Yugoslavia in World War II (1941-1945): The Resistance Movement [pp. 39-42].” 1990. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

¹⁷⁰ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Yugoslavia: A Country Study*. Curtis, Glenn E. “Chapter 1: Historical Setting: Yugoslavia in World War II (1941-1945): Partition and Terror [pp. 37-39].” 1990. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

¹⁷¹ MoreorLess.au.com. Harris, Bruce. “Ante Pavelic.” 9 January 2006.
<http://www.moreorless.au.com/killers/pavelic.html>

Catholic Archbishop of Zagreb, was convicted on wartime treason charges and sentenced to 16 years; and Andrija Hebrang, wartime leader of the Croatian Communist Party, was arrested in 1948 and died in prison “under highly ambiguous circumstances, probably in 1949.”^{172,173,174}

Croatian Spring

Yugoslavia’s close relationship with the Soviet Union quickly frayed as Tito increasingly pursued his own economic and foreign policies. In June 1948, all the Soviet-bloc communist states—linked through the Cominform organization that was created to ensure a uniform political organization across the bloc—severed their relations with Yugoslavia.¹⁷⁵ Thereafter, Yugoslavia followed a more decentralized approach in its economic development and hewed a nonaligned path in its foreign relations.^{176,177} During the 1960s and early 1970s, many of the restraints on Yugoslavian society began to loosen as the state security apparatus underwent reorganization. In Croatia, reformist elements began to push for greater Croatian cultural and economic independence. Concerns were voiced about Serbia’s increasingly dominant economic position within Yugoslavia, and these frustrations were exacerbated by Croatia’s inability to exert significant control over its own economy.¹⁷⁸

Cultural independence also flowered during this time. The Croatian language was resurrected as a symbol of Croatian cultural identity. For many years, it had been prisoner to Yugoslavia’s language politics in which dialect differences were melded into a uniform Serbo-Croatian language.¹⁷⁹ The 19th century Croatian cultural



© Daniel Bunić
Declaration on the Status and Name of the Croatian Literary Language

¹⁷² *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. “The Promised Land [p. 607].” 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹⁷³ *Croatia: A Nation Forged in War*. Tanner, Marcus. “Chapter 11: ‘My Conscience is Clear’ [p. 180-182].” 1997. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

¹⁷⁴ *With Stalin against Tito: Cominformist Splits in Yugoslav Communism*. Banac, Ivo. “Chapter 3: Leap Year [p. 122].” 1988. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

¹⁷⁵ *The Balkans: From Constantinople to Communism*. Hupchick, Dennis P. “Chapter 19: Splits in Socialism [p. 404].” 2002. New York, NY: Palgrave.

¹⁷⁶ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Yugoslavia: A Country Study*. Curtis, Glenn E. “Chapter 1: Historical Setting: Postwar Yugoslavia: Introduction of Socialist Self-Management [pp. 47-49].” 1990. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

¹⁷⁷ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Yugoslavia: A Country Study*. Curtis, Glenn E. “Chapter 1: Historical Setting: Postwar Yugoslavia: Nonalignment and Yugoslav-Soviet Rapprochement [pp. 49-50].” 1990. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

¹⁷⁸ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. “The Promised Land [pp. 626-627].” 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹⁷⁹ *The Balkans Since the Second World War*. Crampton, R. J. “Chapter 8: Yugoslavia, 1948-1989 [pp 131-132].” 2002. London, UK: Longman.

society, known as *Matica Hrvatska*, dramatically revived and published a slew of pamphlets and journals. They covered not only the Croatian language issue, but other topics related to greater Croatian cultural, economic, and political autonomy.¹⁸⁰

The political reform efforts during this period known as the “Croatian Spring” were led by Croatian communist party leaders Savka Dabčević-Kučar and Miko Tripalo. As they pressed for constitutional reforms granting greater authority to the Yugoslavian republics, anti-reform forces became concerned about the declining influence of the national communist party. The Croatian native son Tito, while generally sympathetic to the reformers’ goals, eventually decided that a crackdown was necessary before the nation began to slide towards anarchy.¹⁸¹ In December 1971, Dabčević-Kučar and Tripalo were forced out of power and *Matica Hrvatska* was shut down. Further purges soon followed, with many individuals jailed.¹⁸² Nonetheless, a new constitution was eventually passed in 1974 that encompassed many of the reformers’ goals, including greater economic and political autonomy for Yugoslavia’s republics and provinces.¹⁸³

The Rise of Nationalism

By the time of his death in 1980, Tito had come to symbolize Yugoslavia. Even death could not change this perception. The expression *Nakon Tita bit će Tito* (“After Tito, there will be Tito”), conveyed the expectation that his policies would continue in perpetuity. During the early 1980s, Tito’s image and memory were regularly exploited in the mass media.^{184,185} Yet Tito proved unable to control the country’s destiny from the grave. As the decade wore on, the Yugoslav economy began to sputter, leading to double-digit unemployment and out-of-control inflation. Serbian nationalism was revived by an emerging group of “ethnicity entrepreneurs,”¹⁸⁶ who recognized its value as a tool for acquiring political power.¹⁸⁷ Foremost among them was



© Novica Nakov
Monument of Tito

¹⁸⁰ *The Balkans Since the Second World War*. Crampton, R. J. “Chapter 8: Yugoslavia, 1948-1989 [pp 131-132].” 2002. London, UK: Longman.

¹⁸¹ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. “The Promised Land [pp. 645-646].” 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹⁸² *Croatia: A Nation Forged in War*. Tanner, Marcus. “Chapter 14: ‘Comrade Tito is Dead’ [p. 203].” 1997. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

¹⁸³ *Croatia Through History*. Magaš, Branka. “The Promised Land [pp. 648].” 2007. London, UK: Saqi Books.

¹⁸⁴ *Croatia: A Nation Forged in War*. Tanner, Marcus. “Chapter 14: ‘Comrade Tito is Dead’ [p. 204-205].” 1997. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

¹⁸⁵ *The Balkans Since the Second World War*. Crampton, R. J. “Chapter 8: Yugoslavia, 1948-1989 [pp .131-140].” 2002. London, UK: Longman.

¹⁸⁶ This term comes from Tamar Jacoby’s review of the book, *Caribbean New York: Black Immigrants and the Politics of Race*. *New York Times* 27 September 1992. <http://www.nytimes.com/1992/09/27/books/the-isles-of-brooklyn.html?scp=1&sq=%22ethnicity%20entrepreneurs%22&st=cse>

¹⁸⁷ *The Balkans Since the Second World War*. Crampton, R. J. “Chapter 8. Yugoslavia, 1948-1989 [p. 140].” 2002. London, UK: Longman.

Slobodan Milošević, who became head of Serbia's communist party in 1986 and then president of the Serbian republic in 1989.¹⁸⁸ Escalating tensions in Kosovo between ethnic Serbs and the majority ethnic Albanian community were a galvanizing factor in Milošević's rise. He came to symbolize nationalist Serbs' resistance to any concessions towards Albanians in the region that they considered Serbia's homeland.¹⁸⁹

Croatian nationalists, who had been relatively silent for much of the 1980s, formed the Croatian Democratic Union party (*Hrvatska Demokratska Zajednica*, HDZ) in 1989, in anticipation of the first post-World War II multi-party elections for Croatia's *sabor* (parliament). Franjo Tuđman, the HDZ leader, was an ex-Partisan fighter turned historian, who had been imprisoned for several years as a result of his nationalist writings during the Croatian Spring.¹⁹⁰ He became Croatia's first non-communist president after the HDZ won a majority in the 1990 elections. A few months after these elections, Croatian Serbs held their own referendum, voting to create an autonomous region in the three districts of Croatia in which ethnic Serbs were the majority group (all of which were part of the historical *Vojna Krajina*).¹⁹¹

The Yugoslav Wars

On 25 June 1991, Croatia declared its independence, a month after a referendum on independence, boycotted by Croatian Serbs, passed by an overwhelming majority. The Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), Serbian militias, the Croatian National Guard, and Croatian militias were soon involved in a six-month war in which 10,000 people died, hundreds of thousands were displaced, and roughly 30% of Croatia came to be occupied by Serbian forces.¹⁹² During this fighting, the city of Vukovar in eastern Slavonia came under a three-month siege that completely devastated the city.



© Mikhail Evstafiev
Government building in the center of Sarajevo

¹⁸⁸ Biography Resource Center. *Encyclopedia of World Biography*, Vol. 2. "Slobodan Milosevic." 15 January 2007.

http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/BioRC?vrsn=149&OP=contains&locID=cfsc_remote&srchtp=name&ca=5&c=1&AI=U13022558&NA=Milosevic&ste=12&tbst=prp&tab=1&docNum=K1631004556&bConts=43

¹⁸⁹ Biography Resource Center. *Newmakers 1993*, Issue 4. "Slobodan Milosevic." 15 January 2007.

http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/BioRC?vrsn=149&OP=contains&locID=cfsc_remote&srchtp=name&ca=5&c=2&AI=U13022558&NA=Milosevic&ste=12&tbst=prp&tab=1&docNum=K1618002236&bConts=43

¹⁹⁰ *The Balkans Since the Second World War*. Crampton, R. J. "Chapter 14: The Yugoslav Crisis, 1989-1992, and the War in Bosnia, 1992-1995 [p. 242]." 2002. London, UK: Longman.

¹⁹¹ *The Balkans Since the Second World War*. Crampton, R. J. "Chapter 14: The Yugoslav Crisis, 1989-1992, and the War in Bosnia, 1992-1995 [p. 243]." 2002. London, UK: Longman.

¹⁹² *Historical Dictionary of Croatia*. Stallaerts, Robert, Ed. "Introduction: Toward an Independent and Integrated Nation [p. xiv]." 2010. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, Inc.

In February 1992, a United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) that would ultimately include 39,000 troops entered Croatia. Initially, their mission was to protect demilitarized protected areas (western Slavonia, eastern Slavonia, Krajina) where Croatian Serbs were either a majority or substantial minority of the population. Ultimately, the UN forces would also monitor the so-called “pink zones,” regions outside the protected areas and controlled by the JNA.¹⁹³



© Soska / wikimedia.org
A sign of support for General Ante Gotovina

By 1993, much of the fighting in the region was taking place in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where Bosnian Serbs, Bosnian Croats, and Bosnian Muslims (Bosniaks) became involved in complex three-way fighting. At times, the Bosniaks fought with the Bosnian Croats, and at other times against them.¹⁹⁴ Both Serbia and Croatia, led by nationalist leaders (Milošević, Tuđman) at the time, have been accused of lending support to the ethnic Serb and Croat units fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina.^{195,196}

In 1995, the long stalemate between Serb and Croat forces in Croatia broke when two Croatian military offensives captured all of the Serb-held areas except for eastern Slavonia. With the balance of power having now clearly swung to the Croatian side, an agreement was quickly negotiated in which Serb-held eastern Slavonia would gradually be integrated back into Croatia.¹⁹⁷ By early 1998, all of Croatia was fully under the control of the Croatian government.

Recent Developments

Franjo Tuđman would remain Croatia’s president until his death in 1999. In parliamentary elections held in 2000, a center-left coalition swept Tuđman’s party, the HDZ, from power. A few months later, Stjepan (“Stipe”) Mesić was elected Croatia’s new president, a position he would hold for two terms (2000-2010). An HDZ-led coalition government would regain control of Croatia’s parliament in elections in 2003, with Ivo Sanader becoming the new prime minister. The HDZ by this time had moderated its ideological positions after some of the hardliners had left the party. No

¹⁹³ United Nations. “United Nations Protection Force: Profile.” 31 August 1996.

http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/past/unprof_p.htm

¹⁹⁴ *The Balkans Since the Second World War*. Crampton, R. J. “Chapter 14: The Yugoslav Crisis, 1989-1992, and the War in Bosnia, 1992-1995 [p. 258].” 2002. London, UK: Longman.

¹⁹⁵ BBC News. “Milosevic Charged With Bosnia Genocide.” 23 November 2001.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/1672414.stm>

¹⁹⁶ *Annotated Leading Cases of International Criminal Tribunals: Volume VII: The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia*. 2005. “Prosecutor v. Dario Kordić & Mario Cerkez [pp. 274-280].” Antwerp, Belgium: Intersentia.

¹⁹⁷ Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala Universitet. “The Erdut Agreement.” 12 November 1995. http://www.pcr.uu.se/gpdatabase/peace/Cro_19951112.pdf

longer was the party tied in the public mind to the nationalist rhetoric of the Tudman era.¹⁹⁸

The first decade of the 21st century was a period in which numerous political and economic reforms were enacted to strengthen Croatia's ties with the rest of Europe. The prospect of eventual Croatian membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU) guided many of these reforms. Croatia joined NATO in April 2009, and the country is currently in negotiations for accession to the EU. The 2010 resolution of a border issue with Slovenia is expected to help clear the way for final approval of Croatia's membership.¹⁹⁹ The government's continuing cooperation with the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague has been closely watched throughout the accession process. The talks were briefly derailed in 2005, when indicted Croatian general Ante Gotovina, a national war hero to some Croats, entered into his fourth year of hiding. He was captured later that year in the Canary Islands.^{200,201,202}

Self Study Questions

Croatia was part of the Eastern Roman Empire. True or False?

The Ottomans at one point controlled all of present-day Croatia. True or False?

The Ustaše was under the control of Hitler. True or False?

The Communist Partisans were led by Tito. True or False?

Croatia's referendum on independence had unilateral support. True or False?

¹⁹⁸ *Historical Dictionary of Croatia*. Stallaerts, Robert, Ed. "Introduction: Toward an Independent and Integrated Nation [p. xix-xx]." 2010. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, Inc.

¹⁹⁹ Reuters.com. Novak, Marja. "Slovenia Vote Clears Obstacle to Croatia EU Bid." 6 June 2010. <http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE6551PU20100606>

²⁰⁰ Federation of American Scientists. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Kim, Julie. "Balkan Cooperation on War Crimes Issues [p. 4]." 14 January 2008. <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RS22097.pdf>

²⁰¹ Waz.euobserver.com. Palokaj, Augustin. "Croatia Likely to Miss 2010 Target." 2 May 2010. <http://waz.euobserver.com/887/29989>

²⁰² BBC News. "Profile: Ante Gotovina." 11 March 2008. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4514150.stm>

Economy

Introduction

As Croatia enters negotiations for its accession into the European Union (EU), the nation's economy has been under scrutiny. To become the second member of the former Yugoslavia to join the EU (Slovenia was the first), Croatia has quietly but steadily rebuilt its economy over the last decade by reducing state subsidies. Infrastructure improvements and a blossoming tourism industry have been some of the highlights of this economic resurgence. However, the worldwide economic crisis that began in 2009 has significantly dampened its economy, resulting in negative growth, rising unemployment, and increasing poverty.



© Jaime Silva
Sambor marketplace

Agriculture

Agricultural production in Croatia is an important part of the economy, although its relative contribution to the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) has been declining in recent years. In 2009, agriculture represented 6.3% of Croatia's GDP, compared to about 10% of GDP a decade earlier.^{203,204} Agricultural efficiency and productivity is limited because a large part of Croatia's agricultural production takes place on fragmented farm holdings of less than 3 ha (7.4 acres).^{205,206} In March 2010, farmers protested the proposed phasing out of agricultural subsidies to comply with EU regulations.²⁰⁷



© Richard Vankoningsveld
Farmland

Much of Croatia's prime farmland lies in the northern plains, between the Sava and Drava Rivers. Nearly two thirds of Croatia's land under cultivation is devoted to cereals (mostly wheat and corn), crops that Croatia does not need to import.^{208,209} Other

²⁰³ Central Intelligence Agency. *The World Factbook*. "Croatia." 3 August 2010.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/hr.html>

²⁰⁴ *Encyclopedia of the Nations*. "Croatia – Agriculture." No date.

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economies/Europe/Croatia-AGRICULTURE.html>

²⁰⁵ *Encyclopedia of the Nations*. "Croatia – Agriculture." No date.

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economies/Europe/Croatia-AGRICULTURE.html>

²⁰⁶ European Commission – Agriculture and Rural Development. "Croatia – Agriculture and Development [p. 2]." March 2010. http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/enlargement/countries/croatia/profile_en.pdf

²⁰⁷ Southeast European Times. Radic, Natasa. "Can Croatian Farming Survive?" 19 April 2010.

http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/articles/2010/04/19/reportage-01

²⁰⁸ Central Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Croatia. "Statistical Information 2010 [p. 70]." 2010.

http://www.dzs.hr/default_e.htm

²⁰⁹ European Commission – Agriculture and Rural Development. "Croatia – Agriculture and Development [p. 3]." March 2010. http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/enlargement/countries/croatia/profile_en.pdf

important crops include sugar beets, potatoes, and tomatoes.^{210,211} Sunflower seeds and soy beans are grown primarily for cooking oil. Large government subsidies have recently increased the amount of acreage dedicated to rapeseed, an important ingredient for biodiesel production.²¹² Along the Adriatic coast, viticulture (grapes) and tree crops (fruit, olives) are most common, while mountainous areas are dominantly pasture lands.²¹³

Roughly 80% of Croatia's forest lands are owned by the state, managed by Hrvatske Šume, a public company that has been able to secure recognition for its Forest Stewardship Program (FSP).²¹⁴ Thus, Croatian wood products can be certified as having come from sustainable forests, affording their manufacturers an FSP marketing seal of approval. Public forests provide the bulk of the nation's roundwood (logs) and sawn wood production. Private forest lands, in turn, produce most of the nation's cordwood and firewood.²¹⁵ Overall, wood products from Croatia's forests are one of the few classes of materials, either raw or manufactured, that provide a substantial trade surplus.²¹⁶

Croatia's long Adriatic coastline provides the nation with an extensive natural fishery, although the fish population in the Adriatic Sea is relatively low. Small blue fish (sardines, anchovies, sprat) are the dominant catch. Tuna, sea bream, trout, and carp are the primary farmed species, with virtually all of the farmed tuna exported to Japan.^{217,218}

²¹⁰ European Commission – Agriculture and Rural Development. “Croatia – Agriculture and Development [p. 3].” March 2010. http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/enlargement/countries/croatia/profile_en.pdf

²¹¹ *Encyclopedia of the Nations*. “Croatia – Agriculture.” No date.

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economies/Europe/Croatia-AGRICULTURE.html>

²¹² European Commission. Cerjak, Marija and Željka Mesić, Zoran Đurić. “Analysis of Renewable Energy and Its Impact on Rural Development in Croatia [pp. 10-11].” November 2009.

<http://www.euroqualityfiles.net/AgriPolicy/Report 2.2/AgriPolicy WP2D2 Croatia Final.pdf>

²¹³ *Encyclopedia of the Nations*. “Croatia – Agriculture.” No date.

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economies/Europe/Croatia-AGRICULTURE.html>

²¹⁴ World Wildlife Fund. “Croatia Certifies All 2 Million Hectares of State-Owned Forests.” 14 November 2002. http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/mediterranean/news/?4436/Croatia-certifies-all-2-million-hectares-of-state-owned-forests

²¹⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. “Forests and the Forestry Sector: Croatia.” August 2004. <http://www.fao.org/forestry/country/57478/en/hrv/>

²¹⁶ International Trade Centre. “Trade Map – List of Products Commercialized by Croatia.” 2010.

http://www.trademap.org/tradestat/Product_SelCountry_TS.aspx

²¹⁷ U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service. Misir, Andreja. “Croatia: Market Brief on Fishery Products.” 1 July 2010. http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent GAIN Publications/Market Brief on Fishery Products_Zagreb_Croatia_7-1-2010.pdf

²¹⁸ Agricultural Market Resource Center (cached). “Croatia: Fisheries and Aquaculture.” 2006.

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:4o7uFFNQZuoJ:english-test.exnet.iastate.edu/products/fisheriesaquaculture.htm+Adriatic+sardines+anchovies&cd=7&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>

With the exception of poultry, most Croatian livestock production is undertaken on a small-scale basis. The nation is self-sufficient in poultry meat and eggs, but most other meat and dairy products must also be imported.²¹⁹

Industry

About 20% of Croatia's GDP comes from manufacturing, which also represents nearly 70% of the total value of the nation's exports.²²⁰ Food processing, wood products, chemicals, and shipbuilding are among the largest segments of the manufacturing sector.²²¹ Food and beverage processing, in particular, make up more than 20% of the total sector, employing nearly 50,000 people.²²² Shipbuilding is the most important industry in terms of export revenue, although the nation's shipyards have been slow to privatize and restructure themselves.²²³ All of Croatia's six major shipyards have been put up for sale as state subsidies are phased out as part of the EU accession process.^{224,225} It remains to be seen how many, if any, will remain open after complete privatization.²²⁶

Croatia's textile and apparel manufacturing has traditionally been a major component of the nation's manufacturing sector. Recent years, however, have seen a steady decline in the industry, both in terms of revenue/production and number of workers employed.²²⁷ In 2003, for example, over 13.6% of all of Croatia's workers in manufacturing were employed in the textile and apparel industry. Five years later, in 2008, this percentage had slumped to slightly more than 10.1% of all workers. Contributing factors included a downturn in orders from the EU countries and higher pricing relative to other countries with textile/apparel factories.²²⁸



© Robert Majetic
Rijeka ship yard

²¹⁹ European Commission – Agriculture and Rural Development. “Croatia – Agriculture and Development [pp. 3-4].” March 2010. http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/enlargement/countries/croatia/profile_en.pdf

²²⁰ World Trade Organization. “Country Profile: Croatia.” March 2010. http://www.intracen.org/btp/wtn/newsletters/2010/tpr_croatia.htm

²²¹ World Trade Organization. *Trade Policy Review: Croatia*. “I. Economic Environment [p. 2].” 24, 26 March 2010. http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/s227-01_e.doc

²²² FoodNavigator.com. Halliday, Jess. “Croatia Embraces Private Label Foods.” 13 August 2010. <http://www.foodnavigator.com/Financial-Industry/Croatia-embraces-private-label-foods>

²²³ New York Times. Radosavljevic, Zoran. “Croatia Shipyards Face an Uncertain Future.” 6 May 2008. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/06/business/worldbusiness/06iht-ship.4.12613903.html>

²²⁴ Seebiz.com. “Filip Zepter to Buy Three Croatian Shipyards.” 19 August 2009. <http://www.seebiz.eu/en/corporate/filip-zepter-to-buy-three-croatian-shipyards,53873.html>

²²⁵ AllBusiness.com. LexisNexis. “Croatia Shipyard Privatisation Attracts Three Suitors.” 27 August 2009. <http://www.allbusiness.com/company-activities-management/contracts-bids/12757265-1.html>

²²⁶ New York Times. Radosavljevic, Zoran. “Croatia Shipyards Face an Uncertain Future.” 6 May 2008. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/06/business/worldbusiness/06iht-ship.4.12613903.html>

²²⁷ Industry and Technology Department, Croatian Chamber of Economy. “Manufacture of Textiles and Apparel.” November 2009. http://www2.hgk.hr/en/depts/industry/tekstil_2009.pdf

²²⁸ Industry and Technology Department, Croatian Chamber of Economy. “Manufacture of Textiles and Apparel.” November 2009. http://www2.hgk.hr/en/depts/industry/tekstil_2009.pdf

One of Croatia's larger producers of fabricated metal products, machinery, and transport equipment is Đuro Đaković Holdings, a Slavonski Brod-based state-owned enterprise (SOE) producing items such as military tanks, railway cars, farm equipment, and miscellaneous equipment for a wide range of industrial plants. This large consortium is slowly privatizing, and several of its component companies are now privately held.^{229,230}

Natural Resources

Croatia has limited economic mineral deposits. The majority of mining and quarrying is for industrial minerals, such as sand, gravel, stone, quartz, clay, lime, gypsum, pumice, and nitrogen.²³¹ Virtually all of these minerals are used either as construction materials or raw materials for other products, such as ceramics and container glass.²³² Sea salt is also produced from salt pans at barren Pag Island.²³³



© Annie Earley
Salt flats

Aluminum alloys and steel are produced at a few plants in Croatia, using foreign and domestic secondary raw materials.^{234,235} At one time, bauxite (the main ore of aluminum) was extensively mined in Croatia, but the destruction of Croatia's lone aluminum smelter during the fighting in the early 1990s reduced production almost completely.²³⁶

Energy Resources

Croatia has limited fossil fuel resources, insufficient to meet the nation's domestic energy needs. Crude oil production has been on a steady decline since the mid-1990s. But, consumption had risen during that period, resulting in an increasing need for imported oil. Natural gas production has been relatively steady, but demand has nonetheless outstripped domestic supply for many



© Lan Lloyd
Wind farm

²²⁹ Đuro Đaković Holdings d. d. "About Us." 2010. http://www.duro-dakovic.com/company_profile/about_as/default.aspx

²³⁰ BusinessWeek.com "Corporate Croatia: Manufacturing Ingenuity." 2007. http://www.businessweek.com/adsections/2007/pdf/08132007_Croatia.pdf

²³¹ U.S. Geological Survey. *2008 Minerals Yearbook*. Brininstool, Mark. "The Mineral Industry of Croatia." October 2009. <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country/2008/myb3-2008-hr.pdf>

²³² Industry and Technology Department, Croatian Chamber of Economy. "Production of Non-Metals and Building Materials." August 2008. <http://www2.hgk.hr/en/depts/industry/Nemetali2008.pdf>

²³³ Frommer's. "Introduction to Pag Island." 2010.

<http://www.frommers.com/destinations/pagisland/3651010001.html>

²³⁴ U.S. Geological Survey. *2008 Minerals Yearbook*. Brininstool, Mark. "The Mineral Industry of Croatia." October 2009. <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country/2008/myb3-2008-hr.pdf>

²³⁵ U.S. Geological Survey. *1999 Minerals Yearbook*. Steblez, Walter G. "The Mineral Industry of Croatia." 1999.

²³⁶ U.S. Geological Survey. *1994 Minerals Yearbook*. Steblez, Walter G. "The Mineral Industry of Croatia." 1994. <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country/1994/9409094.pdf>

years. Croatia's limited coal deposits ceased producing 10 years ago, while the nation's coal needs continue to rise.²³⁷ All of the nation's fossil fuel production, including refined petroleum products, is managed by the state-owned Industrija Naft e.d. Zagreb.

Hydroelectricity provides over 35% of Croatia's electricity production, not nearly enough for the nation to be a net importer in this category as well.²³⁸ Alternative sources of energy such as wind, geothermal, biowaste, and solar have also been exploited to some extent, but as yet they provide only a small amount of Croatia's energy needs, a situation that is unlikely to change in the near- and middle-term.²³⁹

Trade

Croatia has long had a large trade imbalance in which the value of the nation's exports represent half the value of its imports.^{240,241} Among the items that contribute heavily to the negative trade balance have been energy imports (crude oil, natural gas, coal, electricity), automobiles/trucks/tractors, machinery/appliances, electrical equipment, iron and steel, plastics, pharmaceuticals, and paper products.²⁴² Only a few product categories have shown a positive trade balance. Foremost among these are ships, wood, fertilizers, sugar, leather goods, fish, and tobacco products.²⁴³ Power transformers are also a significant contributor to Croatia's exports, primarily produced by the Končar Group, Croatia's largest electrical equipment producer.^{244,245}



© jandiano / flickr.com
Export containers in Rijeka

Roughly 60% of Croatian export revenues accrue from trade with 6 countries (listed in descending order): Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Slovenia, Austria, and Serbia.²⁴⁶ Croatia's leading trade partners for imported goods are Italy, Germany, Russia,

²³⁷ U.S. Energy Information Administration. "Croatia Energy Profile." June 2010. http://ftp.eia.doe.gov/country/country_energy_data.cfm?fips=HR

²³⁸ International Energy Agency. "Electricity/Heat in Croatia in 2007." 2010. http://www.iea.org/stats/electricitydata.asp?COUNTRY_CODE=HR

²³⁹ Renewable Development Initiative, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. "Croatia: Country Profile." 2009. <http://ebrdrenewables.com/sites/renew/countries/croatia/profile.aspx>

²⁴⁰ International Trade Centre. "Trade Performance HS: Exports and Imports of Croatia (2008, in USD Thousands.)" 2010. <http://www.intracen.org/menus/countries.htm>

²⁴¹ United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (COMTRADE). "Croatia." 2010. <http://comtrade.un.org/pb/FileFetch.aspx?docID=3447&type=country pages>

²⁴² International Trade Centre. "Trade Performance HS: Imports of Croatia (2008, in USD Thousands.)" 2010. <http://www.intracen.org/menus/countries.htm>

²⁴³ International Trade Centre. "Trade Performance HS: Exports and Imports of Croatia (2008, in USD Thousands.)" 2010. <http://www.intracen.org/menus/countries.htm>

²⁴⁴ United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (COMTRADE). "Croatia." 2010. <http://comtrade.un.org/pb/FileFetch.aspx?docID=3447&type=country pages>

²⁴⁵ Faculty of Engineering, University of Zagreb. "Postgraduate Specialist Study in Transformers." 19 January 2009. <http://www.fer.hr/en/transformers>

²⁴⁶ United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (COMTRADE). "Croatia." 2010. <http://comtrade.un.org/pb/FileFetch.aspx?docID=3447&type=country pages>

China, Slovenia, and Austria.^{247,248} Of these key trading partners, Croatia has a positive trade balance only with its non-EU Balkan neighbors, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.^{249,250}

Tourism

Croatia's negative trade balance makes the nation's tourism industry all the more important for ameliorating the nation's balance of payments ledger. The sector is also an important source for jobs within the country.²⁵¹ Since 2007, an average of over 9.3 million foreigners have visited Croatia each year, more than twice the nation's total population. The large majority of these visitors are from other European nations, with Germany and Italy the leading source nations for Croatian tourist arrivals.²⁵² Over 22% of Croatia's GDP derives from tourism, a percentage nearly three times that of the European Union as a whole.²⁵³



© Tom Green
Cruise ship in Dalmatia

Much of Croatia's tourist industry potential lies along the nation's spectacular Adriatic coastline. Recent investment in the tourism sector has thus focused on this region. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) as well as foreign investors have both provided funds to increase Croatia's tourist infrastructure, including the expansion of Dubrovnik's airport and passenger terminal facilities at the port of Sibenik.²⁵⁴ The latter city, heretofore a secondary destination along the Dalmation coast, is viewed as a source for tourism growth owing to its access both to nearby islands and to two inland national parks. Yet tourism is a seasonal industry in Croatia, limiting its ability to contribute to the economy. As a newspaper observed, "the coast is crowded during July and August, [but] it is almost deserted for the rest of the year."²⁵⁵

²⁴⁷ International Trade Centre. "Trade Performance HS: Imports of Croatia 00 All Industries (2008, in USD Thousands.)" 2010. <http://www.intracen.org/menus/countries.htm>

²⁴⁸ International Trade Centre. "Trade Performance HS: Exports of Croatia 00 All Industries (2008, in USD Thousands.)" 2010. <http://www.intracen.org/menus/countries.htm>

²⁴⁹ International Trade Centre. "Trade Performance HS: Exports of Croatia 00 All Industries (2008, in USD Thousands.)" 2010. <http://www.intracen.org/menus/countries.htm>

²⁵⁰ European Commission. "Croatia." 19 July 2010.

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2006/september/tradoc_113370.pdf

²⁵¹ EconomyWatch.com. "Croatia Industry Sectors." No date.

<http://www.economywatch.com/croatia/industry-sector-industries.html>

²⁵² Central Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Croatia. "Statistical Information 2010 [p. 62]." 2010.

http://www.dzs.hr/default_e.htm

²⁵³ Euromoney.com. Norton, Guy. "Croatia: Tourism Investment Crucial to Economic Recovery." June 2010. <http://www.euromoney.com/Article/2582757/Category/17/ChannelPage/0/Croatia-Tourism-investment-crucial-to-economic-recovery.html>

²⁵⁴ DredgingToday.com. "Croatia: EBRD Funds for Port of Sibenik Development." 17 May 2010. <http://www.dredgingtoday.com/2010/05/17/croatia-ebrd-funds-for-port-of-sibenik-development/>

²⁵⁵ Waseuobserver.com. Palokaj, Augustine. "Can Tourism Once Again Save the Croatian Budget?" 19 August 2010. <http://waz.euobserver.com/887/30642>

Banking, Finance, and Investment

The Croatian National Bank is responsible for all central banking functions. Among the most important is the administration of the national money supply. The Croatian currency since 1994 has been the *kuna*, a controversial name given its history. During World War II, the fascist puppet government of the Independent State of Croatia had also called its currency the *kuna*.²⁵⁶



© Simon Summers
Croatian National Bank

The Croatian banking industry underwent extensive changes during the late 1990s and the first half of the 2000s. Most of the remaining state-owned commercial banks were privatized, and extensive consolidation reduced the total number of banks from 60 to 39. Foreign-owned banks became the dominant holder of all banking sector assets during this period.²⁵⁷ Today, Croatia's banking system consists of 15 private foreign-owned banks, 17 private domestic banks, and 2 state-owned banks. Nearly 91% of all assets lie within the foreign-owned banks.²⁵⁸

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Croatia increased significantly in 2006-2008, but declined during 2009 as the worldwide financial crisis took hold.²⁵⁹ Much of Croatia's FDI has centered on the banking industry. An exception to this trend is the nearly EUR 1 billion investment in the modernization of Croatia's two oil refineries, which began in 2008.^{260,261} The leading countries of origin for Croatian FDI, in decreasing order, have been Austria, the Netherlands, Germany, and Hungary.²⁶²

Transportation

Croatia has an extensive rail network with varying capacity to handle freight traffic. Over 2,700 km (1,700 mi) of railroads connect most of the major cities. However, Istria is only linked to the rail systems in



© Dušan Dželebdžić
Tram in Zagreb

²⁵⁶ WWW.HR - Croatian Homepage. "About Croatia: Money." 2010.

<http://www.hr/croatia/economy/money>

²⁵⁷ Oesterreichische Nationalbank. *Financial Stability Report 5*. Reininger, Thomas; and Zoltan Walko. "The Croatian Banking System [p. 112]." 2005. http://www.oenb.at/en/img/fsr_09_special_04_tcm16-29258.pdf

²⁵⁸ Croatian National Bank. "Standard Presentation Format: 3rd Quarter 2010." 2010.

<http://www.hnb.hr/publikac/prezent/ebanking-sector.pdf>

²⁵⁹ Croatian National Bank. "Foreign Direct Investments in Croatia." 2010.

<http://www.hnb.hr/statistika/strana-ulaganja/e-inozemna-izravna-ulaganja-u-rh-po-godinama.xls>

²⁶⁰ BalkanInsight.com. "'No Delays' for Croatia Refinery Project." 11 June 2008.

<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/main/news/10931/>

²⁶¹ Croatian National Bank. "Foreign Direct Investments in Croatia (By Activities)." 2010.

<http://www.hnb.hr/statistika/strana-ulaganja/e-inozemna-izravna-ulaganja-u-rh-po-djelatnostima.xls>

²⁶² Croatian National Bank. "Foreign Direct Investments in Croatia (By Country of Origin)." 2010.

<http://www.hnb.hr/statistika/strana-ulaganja/e-inozemna-izravna-ulaganja-u-rh-po-zemljama-porijekla.xls>

neighboring Slovenia while Dubrovnik has no rail connections at all.^{263,264,265} While much of the system is still in need of upgrading, one major route connecting Zagreb to Split has been modernized. With new rail stock designed to accommodate greater speed on banked curves, this new route allows for the use of “tilting trains.”²⁶⁶ Only one route, an east-west line linking the Serbian-Croatian border to the Slovenian-Croatian border via Zagreb, has a significant amount of double track.²⁶⁷

Croatia’s highway system has undergone an extensive building program since the end of fighting in the mid 1990s. One of the most ambitious segments was the highway connecting Zagreb to Split, which involved the construction of numerous bridges, overpasses, underpasses, and tunnels.^{268,269} Zagreb Airport is the main international gateway for Croatia, serving as the hub for Croatia Airlines, the nation’s carrier. Most of Croatia’s coastal cities, including Split, Dubrovnik, Zadar, Rijeka, and Pula, also have small international airports that are busiest during the summer tourist season.

Rijeka is Croatia’s largest cargo port. Along the southern Dalmatian coast, the Port of Ploče is undergoing major expansion that will cement its position as Croatia’s second-leading port. Its location makes it a logical and cost-effective shipping point for businesses located in nearly landlocked Bosnia and Herzegovina.^{270,271}

Standard of Living

The Croatian economy performed well between 2001 and 2007, with the nation’s GDP increasing steadily within the range of 3.8 to 5.5%, outpacing inflation each year.²⁷² A reversal of this trend began in 2008, reflecting the effects of the worldwide economic crisis that took place in 2008-2009. The sharp decline in GDP in 2009 (nearly 6%), in combination with a



© Rob Hogeslag
Homeless man in Zadar

²⁶³ Central Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Croatia. “Statistical Information 2010 [p. 59].” 2010. http://www.dzs.hr/default_e.htm

²⁶⁴ Find-Croatia.com. “Trains and Railways in Croatia.” 2004. <http://www.find-croatia.com/railways/>

²⁶⁵ InterRailNet.com. “Croatia Railway Info.” No date. <http://www.interrailnet.com/interrail-railway-croatia>

²⁶⁶ *Frommer’s Europe by Rail*. “Croatia [p. 847].” 2008. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley

²⁶⁷ Bueker.net. “Railways through Europe.” 2010.

<http://www.bueker.net/trainspotting/map.php?file=maps/croatia---slovenia---bosnia-hercegovina/croatia---slovenia---bosnia-hercegovina.gif>

²⁶⁸ VisitCroatia.com. “By Car.” 2010. <http://www.visit-croatia.co.uk/travellingaround/car.htm>

²⁶⁹ Croatian Motorways Ltd. “Motorway: A1 Bosiljevo-Split-Dubrovnik.” No date.

<http://www.hac.hr/index.php?task=aut>

²⁷⁰ Nacional. Rogošić, Željko. “We’re Launching the Construction of the New Port of Ploče.” 23 October 2007. <http://www.nacional.hr/en/clanak/39197/were-launching-the-construction-of-the-new-port-of-ploce>

²⁷¹ The World Bank. “The Development of the Port of Ploče Will Foster Trade and Transport and Benefit the Region Economically.” 20 March 2006.

<http://www.worldbank.hr/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/CROATIAEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20858490~menuPK:301263~pagePK:141137~piPK:141127~theSitePK:301245,00.html>

²⁷² Hrvatska Narodna Banka. “General Information on Croatia – Economic Indicators.” 29 May 2010. http://www.hnb.hr/statistika/e-ekonomski_indikatori.htm

small but still positive rate of inflation, led to a spike in the nation's baseline poverty rate. The latter had been about 10% before the crisis, but rose 3.5 percentage points in 2009.^{273,274,275} Unemployment, which had remained relatively high, even as the nation's GDP rose during the early and mid-2000s, increased by several percentage points during the economic crisis. Skilled blue-collar workers were hurt the most during this economic decline.²⁷⁶ In 2009 and 2010, highly educated urban workers joined the ranks of those below the poverty line when they found themselves, for various reasons, ineligible for unemployment benefits.²⁷⁷ Croatia's unemployment rate in 2009 stood at a little over 16%, one of the highest in Europe.²⁷⁸

Even though Croatia's average economic well being, as measured by GDP per capita, has declined since 2008, it is still one of the wealthier Balkan nations. Of the former republics of Yugoslavia, only Slovenia has a higher average GDP per capita. Four EU nations (Bulgaria, Romania, Latvia, and Lithuania) have a lower GDP per capita than Croatia as well.²⁷⁹

Croatia's poor tend to be older, living in small households of one or two people, usually in rural regions.²⁸⁰ The central and eastern regions of the country, excluding the area around Zagreb, have by far the highest poverty rates.²⁸¹ These regions, not surprisingly,

²⁷³ The World Bank. "Opportunity for Reforms to Better Protect the Poor and Raise Employment." 30 June 2010.

<http://www.worldbank.hr/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/CROATIAEXTN/0,,contentMDK:22633674~menuPK:301250~pagePK:2865066~piPK:2865079~theSitePK:301245,00.html>

²⁷⁴ The World Bank Group. "Croatia: Social Impact of the Crisis and Building Resilience [p. 33]." 10 June 2010.

<http://www.worldbank.hr/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/CROATIAEXTN/0,,contentMDK:22631300~pagePK:141137~piPK:141127~theSitePK:301245,00.html>

²⁷⁵ Rabobank. "Country Update: Croatia [p. 2]." May 2010.

http://overons.rabobank.com/content/images/Croatiaupdate-201004_tcm64-107959.pdf

²⁷⁶ The World Bank. "Opportunity for Reforms to Better Protect the Poor and Raise Employment." 30 June 2010.

<http://www.worldbank.hr/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/CROATIAEXTN/0,,contentMDK:22633674~menuPK:301250~pagePK:2865066~piPK:2865079~theSitePK:301245,00.html>

²⁷⁷ The World Bank Group. "Croatia: Social Impact of the Crisis and Building Resilience [p. 40]." 10 June 2010.

<http://www.worldbank.hr/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/CROATIAEXTN/0,,contentMDK:22631300~pagePK:141137~piPK:141127~theSitePK:301245,00.html>

²⁷⁸ Central Intelligence Agency. *The World Factbook*. "Country Comparison: Unemployment Rate." 2010. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2129rank.html?countryName=Croatia&countryCode=hr®ionCode=eu&rank=154#hr>

²⁷⁹ Central Intelligence Agency. *The World Factbook*. "Country Comparison: GDP – Per Capita (PPP)." 2010. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2004rank.html?countryName=Croatia&countryCode=hr®ionCode=eu&rank=68#hr>

²⁸⁰ World Bank. *Croatia Living Standards Assessment*. Zaidi, Salman. "Chapter 2: Profile of Poverty and Inequality in Earnings [pp. 17-22]." November 2006.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTCROATIA/Resources/CroatiaLSA_Chapter2.pdf

²⁸¹ World Bank. *Croatia Living Standards Assessment*. Zaidi, Salman. "Volume 2: Background Papers [p.44]." November 2006.

are also the areas least touched by the economic benefits of the tourism sector, which primarily generates employment along the Adriatic coastal counties.²⁸²

Implications for Future

Croatia's economy has rebounded significantly since the civil war of the early 1990s left much of the country's economic infrastructure in tatters. Nonetheless, the nation's economy faces several persistent hurdles. Privatization of state-owned businesses has moved slowly, in part because of public resistance that mounted after several early sales were made at below-market-value prices to politically connected private business enterprises.²⁸³ Croatia's



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Makarska, Croatia

continuing trade deficit has only increased the nation's dependency on the tourism sector to bring in foreign currency to help offset the negative balance-of-payments. Unfortunately, these tourism receipts have not been enough to counter the currency outflows, and Croatia now has an alarmingly large foreign debt that had grown to nearly 95% of the nation's GDP by the end of 2009.²⁸⁴ High unemployment has also been persistent. Just as some gains in employment were finally being seen in 2007 and the first half of 2008, the effects of the global economic crisis beginning in late 2008 quickly shot unemployment back to the high levels seen earlier in the decade.²⁸⁵

Self Study Questions

Increasing agricultural efficiency within Croatia is behind the recent proposal to phase our agricultural subsidies. True or False?

Croatia can produce enough fossil fuels to meet its domestic energy needs. True or False?

Croatia's energy imports are the major contributor to the country's trade imbalance. True or False?

<http://www.worldbank.hr/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/CROATIAEXTN/0,,contentMDK:21192606~pagePK:141137~piPK:141127~theSitePK:301245,00.html>

²⁸² Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Croatia. "Croatian Tourism Development by 2010. 4. Croatian Tourism Potential." 18 September 2003. <http://www.mint.hr/UserDocsImages/TOURISM-FINAL-2010.pdf>

²⁸³ Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State. "Background Note: Croatia." 22 September 2009. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3166.htm#econ>

²⁸⁴ Hrvatska Narodna Banka. "General Information on Croatia – Economic Indicators." 29 May 2010. http://www.hnb.hr/statistika/e-ekonomski_indikatori.htm

²⁸⁵ The World Bank Group. "Croatia: Social Impact of the Crisis and Building Resilience [pp. 18-19]." 10 June 2010.

<http://www.worldbank.hr/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/CROATIAEXTN/0,,contentMDK:22631300~pagePK:141137~piPK:141127~theSitePK:301245,00.html>

The number of tourists visiting Croatia annually is more than the country's total population. True or False?

The highest concentrations of Croatia's poor are in the central and eastern regions. True or False?

Society

Introduction

Croatia is a country with one foot firmly planted in the Balkan agrarian way of life while the other foot is in post-industrial European society. One can drive through rural areas of northern Croatia and see small farms being worked without machinery, as they have been for centuries. Meanwhile, a little to the west, along the Istrian and Dalmatian coast, lie popular tourist areas that are a magnet for wealthy vacationers from Western Europe. Zagreb, the nation's capital, is a vibrant city boasting modern conveniences and a cultural scene that compares favorably with other European hubs.



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Vukovar apartment building

Croatia experienced wrenching social changes during the 1990s, and the effects reverberate today. The civil war dramatically shifted the demographic balance in the country, reducing the ethnic Serb percentage by over half, making the nation more homogeneous. In some areas where large numbers of ethnic Serbs lived prior to independence, the physical and psychological scars are still palpable. An example is Vukovar, a small city along the Danube River, which was a multiethnic cultural center and Croatia's largest river port prior to 1991. The memories of what happened there remain raw, and little sign of reconciliation has appeared in the nearly 20 years since the town became a symbol of the brutal destruction of the Croatian civil war.²⁸⁶

Social Structure

Ethnic Groups and Languages

According to the most recent national census (2001), ethnic Croats make up nearly 90% of Croatia's population (89.6%). This percentage is nearly 10 points higher than in 1991, reflecting the sharp decrease in the number of ethnic Serbs living in Croatia following the 1990s civil war.²⁸⁷ The ethnic Serb population percentage in 2001 stood at 4.5%, down from 12.2% a decade earlier. The highest concentrations of ethnic Serbs in Croatia occur in the eastern regions of Slavonia (Vukovar-Srijem and Osijek-Baranja Counties) and in

²⁸⁶ B92.net. Institute for War and Peace Reporting. Jungvirth, Goran. "Vukovar Still Divided 15 Years On." 27 November 2006. http://www.b92.net/eng/insight/opinions.php?nav_id=38241

²⁸⁷ Minority Rights Group International. "Minorities in Croatia [pp. 5, 12]." 2003. <http://www.minorityrights.org/645/reports/reports.html>

the regions of central Croatia bordering Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sisak-Moslavina, Karlovac, Lika-Senj and Šibenik-Knin Counties).²⁸⁸

The Croatian and Serbian languages are mutually understandable, although there are differences in vocabulary, grammar, and writing systems. Croatian is written using the Latin alphabet, whereas Serbian can be written using either Latin or Cyrillic scripts. There are also subtle differences in the grammar and vocabulary of the two idioms. Under the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the state policy was to hyphenate the names of the two languages as Serbo-Croatian. Today, once again for political reasons, these closely related languages are referred to separately by their ethnic names. (Bosnian is yet another variation of the common South Slavic language family spoken by Bosniaks, the Muslim population of Bosnia and Herzegovina.)²⁸⁹



© Mate Zec
Elderly woman at a flea market

Most other ethnic minority populations in Croatia are very small, all representing less than 0.5% of the population. In descending order, they include Bosniaks (0.47%), Italians (0.44%), Hungarians (0.37%), Albanians (0.34%), Slovenes (0.30%), Czechs (0.24%), and Roma (0.21%).²⁹⁰ In the case of the Roma, who are often inclined to hide their ethnic identity, the actual population within Croatia is thought to be three or four times larger than the census numbers.²⁹¹ If so, this would make the Roma Croatia's second largest ethnic minority group behind the Serbs.

The populations of many of Croatia's smaller minority ethnic groups are dispersed throughout the country, with local population centers found in Zagreb and other larger cities. Exceptions are the Italians, who are almost exclusively located in Istria and the city of Rijeka; the Czechs, whose population is centered in the small towns and rural regions of Bjelovar-Bilogora County; and the Hungarians, who mainly live in northeastern Croatia (Osijek-Baranja County).²⁹²

²⁸⁸ Central Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Croatia. Census 2001. "12. Stanovništvo Prema Narodnosti, po Gradovima, Popis 2001 [pp. 5, 14-15]." 31 March 2001.

http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv/censuses/Census2001/Popis/H01_02_02/H01_02_02.html

²⁸⁹ Omniglot. Maksimović, Darko. "Serbo-Croatian Language Issues." 2010.

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/articles/serbocroatian.htm>

²⁹⁰ Central Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Croatia. Census 2001. "12. Stanovništvo Prema Narodnosti, po Gradovima, Popis 2001 [p. 5]." 31 March 2001.

http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv/censuses/Census2001/Popis/H01_02_02/H01_02_02.html

²⁹¹ United Nations Development Programme. "Croatia [p. 19]." 20 December 2002.

<http://vulnerability.undp.sk/Documents/croatia.pdf>

²⁹² Central Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Croatia. Census 2001. "12. Stanovništvo Prema Narodnosti, po Gradovima, Popis 2001 [p. 5]." 31 March 2001.

http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv/censuses/Census2001/Popis/H01_02_02/H01_02_02.html

Gender

Although Croatia is often referred to as a patriarchal society, the social status of women in modern-day Croatia is nearly equal to that of men, particularly among urban professionals.²⁹³ Both men and women in Croatia have literacy levels approaching 100%.²⁹⁴ Girls show no relative drop-off in school attendance beyond the primary grades. In 2008, women represented nearly 59% of all Croatian college graduates and 50% of all Ph.D. recipients.²⁹⁵



Under Yugoslavia's socialist government, both men and women received job assignments outside the home, with the state providing day care for children. Women in Croatia currently make up more than 50% of the nation's professional and technical workforce and 46.6% of the total work force.^{296,297} Pay disparity has become an issue, as it is in virtually all nations. A woman's average gross income in Croatia is estimated to be only 89.2% that of a man's, which nonetheless is more than 10 percentage points higher than in the United States.^{298,299} These figures may reflect the legacy of socialism, where everyone received the same salary regardless of position.

Today nearly one-third of Croatian women prefer to be full-time homemakers, a greater number than those who want a career.³⁰⁰ This may partly reflect the loss of subsidized day care after the socialist system was disbanded. Croatian men see female employment outside the home as desirable, but only as a non-demanding, "second income" job. Within Croatian homes, men have largely been the decision makers, while women have been responsible for chores and childcare. This traditional household pattern is changing, but not yet a thing of the past. A survey from 2007 revealed that women were more than

²⁹³ Everyculture.com. "Croatia: General Roles and Statuses." 2010. <http://www.everyculture.com/Cr-Ga/Croatia.html>

²⁹⁴ United Nations Development Programme. Human Development Report 2009. "HDR 2009 Statistical Tables. Table J. Gender-Related Development Index and Its Components." 2009. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2009/>

²⁹⁵ Central Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Croatia. "Women and Men in Croatia 2010 [pp. 31, 34]." 2010. http://www.dzs.hr/default_e.htm

²⁹⁶ United Nations Development Programme. Human Development Report 2009. "HDR 2009 Statistical Tables. Table K. Gender Empowerment Measure and Its Components." 2009. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2009/>

²⁹⁷ Central Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Croatia. "Women and Men in Croatia 2010 [p. 32]." 2010. http://www.dzs.hr/default_e.htm

²⁹⁸ Central Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Croatia. "Women and Men in Croatia 2010 [p. 40]." 2010. http://www.dzs.hr/default_e.htm

²⁹⁹ U.S. Census Bureau. "Men's and Women's Earnings by State: 2008 American Community Survey." September 2009. <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/income.html>

³⁰⁰ Croatian Times. "What is Today's Ideal Croatian Woman?" 25 August 2010. http://www.croatiantimes.com/news/Panorama/2010-08-25/13303/What_is_today%20s_ideal_Croatian_woman%3F

twice as likely as men to perform household chores each day.³⁰¹ Legal remedies, although often difficult to enforce, have been put in place to ensure greater equality in household and marital matters. For example, Croatia's marriage laws now establish that mothers and fathers "have equal rights in making family decisions."³⁰²

Religion

Nearly 88% of Croatians follow the Roman Catholic faith. It has often been noted that Catholicism is an inseparable part of the Croatian national identity, at least for ethnic Croats. The impact of Catholicism on daily life is significant even for those who seldom attend church.^{303,304} Other religions in Croatia include Orthodox Christianity (4.4%), which is primarily practiced by Croatia's ethnic Serb minority; Islam (1.3%), the dominant religion of Croatia's Bosniak and Albanian ethnic minorities; and various Protestant religions (0.3%).³⁰⁵ The nation also has a small Jewish population, which represented only 0.01% of the total Croatian population according to the 2001 census. But it could be three to five times larger in actuality.^{306,307,308}



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St Euphemia, Rovinj

The religious divide between Catholic Croats and Orthodox Serbs traces its roots back nearly a millennium, during the Great Schism that began in 1054 C.E., when medieval Christianity separated into two branches: the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches.³⁰⁹ The Croatian kings maintained fealty to the Roman Catholic Church, while Serbian rulers retained their religious loyalty to Constantinople, the religious center of the

³⁰¹ European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. Bejaković, Predrag; and Ljiljana Kaliterna Lipovčan. "Quality of Life in Croatia: Key Finding From National Research [p. 34]. 15 June 2007. <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef0729.htm>

³⁰² OECD Development Centre. Social Institutions and Gender Index. "Gender Equality and Social Institutions in Croatia." 2009. <http://genderindex.org/country/croatia>

³⁰³ *Croatia*, 3rd Ed. Oliver, Jeanne. "Culture: Religion [pp. 33-34]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, Australia: Lonely Planet Publications.

³⁰⁴ EveryCulture.com. Countries and Their Cultures. "Croatia: Religion." 2010. <http://www.everyculture.com/Cr-Ga/Croatia.html>

³⁰⁵ Central Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Croatia. Census 2001. "14. Stanovništvo Prema Vjeri, po Gradovima/Općinama, Popis 2001 [p. 5]." 31 March 2001.

http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv/censuses/Census2001/Popis/H01_02_04/H01_02_04.html

³⁰⁶ Central Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Croatia. Census 2001. "14. Stanovništvo Prema Vjeri, po Gradovima/Općinama, Popis 2001 [p. 5]." 31 March 2001.

http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv/censuses/Census2001/Popis/H01_02_04/H01_02_04.html

³⁰⁷ JWeekly.com. Kovac, Vlasta. "Croatia's Census Forces Jews to Confront Identity Crisis." 9 March 2001. <http://www.jweekly.com/article/full/15214/croatia-s-census-forces-jews-to-confront-identity-crisis/>

³⁰⁸ European Jewish Congress. "The Jewish Community of Croatia." 17 April 2005.

http://www.eurojewcong.org/ejc/news.php?id_article=67

³⁰⁹ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. "Schism of 1054." 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-9071657>

Orthodox Church.³¹⁰ The Orthodox Church's strong ties to the Serbs was further cemented through the establishment of the autocephalous (i.e., ecclesiastically independent) Serbian Orthodox Church in 1219.

Officially, Croatia has no state religion. After the declaration of independence in 1991, the Croatian government made several attempts to align itself closely with the Catholic Church. Since 2000, however, the state has adopted a more even-handed approach toward the country's various religious communities.³¹¹ The Law on the Legal Status of Religious Communities was passed in 2002. It established the legal framework for the government's relations with religious communities; the law addressed issues such as governmental funding, tax status, and religious education in school.^{312,313}

Religious education is provided in all Croatian schools, although attendance is optional. Usually, these courses provide Roman Catholic catechism, but schools with more than seven students of a non-dominant faith might offer classes for that religion as well.³¹⁴

Arts

Literature

The earliest writings in what evolved into the modern Croatian language come from church inscriptions dating from the 11th century C.E.³¹⁵ Several centuries later, the first real works in Croatian began to appear from a group of writers from Dalmatia. Foremost among them is Marko Marulić (1450-1524), whose epic poem *Judita* (1521), based on the Book of Judith from the Catholic Old Testament, is considered by many to be “the first classic work of Croatian literature.”³¹⁶ Also prominent from this early period is the poet Ivan Gundulić (1588-1638). His most famous work is *Osman* (1626), which recounts a



© Kvarner County Tourist Board
The Bell ringers a Slavic folklore

³¹⁰ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. *Yugoslavia: A Country Study*. “Chapter 1: Historical Setting: Histories of the Yugoslav People to World War I: The Serbs and Serbia, Vojvodina, and Montenegro.” December 1990. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+yu0017\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+yu0017))

³¹¹ Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, U.S. Department of State. International Religious Freedom Report 2001. “Croatia.” 26 October 2001. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2001/5608.htm>

³¹² Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, U.S. Department of State. International Religious Freedom Report 2009. “Croatia.” 26 October 2009. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127304.htm>

³¹³ Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, U.S. Department of State. International Religious Freedom Report 2003. “Croatia.” 18 December 2003. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2003/24350.htm>

³¹⁴ Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, U.S. Department of State. International Religious Freedom Report 2009. “Croatia.” 26 October 2009. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127304.htm>

³¹⁵ *Croatia*, 3rd Ed. Oliver, Jeanne. “Culture: Arts [pp. 35-36].” 2005. Footscray, Victoria, Australia: Lonely Planet Publications.

³¹⁶ Yale University Library. “Croatia: Themes, Authors, Books.” 2009. <http://www.library.yale.edu/slavic/croatia/literature/>

Polish military victory over the Ottoman army in 1621.³¹⁷ One of the first prominent Croatian playwrights was Marin Držić (1508-1567). His *Dundo Maroje* (“Uncle Maroje”), a Renaissance comedy that gently satirizes the Durbrovnik aristocracy, is still performed by theatre companies today.³¹⁸

A leading Croatian poet and short-story writer at the turn of the 20th century was Antun Gustav Matoš (1873-1914). His works are considered the first Croatian contributions to modernism, a literary style that was very influential throughout Europe during the early decades of the century. During the interwar period and the subsequent socialist era, Miroslav Krleža (1893-1981) was the central figure in Croatian literature. Prolific in his output, he was a novelist, philosopher, poet, essayist, and playwright. Unlike many Croatian writers of his era, several of Krleža’s novels have been translated into English—most notably, *Povratak Filipa Latinovicza* (“The Return of Philip Latinovicz”), *Na rubu pameti* (“On the Edge of Reason”), and *Banket u Blitvi* (“Banquet in Blitva”).³¹⁹ All three of these novels were written in the 1930s, arguably the most productive period in his creative life.

Among better-known contemporary Croatian writers, Dubravka Ugrešić began her career as a writer of children’s books before shifting to experimental fiction. Among her works is *Štefica Cvek u raljama života* (“Steffie Speck in the Jaws of Life”). Ugrešić became a controversial figure in Croatia during the 1990s because of her anti-nationalist, anti-war stance. Since 1993,³²⁰ she has lived in exile in Europe and the United States.^{321,322}

Music

Folk music is Croatia’s most distinctive musical form. The *tamburitza*, a three- or five-stringed mandolin-like instrument introduced by the Ottoman Turks in the 17th century, is associated with one major strain of Croatian folk music. *Tambura* ensembles first began forming in the mid-19th century on the plains of eastern Slavonia and became a symbol of burgeoning Croatian nationalist aspirations.^{323,324} *Tamburitza* music is often



³¹⁷ Encyclopædia Britannica Online. “Croatian Literature.” 2010. <http://search.eb.com/eb/article-9027938>

³¹⁸ Festival “Tvrdava teatar. “Archiv 2009: Uncle Maroje.” 8 August 2010.

<http://www.tvrdjavateatar.rs/index.php/arhiva/55-archives-2009-uncle-maroje>

³¹⁹ Books and Writers. Liukkonen, Petri. “Miroslav Krleža (1893-1981).” 2008, <http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/krleza.htm>

³²⁰ Goodreads. “About Dubravka Ugrešić.” 2010. <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/5969573-tefica-cvek-u-raljama-ivota>

³²¹ BOMB Magazine. Boym, Svetlana. “Dubravka Ugrešić (interview).” Summer 2002.

<http://www.dubravkaugresic.com/>

³²² Dubravkaugresic.com. “Short Bio.” 2010. <http://www.dubravkaugresic.com/>

³²³ *Croatia*, 3rd Ed. Oliver, Jeanne. “Culture: Arts [p. 34].” 2005. Footscray, Victoria, Australia: Lonely Planet Publications.

performed at weddings and other celebratory events.³²⁵ Today, *tamburitza* festivals are held in several cities of eastern Slavonia (as well as in adjacent areas of Vojvodina, an autonomous province of Serbia).^{326,327,328,329} Some Croatian *tambura* bands such as Gazde have successfully blended elements of rock-and-roll with their traditional sound.³³⁰

In Dalmatia, *klapa* is a popular style of a *cappella* (unaccompanied vocal) music, which evolved from the singing of church choirs. *Klapa* traditionally features small groups of male singers, who use multi-part harmonizing to sing songs about love and loss. Female *klapa* groups have become increasingly popular in recent years, but mixed-sex groups are a rarity.^{331,332}

Gusle music is a traditional style in which the performers (*guzlars*) sing or recite epic poetry (and sometimes works with more modern themes) to the accompaniment of the *gusla*, a one-stringed instrument that is played with a bow. Traditionally, the instrument and style of music are linked with both Dalmatia and neighboring Herzegovina, where many ethnic Croats live. A similar, three-stringed instrument, the *lirica*, is used for accompaniment to traditional folk dances performed in the region around Dubrovnik.³³³ Perhaps because of ancient traditions, the lyrics often elicit nationalistic aspirations among both ethnic Serbs and ethnic Croats.^{334,335} The *guzlar* can become quite worked

³²⁴ CroatianHistory.net. Zubrinic, Darko. "Croatian Pop and Folk Music." 1995.

<http://www.croatianhistory.net/etf/et12b.html#tamburica>

³²⁵ *Croatia*, 3rd Ed. Oliver, Jeanne. "Culture: Arts [p. 34]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, Australia: Lonely Planet Publications.

³²⁶ Croatia Tourist Center. "Slavonia: Osijek." 23 July 2010.

<http://www.croatiatouristcenter.com/slavonia.htm>

³²⁷ Hrvatska Matica Iseljenika. "Projects: In Croatia." 2005.

http://www.matis.hr/eng/projekti_opsirnije.php?id=4&next=OK&year=2010&today=6&month=7&lang=en

³²⁸ TamburicaFest.com. "Tamburitza Fest 2009." 2009.

<http://www.tamburicafest.com/index.php?page=59&lang=2>

³²⁹ Batorek.hr. "Tamburaški Festival Starčevo 2009." 2010. <http://www.batorek.hr/portal/novosti/39-tamburaki-festival-starevo-2009.html>

³³⁰ *Croatia*, 3rd Ed. Oliver, Jeanne. "Culture: Arts [p. 34]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, Australia: Lonely Planet Publications.

³³¹ *Croatia*, 3rd Ed. Oliver, Jeanne. "Culture: Arts [p. 35]." 2005. Footscray, Victoria, Australia: Lonely Planet Publications.

³³² *Nar. Umjet*, 34/1Ćalet, J. "Klapa Singing, A Traditional Phenomenon of Dalmatia." 1997.

<http://hrcak.srce.hr/file/68112>

³³³ *Glossary of Musical Instruments*. American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington DC, U.S.A. <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/afcchtml/cowinst.html>

³³⁴ ThePhora.net. Dinaroid, Imota. "Gusle – The Croatian National Pride." 6 January 2007.

<http://www.thephora.net/forum/showthread.php?t=20067&page=2>

³³⁵ *Music, National Identity, and the Politics of Location: Between the Global and the Local*. Hudson, Robert. "Chapter 8: Popular Music, Tradition and Serbian Nationalism [p. 168]." 2007. Aldershot, Hampshire, Engl: Ashgate Publishing Ltd.

up when recounting the abuses his people have suffered, generating intense emotion on the part of his listeners.³³⁶

Sports and Recreation

In Croatia, football (soccer) is king in terms of sports. The national team has competed professionally only since 1996, but has nonetheless quickly made its mark. In their very first World Cup competition in 1998, the national team finished third. They triumphed over heavily favored German and Dutch teams along the way before being eliminated by host and eventual winner France. Striker Davor Šuker led all players in the tournament with six goals.³³⁷ The national team also qualified for the 2002 and 2006 World Cup finals, but was eliminated both times in the first round. In the 2010 World Cup, the team did not succeed beyond the qualifying rounds.



© Gary Denham
World Cup Croatia vs Australia

Tennis is also popular in Croatia, both as a spectator sport and a participant sport. Two Croatian players have won one of tennis's four Grand Slam events since the country became independent: Goran Ivanišević (Wimbledon, 2001) and Iva Majoli (French Open, 1996). In 2005, Croatia's men's team won the Davis Cup, led by two players who would eventually reach the Top 10 in the world tennis rankings (Mario Ančić and Ivan Ljubičić).^{338,339,340}

Other popular team sports in Croatia include water polo, volleyball, handball, and basketball. Several Croatian basketball players have made their marks in both international competition and in the U.S. National Basketball Association (NBA). One basketball player in particular—Dražen Petrović—holds a special memory for Croatian sports fans. A sharpshooting basketball prodigy from the Dalmatian coastal city of Šibenik, Petrović starred on the 1992 Croatian Olympic team that finished second to a U.S. “dream team” made up of NBA stars such as Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Magic

³³⁶ *Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict in the Post-Communist World*. Fowkes, Ben. “Chapter 7: Reasons for Conflict and Prospects for the Future [p. 179].” 2002. New York, NY: Palgrave MacMillan.

³³⁷ FIFA.com. “1998 FIFA World Cup France.” 2010.

<http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/archive/edition=1013/overview.html>

³³⁸ DavisCup.com. “World Group Final: Slovak Republic v Croatia.” No date.

<http://www.daviscup.com/results/tierresult.asp?tie=100006611>

³³⁹ ATPWorldTour.com. “Mario Ancic.” 2010. <http://www.atpworldtour.com/Tennis/Players/Top-Players/Mario-Ancic.aspx>

³⁴⁰ ATPWorldTour.com. “Ivan Ljubivic.” 2010. <http://www.atpworldtour.com/Tennis/Players/Top-Players/Ivan-Ljubivic.aspx>

Johnson, Patrick Ewing, and Charles Barkley. By this time, Petrović was already an NBA star himself, but his brilliant career would be cut short in a fatal 1993 auto accident.³⁴¹

Over the last decade, the most famous Croatian athlete to appear on the international scene was a young woman who competed in a sport that seemed highly unlikely ever to produce Croatian world champions. Croatia has less than a handful of ski resorts, none known for their world class vertical descents.³⁴² Nevertheless, Janica Kostelić emerged from this skiing backwater to become the first woman to win four Olympic gold medals in alpine skiing (three in 2002, one in 2006). In Croatia, she is still known today as the “snow queen.”³⁴³

Self Study Questions

The Croatian and Serbian languages are mutually intelligible. True or False?

Women are the minority in Croatia’s higher education system. True or False?

Roman Catholicism is Croatia’s state religion. True or False?

Early writings of modern Croatian date to the 15th century. True or False?

The *tamburitza* was introduced by the Turks. True or False?

³⁴¹ NBA.com. “Nets: In Honor of Drazen Petrovic.” 2010.

<http://www.nba.com/nets/history/drazenpetrovic.html>

³⁴² CroSki.hr. “Croatia’s Ski Resorts.” 2009. <http://www.croski.hr/index.php?link=skijalista&lang=en>

³⁴³ Olympic.org. “Janica Kostelic: Croatia’s Snow Queen.” 2009.

<http://www.olympic.org/en/content/Olympic-Athletes/All-Athletes/Athletes-KN-to-KZ/-Janica-KOSTELIC-/>

Security

Introduction

Once part of Europe's most conflict-ridden regions, Croatia today enjoys good relations with all of its neighbors and faces no external threats. The Croatian nation has a strong record, particularly in recent years, of enacting proactive counter-terrorist measures; as such, it has been spared violence inflicted by local or regional terrorist groups. Violence tied to organized crime has been an ongoing concern, and ethnic-based attacks still sporadically occur.



Courtesy of Wikipedia
Navy officers celebrating Statehood day

U.S.-Croatian Relations

The United States' current relations with Croatia are strong. During the 1990s, however, the U.S. clashed with the Croatian leadership several times. In 1994, the U.S. actively worked to block Croatian expansionism into Bosnia and Herzegovina.³⁴⁴ Three years later, U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright had a very testy meeting with President Franjo Tuđman, regarding Croatia's reluctance to cooperate with the international war crimes tribunal and failure to facilitate the return of minority refugees to Bosnia and Croatia.³⁴⁵ Relations between the two nations improved significantly following Tuđman's death in 1999 and the election of a new coalition government in 2000.^{346,347}



© U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Scott Wagers
Flags of Croatia and America

Between 1992 and 2006, the United States delivered over USD 320 million in assistance to Croatia. The funds were targeted toward economic development, institutional reforms, agribusiness, and professional training.³⁴⁸ Since then, U.S. aid to Croatia has focused on military assistance (including training) as well as support for ongoing de-mining

³⁴⁴ Research and Analysis. New York Times. "Franjo Tudjman, Ex-Communist General Who Led Croatia's Secession, is Dead at 77." 11 December 1999. <http://www.slobodan-milosevic.org/tudjman-death.htm>

³⁴⁵ Los Angeles Times. Marshall, Tyler. "Albright Blisters Balkan Leaders." 1 June 1997. http://articles.latimes.com/1997-06-01/news/mn-64614_1

³⁴⁶ New York Times. Erlanger, Steven. "Albright Visits Post-Tudjman Croatia and Hails the New Leadership." 3 February 2000. <http://www.nytimes.com/2000/02/03/world/albright-visits-post-tudjman-croatia-and-hails-the-new-leadership.html>

³⁴⁷ Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State. "Background Note: Croatia." 22 September 2009. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3166.htm>

³⁴⁸ USAID. "Europe and Eurasia: Croatia." 30 June 2009. http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/countries/hr/

operations in regions heavily mined in the conflict of the 1990s.^{349,350} In 2009, the U.S. and Croatia became military allies when Croatia became the newest member of NATO.

The U.S. has over 420,000 citizens who are of Croatian heritage, although other estimates approach 2.5 million persons.³⁵¹ Through letter-writing campaigns and formal lobbying, they have been trying to influence policymaking regarding Croatian issues. Their efforts to influence policy were apparent especially in the early 1990s, when the U.S. considered whether it should formally recognize the new Republic of Croatia.³⁵²

Relations with Neighboring Countries

Hungary

Croatia and Hungary had a long, intertwined history that lasted through World War I. The two nations have subsequently followed separate historical paths, and any animosities between the two seem like ancient history. Modern relations between Croatia and Hungary have focused on cooperation. Hungary has supported Croatia's accession efforts for both NATO and the European Union. The two nations have also worked together on energy issues, most recently on an agreement to build a gas pipeline linking their separate systems.³⁵³ *Industrija nafte* (INA), Croatia's national oil company and the nation's largest company overall, is owned by the Hungarian oil company MOL, with the Croatian government retaining a large minority ownership position.³⁵⁴



Courtesy of Wikipedia
INA headquarters in Zagreb

³⁴⁹ USAID. "FY 2009 International Affairs (Function 150) Congressional Budget Justification: Request by Region – Europe and Eurasia." 29 February 2008. <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/cbj2009/>

³⁵⁰ Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State. "Background Note: Croatia." 22 September 2009. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3166.htm>

³⁵¹ U.S. Census Bureau. "S0201. Selected Population Profile in the United States. Population Group: Croatian (109-110)." 2007. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

³⁵² University of Western Ontario. Paquin, Jonathan (McGill University). "Understanding U.S. Foreign Policy Toward Emerging Secessionist States: A Close Look at the Balkan Regional Context [p. 13]." 2-4 June 2005. London, Ontario, CA. <http://www.cpsa-acsp.ca/papers-2005/Paquin.pdf>

³⁵³ Pipelines International. "Hungary and Croatia Sign Gas Pipeline Agreement." 27 July 2010. http://pipelinesinternational.com/news/hungary_and_croatia_sign_gas_pipeline_agreement/042840/

³⁵⁴ INA.hr. "About INA." 2007. <http://www.ina.hr/default.aspx?id=246>

Slovenia

The most contentious issue between Croatia and Slovenia has been the status of their land and maritime borders. While the land border issues are relatively minor, the maritime border, which cuts through Piran Bay, has become a sticking point between the two nations.³⁵⁵ Slovenia has argued that it must have “territorial contact” with international waters in the Adriatic.³⁵⁶ This dispute dates back to the breakup of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s. It has had a stifling effect on Croatia’s attempt to join the European Union (EU), because Slovenia is a current EU member and thus wielded a veto on Croatia’s accession.³⁵⁷ In November 2009, a breakthrough occurred when the two governments agreed to settle the matter in binding arbitration. The Slovenian people voted on this agreement in June 2010, passing it by a very narrow margin thus clearing the last major roadblock threatening Croatia’s EU accession.^{358,359}



© John Bullas
Slovenia border crossing

Montenegro

Croatia and Montenegro have had good relations since Montenegro became a fully independent nation in June 2006. Both nations are bidding to become new members of the EU, and they realize it is in their mutual self-interest to work together on any remaining potentially divisive issues between them.³⁶⁰ The two nations contest the borders of the Prevlaka Peninsula at the far southern end of their short 25 km (16 mi) border. Both sides have agreed to have the border disagreement arbitrated by the International Court of Justice



© Mark Turner
Montenegro border crossing

³⁵⁵ Slovenia Times. Bartolj, Jaka. “Drawing the Line.”

<http://www.sloveniatimes.com/en/inside.cp2?uid=B922463C-32D8-4E9C-0160-07CB296954FA&linkid=news&cid=BEAF1BF5-A047-2FFA-3BC2-D2EA2CC627CE>

³⁵⁶ European Stability Initiative. Bender, Kristof and Gerald Knaus. “High Noon in Slovenia – A Referendum and the Future of Balkan Enlargement.” 3 June 2010. http://www.esiweb.org/enlargement/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/ESI_-_High_noon_in_Slovenia_-_3_June_2010.pdf

³⁵⁷ Christian Science Monitor. Marquand, Robert. “Border Mediation with Slovenia Could Help Croatia Join European Union.” 7 June 2010. <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2010/0607/Border-mediation-with-Slovenia-could-help-Croatia-join-European-Union>

³⁵⁸ Telegraph.co.uk. Cain, Phil and Bruno Waterfield. “Croatia Poised for EU Membership Following Slovenian Border Dispute Referendum.” 6 June 2010. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/slovenia/7807200/Croatia-poised-for-EU-membership-following-Slovenian-border-dispute-referendum.html>

³⁵⁹ World Elections. “Slovenia Border Dispute Referendum 2010.” 8 June 2010.

<http://welections.wordpress.com/2010/06/08/slovenia-border-dispute-referendum-2010/>

³⁶⁰ NewEurope.eu. “Croatia-Montenegro Relations Improving.” 10 March 2007.

<http://www.neurope.eu/articles/CroatiaMontenegro-relations-improving/71459.php>

in The Hague.

The siege of Dubrovnik during the conflict of the early 1990s was launched by the Yugoslav People's Army (*Jugoslovenska Narodna Armija*, or JNA) from Montenegrin territory. (Montenegro, at the time, was still part of the Serbian-dominated remnant of Yugoslavia.) Croatia has long demanded reparations from both Serbia and Montenegro for these attacks, but in recent years has backed off some in its compensation demands on Montenegro. This reversal happened because Montenegrin government officials have been apologetic about Montenegro's "political and moral responsibility" for its role in the war. Croatian officials, for their part, have acknowledged their understanding that Montenegro was under the domination of Belgrade leadership during the time of fighting and thus not fully responsible for some of the military decisions that were made.³⁶¹

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The 932-km-long (579-mi-long) border between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina is each country's longest boundary with a neighboring state.³⁶² Bosnia and Herzegovina's border with Croatia includes a tiny stretch along the Adriatic coast. This slice of coastline, occupied by the small tourist-oriented village of Neum, severs Croatia's land connection between the southeastern-most part of Dalmatia (including the historic city of Dubrovnik) and the majority of Dalmatia lying to the northwest. Croatia plans to build a bridge that will bypass Neum by linking the mainland to the Pelješac Peninsula.³⁶³ Bosnia and Herzegovina has protested, arguing that any plans to expand Neum's harbor for cargo-vessel use would be adversely affected by a bridge spanning Neum's outlet to the Adriatic Sea.³⁶⁴ In addition, Bosnian officials state that such a bridge might violate their territorial waters.³⁶⁵ Preliminary work began on this bridge project in 2005, but construction has been on and off since then. The declining economy beginning in 2009 has brought all bridge work to a halt, and it is unclear when, or even if, the bridge will be completed.^{366,367}



© Philip Shannon
Bosnia border crossing

³⁶¹ SETimes.com. Rudovic, Nedjeljko. "Montenegro, Croatia Close to Agreement on War Reparations." 3 August 2007.

http://setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2007/03/08/feature-03

³⁶² Central Intelligence Agency. The World Factbook. "Bosnia and Herzegovina." 19 August 2010.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bk.html>

³⁶³ BBC News. "Bosnia Vexed By Croatian Bridge." 25 October 2007.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7062107.stm>

³⁶⁴ Korcula Blog. Associated Press. "New Bridge Causes Tension Between Croatia, Bosnia." 20 November 2005. <http://www.korculainfo.com/blog/index.php/peljesac-bridge/>

³⁶⁵ BBC News. "Bosnia Vexed By Croatian Bridge." 25 October 2007.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7062107.stm>

³⁶⁶ Komarna.blogspot. Skov, Jan. "Bridge From Kelmarna to Peljesac." 4 June 2005.

<http://komarna.blogspot.com/2005/06/bridge-from-komarna-to-peljesac.html>

Bosnia and Herzegovina hosts a large population of both ethnic Croats and ethnic Serbs. These two groups, along with the nation's Muslim population (Bosniaks), were embroiled in several years of intensive ethnic-based fighting in the early 1990s. After the Dayton Peace Accords, Bosnia and Herzegovina emerged as a loosely confederated parliamentary democracy consisting of two semi-autonomous entities: the Croat- and Bosniak-dominated Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Serb-dominated Republika Srpska. Croatia borders significant parts of both of these "states within a state." In recent years, there have been concerns that the Republika Srpska's government might try to call a referendum on secession, an act that would escalate tensions throughout the western Balkans, including along the Croatian border.³⁶⁸ Republika Srpska Prime Minister Milorad Dodik has been on both sides of this question, most recently stating that secession is "not on the government's agenda."³⁶⁹

Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to host a declining number of refugees from Croatia, almost two decades after the Yugoslav wars began. At the beginning of 2010, nearly 7,000 Croatian Serbs still lived as refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They represent part of the remnant refugee population of over 250,000 ethnic Serbs who fled their homes in Croatia during the Croatian Army military offensives in 1995.³⁷⁰ (An estimated 60,000 ethnic Serbs from Croatia are still living in Serbia.³⁷¹)

Serbia

The Danube River forms much of the border between Serbia and Croatia. The cities of this border region—Vukovar, Osijek, Vinkovci, and others—still carry the scars of the fighting that erupted here in 1991.^{372,373} While healing and the establishment of trust between the Serb and Croat communities of this region will continue to be a slow process, the governments of the two nations seem to understand that they must try to set

³⁶⁷ Croatian Times. "Government May Abandon Peljesac Bridge Project. 24 July 2009.

http://www.croatiantimes.com/news/General_News/2009-07-24/5061/Government_may_abandon_Peljesac_bridge_project_

³⁶⁸ BalkanInsight.com. Parish, Matthew. "Republika Srpska: After Independence." 19 November 2009.

<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/main/comment/23797/>

³⁶⁹ BalkanInsight.com. Niksic, Sabina. "Bosnian Serbs Adopt Controversial Referendum Law." 11

February 2010. <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/main/news/25743/>

³⁷⁰ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database: - Refugee Population -> Refugees Total -> Originating From -> RBE -> Croatia (Periodicity: Year, Applied Time Period: From 2009 to 2009)." 9 September 2010.

<http://apps.who.int/globalatlas/dataQuery/reportData.asp?rptType=1>

³⁷¹ UN News Centre. "Independent UN Expert Urges Equal Access to Housing for All in Croatia." 13 July 2010. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35309>

³⁷² Business Daily. "Balkan Train Goes Back on the Rails in Landscape of War Memories." 14 December 2009.

http://businessdaily.nationmedia.com/mPaper.aspx?pubid=970&dt=14122009&cid=1&seq_no=1_5&type=2

³⁷³ *Croatia*, 5th Ed. Marić, Vesna and William Gourlay, Anja Mutić. "Slavonia: Osijek [p. 108]." 2009. Footscray, Victoria, Australia: Lonely Planet.

aside lingering animosities. Such a reconciliation process is in both nations' interests as they work to establish closer ties with the rest of Europe. The massacres and atrocities inflicted by both sides during the war years have been an ongoing obstacle to normalized relations. The hurdle is partly due to the persistent tit-for-tat demands for war crime tribunals against leading Croatian and Serbian political and army officials of the 1990s. Righteous anger seems to be more plentiful than moral introspection. Recently, however, there are some signs that both sides are now more amenable to viewing the conflicts as an all-encompassing tragedy that destroyed the lives of ethnic Serbs and Croats alike. As a symbol of this new openness, Croatian President Ivo Josipović and Serbian President Boris Tadić met three times in one month during early 2010. They did so amidst the release of public apologies for the crimes against civilians committed by their own armies during the war years.³⁷⁴ According to news reports, the two leaders have discussed the possibility of an out-of-court settlement of the mutual genocide claims that have continued to make reconciliation difficult.³⁷⁵



© anjoi / flickr.com
The Danube river in Vukovar

Before the recent meetings between the Croatian and Serbian presidents, relations between the two nations had been worsening. Croatia's recognition of Kosovo in 2008, a self-declared independent state that had been an autonomous Serbian province under UN administration, contributed to the increasingly tense relationship.³⁷⁶ Other long-standing issues that have yet to be resolved include the return to Croatia of ethnic Serbs who fled during the 1991-1995 fighting, and the status of the ethnic Croat and ethnic Serb minorities in Serbia and Croatia, respectively.³⁷⁷

³⁷⁴ Radio Netherlands Worldwide. International Justice Desk. "Serbian, Croatian Leaders in New Balkans' Reconciliation Push." 20 April 2010. <http://www.rnw.nl/international-justice/article/serbian-croatian-leaders-new-balkans-reconciliation-push>

³⁷⁵ Dalje.com. "Serbian and Croatian President to Meet Again." 16 April 2010. <http://dalje.com/en-croatia/serbian-and-croatian-president-to-meet-again/302263>

³⁷⁶ European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity. "Tadi and Josipovic: New Phase in Serbia-Croatia Relations." 25 March 2010. http://www.europeanforum.net/news/851/tadic_and_josipovic_new_phase_in_serbia_croatia_relations

³⁷⁷ BalkanInsight.com. "Croatia, Serbia Boost Relations with Josipovic Visit." 19 July 2010. <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/main/news/29532/>

Military

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia (*Oružane snage Republike Hrvatske, ORSH*) consists of three major branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, and Air Defense.³⁷⁸ Since the beginning of 2008, Croatia's military has been all-volunteer, like most NATO nations.^{379,380} The Army is the largest component of Croatia's military structure, with over 12,000 active-duty personnel. This force is significantly smaller (by nearly a half) than the one in place at the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords in 1995. More recently, the emphasis has been on developing a leaner, more flexible army capable of carrying out overseas assignments as well as humanitarian operations in the event of natural disasters.³⁸¹



© UN Photo/Eric Kanstein
UNTAES Supervises Weapons
Destruction

Croatia's Navy, consisting of 1,850 active personnel, patrols the nation's Adriatic coast. The Croatian Navy lacks the size and firepower to forestall the invasion of a powerful combatant sea force, but the probability of such a hostile naval attack is very small. Instead, the Navy's primary responsibility is to keep watch over the nation's maritime borders and fishing zones and to provide coastal support for ground-force operations.³⁸²

Croatia's Air Force, with 2,300 active personnel, faces a major challenge in its air defense capability. The number of fighter jets (all Russian MiGs) is now less than 10 rapidly ageing aircraft. Plans to augment this fighter force have been delayed several times, most recently in 2009 due to Croatia's faltering economy.³⁸³ Most of the remainder of the Croatian Air Force aircraft consists of fire-fighting planes, transport helicopters, and trainer jets.³⁸⁴

Terrorist Groups and Activities

For a decade and a half, Croatia has been free of attacks by terrorist organizations. The only attack by a global terrorist group occurred in 1995, when an Egyptian Islamic militant group carried out a bomb attack on a



© hexodus / flickr.com
Riot police in Zagreb

³⁷⁸ Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. "Republic of Croatia: Annual Exchange of Information on Defence Planning 2009 [p. 20] 2009.

http://arhiva.morh.hr/katalog/documents/OSCE_2009.pdf ."

³⁷⁹ SETimes.com. "Croatia to Abolish Conscription Military Service Sooner." 5 October 2007.

http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/newsbriefs/setimes/newsbriefs/2007/10/05/nb-07

³⁸⁰ DW-World.de "EU Nations Continue To Phase Out Military Conscription." 1 July 2010.

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,5749541,00.html>

³⁸¹ Jane's.com. "World Armies, Croatia." 26 June 2010. <http://jmsa.janes.com>

³⁸² Jane's.com. "World Navies, Croatia." 2 February 2010. <http://jmsa.janes.com>

³⁸³ AirFleet.ru. "Fighters – From Boom to Gloom?" 2009. http://www.airfleet.ru/arhiv/n4_2009/fighters_-_from_boom_to_gloom1/

³⁸⁴ Jane's.com. "World Air Forces, Croatia." 29 July 2010. <http://jmsa.janes.com>

police station in Rijeka, killing one person.^{385,386} Since that time, the Croatian government has collaborated closely with other countries and multinational organizations on counter-terrorism issues. In 2009, Croatia chaired the UN Security Council's Counterterrorism Committee as well as the Council of Europe's Committee of Counterterrorism Experts.^{387,388} No domestic terrorist cells have been recently identified as operating out of Croatia. In 2005, however, Croatian police did arrest five Bosnians who were believed to have been planning a bombing to take place during the funeral of Pope John Paul II.³⁸⁹

Other Issues Affecting Stability

Corruption and Organized Crime

As an EU candidate whose economy is heavily dependent on tourism, Croatia is particularly concerned with maintaining its reputation as a safe country to visit. In October 2008, several high-profile murders (apparently “professional hits”) raised the possibility that organized crime was a factor in under-the-table deals between businesspeople and government officials.^{390,391} Some elements of this criminal network are believed to have established themselves during the Croatian conflict of the 1990s.³⁹² An international arms embargo in effect at that time made gun smuggling a very lucrative activity.³⁹³



© Michael Daines
Must enter the Forbidden
Weapons

The Croatian public's concern about the degree and scope of corruption within their country is striking. A public opinion poll carried out in 2010 throughout the western

³⁸⁵ New York Times. Reuters. “Islamic Group Hits Croatia.” 22 October 1995.

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9402E7DE1E39F931A15753C1A963958260>

³⁸⁶ Prehospital and Disaster Medicine, Vol. 18, No. 2. Bradic, Nikola and Drazen Cuculic, Ervin Jancic. “Terrorism in Croatia.” 6 February 2004. http://pdm.medicine.wisc.edu/Volume_18/issue_2/bradic.pdf

³⁸⁷ SETimes.com. “US Report Notes Decline in Terrorist Attacks Worldwide.” 30 August 2010.

http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/articles/2010/08/30/reportage-01

³⁸⁸ Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism. *Country Reports on Terrorism 2009*. “Chapter 2: Country Reports: Europe and Eurasia Overview.” 5 August 2010.

<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2009/140885.htm>

³⁸⁹ Washington Post. Marovic, Rade and Daniel Williams. “Terrorist Cells Find Foothold in Balkans.” 1 December 2005. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/30/AR2005113002098.html>

³⁹⁰ Time.com. Sijevic, Dejan Anasta. “Crime Wave Clouds Croatia's Future.” 29 October 2008. <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1854388,00.html>

³⁹¹ BBC News. Prodger, Matt. “Croatia Cursed by Crime and Corruption.” 15 April 2009. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/crossing_continents/7999847.stm

³⁹² Wall Street Journal Europe. Srdoc, Natasha and Joel Anand Samy. “Corruption in Croatia.” 19 May 2009. <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124267799642331663.html>

³⁹³ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Bromley, Mark. “United Nations Arms Embargoes: Their Impact on Arms Flows and Target Behaviour: Case Study: Former Yugoslavia, 1991-96 [pp. 12-13].” <http://books.sipri.org/files/misc/UNAE/SIPRI07UNAEYug.pdf>

Balkans region showed corruption to be Croatia's second most important problem, trailing only unemployment. Of the seven Balkan countries polled, Croatians had the least amount of confidence both in their legal system and in their national government.³⁹⁴

Returning Refugees

Although fighting ended in 1995, Croatia still grapples with the aftermath of its bloody years of conflict. (In Croatia, the fighting between 1991 and 1995 is today known as the Croatian War of Independence or the Homeland War. Ethnic Serbs, on the other hand, are more likely to refer to the conflict as a civil war.³⁹⁵) At the beginning of 2010, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimated that over 76,000 refugees from Croatia, the vast majority of whom were ethnic Serbs, were living in other countries. Over 80% of these refugees were located in Serbia.³⁹⁶ Of this refugee population, more than 30,000 families previously lived in public-sector housing in Croatia. These “socially owned properties” were a holdover from socialist Yugoslavia. Although the ethnic Serb refugees should have retained their long-standing occupancy rights to their apartments under European legal guidelines, such was not the case in Croatia. Many of these apartments were reallocated to ethnic Croat refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina, who were subsequently able to convert their comparatively brief tenancy into formal private ownership.^{397,398}



UN Photo/John Isaac
Refugees waiting in line for food

The Croatian government, as part of meeting the goals of the EU accession process, has recently endeavored to address this issue. In the U.S. State Department's 2009 Human Rights Report, it was noted that despite this progress, Croatian property law remained implicitly unfair. “Giving precedence to the rights of temporary occupants, who were

³⁹⁴ Gallup Balkan Monitor. Manchin, Robert. “Quality of Governance -> Trust -> Corruption in the Balkans – Breaking the Cycle?” 10 June 2010. (Linked to through article “Corruption Debate Highlights Lack of Trust in the Judiciary.”) <http://www.balkan-monitor.eu>

³⁹⁵ International Center for Transitional Justice. Šajkaš, Marija. “Transitional Justice and the Role of the Media in the Balkans.” August 2007. <http://www.ictj.org/images/content/8/3/833.pdf>

³⁹⁶ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database: - Refugee Population -> Refugees Total -> Originating From -> RBE -> Croatia (Periodicity: Year, Applied Time Period: From 2009 to 2009).” 9 September 2010. <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/page?page=49e48d7d6>

³⁹⁷ Institute For War & Peace Reporting. Moratti, Massimo. “Croatian Serbs Await Return of Lost Homes.” 15 February 2010. <http://iwpr.net/report-news/croatian-serbs-await-return-lost-homes>

³⁹⁸ European Committee of Social Rights, Council of Europe. “Complaint: Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) v. Croatia [pp. 6-9].” 8 September 2008. http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/socialcharter/Complaints/CC52CaseDoc1_en.pdf

mainly ethnic Croats, over those of the original owners [i.e., tenants], predominantly ethnic Serbs” caused this unequal treatment.³⁹⁹

Serb-Croat Relations

For those ethnic Serbs who have returned to Croatia or who remained in the country throughout the conflict, relations with their Croat neighbors can still be difficult and distant. Emotions are still raw from this tumultuous period, particularly in areas within or near major war zones. Periodic media reports cover topics such as, a Croatian doctor who allegedly refused to treat a Serb stroke patient and anti-Serb comments by the mayor of Split. Such stories are a reminder that anti-Serb feelings among Croats are not yet a thing of the past.^{400,401} Vandalism and physical assaults on Serbs occur occasionally, although such activities have declined in most parts of the country.⁴⁰² The process of ethnic Croats and Serbs in Croatia putting aside mutual prejudices and suspicions will clearly take time. The Croatian government, for its part, has embraced policies that would help facilitate such ethnic reconciliation.⁴⁰³

Self Study Questions

U.S. aid to Croatia is earmarked predominately for education reform. True or False?

Slovenia voted to allow Croatia to join the EU. True or False?

The Sava River forms much of the Serbian-Croatian border. True or False?

The bridge planned for bypassing the city of Neum is a contentious issue between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. True or False?

Organized crime established itself during the Croatian conflict in the 1990s. True or False?

³⁹⁹ Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State. “2009 Human Rights Report: Croatia.” 11 March 2010. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/eur/136025.htm>

⁴⁰⁰ B92. “Split Mayor in Media Swipe at Serbs.” 21 September 2009. http://www.b92.net/eng/news/region-article.php?yyyy=2009&mm=09&dd=21&nav_id=61891

⁴⁰¹ BBC News. Lowen, Mark. “Croatian Medic ‘Denied Serb Help’.” 10 September 2009. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8247326.stm>

⁴⁰² Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State. “2009 Human Rights Report: Croatia.” 11 March 2010. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/eur/136025.htm>

⁴⁰³ EURAC Research. Petričušić, Antonija. “Wind of Change: The Croatian Government’s Turn Towards a Policy of Ethnic Reconciliation.” 2004. <http://www.eurac.edu/edap>

Facts and Figures⁴⁰⁴

Location:

Southeastern Europe, bordering the Adriatic Sea, between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia.

Area:

56,594 sq km (21,851 sq mi).

Border Countries:

Bosnia and Herzegovina 932 km (579 mi), Hungary 329 km (204 mi), Serbia 241 km (150 mi), Montenegro 25 km (16 mi), Slovenia 455 km (283 mi).

Natural Hazards:

Destructive earthquakes.

Climate

Mediterranean and continental; continental climate predominant with hot summers and cold winters; mild winters, dry summers along coast.

Environment—Current Issues:

Air pollution (from metallurgical plants) and resulting acid rain is damaging the forests; coastal pollution from industrial and domestic waste; landmine removal and reconstruction of infrastructure consequent to 1992-95 civil strife.

Population:

4,486,881 (July 2010 est.)

Median Age:

42.2 years (2010 est.)

Population Growth Rate:

-0.061% (2010 est.)

⁴⁰⁴ Information in this section comes from the following source: Central Intelligence Agency. *The World Factbook*. "Croatia." 24 June 2010. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/hr.html> [retrieved 6 July 2010]

Life Expectancy at Birth:

75.58 years (2010 est.)

HIV/AIDS—People Living With HIV/AIDS:

Less than 0.1% (2007 est.).

Nationality:

Noun: Croat(s), Croatian(s)

Adjective: Croatian.

Sex Ratio:

At birth: 1.055 male(s)/female

Under 15 years: 1.06 male(s)/female

15-64 years: 0.99 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.64 male(s)/female

Total population: 0.93 male(s)/female (2010 est.)

Ethnic Groups:

Croat 89.6%, Serb 4.5%, other 5.9% (including Bosniak, Hungarian, Slovene, Czech, and Roma) (2001 census).

Religions:

Roman Catholic 87.8%, Orthodox 4.4%, other Christian 0.4%, Muslim 1.3%, other and unspecified 0.9%, none 5.2% (2001 census).

Languages:

Croatian 96.1%, Serbian 1%, other and undesignated 2.9% (including Italian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, and German) (2001 census).

Literacy:

Definition: Persons age 15 and over who can read and write.

Total population: 98.1%

Male: 99.3%

Female: 97.1% (2001 census).

Country Name:

Conventional long form: Republic of Croatia

Conventional short form: Croatia

Local long form: Republika Hrvatska

Local short form: Hrvatska

Former: People's Republic of Croatia, Socialist Republic of Croatia.

Government Type:

Presidential/parliamentary democracy.

Capital:

Name: Zagreb.

Administrative Divisions:

20 counties (županije, županija - singular) and 1 city* (grad - singular); Bjelovarsko-bilogorska (Bjelovar-Bilogora), Brodsko-posavska (Brod-Posavina), Dubrovačko-neretvanska (Dubrovnik-Neretva), Istarska (Istria), Karlovačka (Karlovac), Koprivničko-križevačka (Koprivnica-Križevci), Krapinsko-zagorska (Krapina-Zagorje), Ličko-senjska (Lika-Senj), Međimurska (Međimurje), Osječko-baranjska (Osijek-Baranja), Požeško-slavonska (Požega-Slavonia), Primorsko-Goranska (Primorje-Gorski), Šibensko-Kninska (Šibenik-Knin), Sisačko-Moslavačka (Sisak-Moslavina), Splitsko-Dalmatinska (Split-Dalmatia), Varaždinska (Varaždin), Virovitičko-Podravska (Virovitica-Podravina), Vukovarsko-Srijemska (Vukovar-Syrmia), Zadarska (Zadar), Zagreb*, Zagrebačka (Zagreb).

Independence:

25 June 1991(from Yugoslavia).

National Holiday:

Independence Day, 8 October (1991);

Note: 25 June 1991 was the day the Croatian parliament voted for independence; following a three-month moratorium to allow the European Community to solve the Yugoslav crisis peacefully, Parliament adopted a decision on 8 October 1991 to sever constitutional relations with Yugoslavia.

Constitution:

Adopted on 22 December 1990; revised 2000, 2001.

Legal System:

Based on Austro-Hungarian law system with Communist law influences; has not accepted compulsory International Court of Justice (ICJ) jurisdiction.

Suffrage:

18 years of age, 16 if employed; universal.

Government:

Chief of state: President Ivo Josipović (since 18 February 2010)

Head of government: Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor (since 6 July 2009); Deputy Prime Ministers Božidar Pankretić (since 6 July 2009), Darko Milinović (since 13 November 2009), Ivan Šuker (since 13 November 2009), Đurđa Adlešić (since 12 January 2008), Slobodan Uzelac (since 12 January 2008).

Cabinet: Council of Ministers named by the prime minister and approved by the parliamentary assembly.

Elections: President elected by popular vote for a five-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 10 January 2010 (next to be held in December 2015); the leader of the majority party or the leader of the majority coalition usually appointed prime minister by the president and then approved by the assembly.

Election results: Ivo Josipović elected president; percent of vote in the second round: Joseph Kabila elected president; percent of vote (second round) - Ivo Josipović 60%, Milan Bandić 40%.

Legislative Branch:

Unicameral Assembly or Sabor (153 seats; members elected from party lists by popular vote to serve four-year terms).

Elections: Last held on 25 November 2007 (next to be held by November 2011).

Election results: Percent of vote by party - NA; number of seats by party – Croatian Democratic Union (Hrvatska demokratska zajednica; HDZ) 66, Social Democratic Party of Croatia (Socijaldemokratska partija Hrvatske; SDP) 57, Croatian People's Party – Liberal Democrats (Hrvatska narodna stranka – liberlni demokrati; HNS) 6, Croatian Peasant Party (Hrvatska seljačka stranka; HSS) 6, Croatian Democratic Assembly of Slavonija and Baranja (Hrvatski demokratski sabor Slavonije i Baranje; HDSSB) 3, Istrian Democratic Assembly (Istarski demokratski sabor; IDS) 3, Independent Democratic Serbian Party (Samostalna demokratska srpska stranka; SDSS) 3, other 9.

Judicial Branch:

Supreme Court; Constitutional Court; judges for both courts are appointed for eight-year terms by the Judicial Council of the Republic, which is elected by the Assembly.

International Organization Participation:

Agency for the French-Speaking Community (observer), Australia Group, Bank for International Settlements, Black Sea Economic Cooperation Zone (observer), Council of Europe, Central European Initiative, Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Food and Agriculture Organization, Inter-American Development Bank, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), International Civil Aviation Organization, International Chamber of Commerce, International Criminal Court, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, International Development Association, International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Finance Corporation, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Hydrographic Organization, International Labor Organization, International Monetary Fund, International Maritime Organization, International Mobile Satellite Organization, International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), International Olympic Committee, International Organization for Migration, Inter-parliamentary Union, International Organization for Standardization, International Telecommunications Satellite Organization, International Telecommunication Union, International Trade Union Confederation, Multilateral Investment Geographic Agency, United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad, United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, Nonaligned Movement (observer), North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Nuclear Suppliers Group, Organization of American States (observer), International Organization of the French-speaking World (observer), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Permanent Court of Arbitration, Southeast European Cooperative Initiative, United Nations, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon, United Nations Mission in Liberia, United Nations Mission in Sudan, United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, World Tourism Organization, Universal Postal Union, World Customs Organization, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Health Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, World Meteorological Organization, World Trade Organization, Zangger Committee.

GDP—Real Growth Rate:

-5.2% (2009 est.)

GDP—Composition by Sector:

Agriculture: 6.3%

Industry: 28.1%

Services: 65.6% (2009 est.)

Telephones—Main Lines in Use:

1.851 million (2008).

Telephones—Mobile Cellular:

5.924 million (2008).

Radio Broadcast Stations:

AM 16, FM 98, shortwave 5 (1999).

Television Broadcast Stations:

36 (plus 321 repeaters) (1995).

Internet Users:

1.88 million (2008).

Airports:

68 (2009).

Airports—With Paved Runways:

Total: 23

Over 3,047 m (1.89 mi): 2

2,438 to 3,047 m (1.51 to 1.89 mi): 6

1,524 to 2,437 m (0.95 to 1.51 mi): 2

914 to 1,523 m (0.57 to 0.95 mi): 4

Under 914 m (0.57 mi): 9 (2009).

Airports—With Unpaved Runways:

Total: 45

1,524 to 2,437 m (0.95 to 1.51 mi): 1

914 to 1,523 m (0.57 to 0.95 mi): 7

Under 914 m (0.57 mi): 37 (2009).

Military Branches:

Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia (Oružane snage Republike Hrvatske, OSRH), consists of five major commands directly subordinate to a General Staff: Ground Forces (Hrvatska kopnena vojska, HKoV), Naval Forces (Hrvatska ratna mornarica, HRM; includes coast guard), Air Force and Air Defense Command, Joint Education and Training Command, Logistics Command; Military Police Force supports each of the three Croatian military forces (2010).

Military Service Age and Obligation:

18-27 years of age for compulsory military service; 16 years of age with consent for voluntary service; 6-month conscript service obligation; full conversion to voluntary military service by 2010 (2006).

International Disputes:

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Dispute remains with Bosnia and Herzegovina over several small sections of the boundary related to maritime access that hinders ratification of the 1999 border agreement.

Slovenia: Croatia-Slovenia land and maritime boundary agreement, which would have ceded most of Pirin Bay and maritime access to Slovenia and several villages to Croatia, remains unratified and in dispute. Slovenia also protests Croatia's 2003 claim to an exclusive economic zone in the Adriatic. As a European Union peripheral state, Slovenia imposed a hard border Schengen regime with non-member Croatia in December 2007.

Illicit Drugs:

Transit point along the Balkan route for Southwest Asian heroin to Western Europe; has been used as a transit point for maritime shipments of South American cocaine bound for Western Europe (2008).

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Appendix A: Answers to Self Study Questions

Geography

1. Croatia's highest point is Mount Dinara.

True.

Dinaric Alps, or Dinarides, are a broad series of ranges running roughly parallel to the Adriatic coastline along a northwest-southeast direction. Croatia's highest point, Mount Dinara (1,830 m/6,004 ft), lies within this range.

2. Croatia's climate is uniform.

False.

Croatia's climate varies depending on its topography. A Mediterranean climate pervades along the Adriatic coast, while the plains are characterized by a continental climate.

3. Three of the Drava's hydropower dams are located in Croatia.

True.

The Drava forms most of the Croatia's border with Hungary before joining the Danube downstream from Osijek. Three of the twenty-two hydropower dams are located in Croatia.

4. Split is the capital of Croatia.

False.

Zagreb, or its present-day area, has been Croatia's capital since 16th century. Only for a period of 20 years in the second half of the 18th century was the capital moved to Varaždin for fear of an imminent Ottoman attack.

5. Croatia does not experience earthquakes.

False.

Croatia and adjacent regions constitute an active earthquake zone with an average of 65 temblors per year and one that exceeds Richter magnitude 6 every two years. Other natural hazards in Croatia include floods, drought, high winds, windstorms, extreme temperatures, and wildfires.

History

1. Croatia was part of the Eastern Roman Empire.

False.

After the Roman Empire formally split, the region of present-day Croatia was part of the Western Roman Empire.

2. The Ottomans at one point controlled all of present-day Croatia.

False.

After their victorious battle at Kosovo Polje, the Ottomans swept through Bosnia. By the early part of the 16th century, they had conquered all of Croatia south of the Sava River.

3. The *Ustaše* was under the control of Hitler.

False.

The *Ustaše* was under the control of Pavelić, who, with no real base of support in Croatia, Pavelić called on his small cadre of supporters to carry out a “blood and soil” mission in which all Croatian lands would be freed of non-Croatians—by genocidal means if religious conversions and forced removals were not enough.

4. The Communist Partisans were led by Tito.

True.

The most potent resistance force in Yugoslavia during World War II was the Communist Partisans, led by Josip Broz Tito, a Croatian-Slovenian. The Partisans were made up of Croatian Serbs fleeing the *Ustaše* and antifascist Croats.

5. Croatia’s referendum on independence had unilateral support.

False.

On 25 June 1991, Croatia declared its independence, a month after a referendum on independence, boycotted by Croatian Serbs, passed by an overwhelming majority. This was followed by a six-month war in which 10,000 people died, hundreds of thousands were displaced, and roughly 30% of Croatia came to be occupied by Serbian forces.

Economy

1. Increasing agricultural efficiency within Croatia is behind the recent proposal to phase out agricultural subsidies.

False.

Agricultural efficiency and productivity is limited because a large part of Croatia’s agricultural production takes place on fragmented farm holdings of less

than 3 ha (7.4 acres). Despite the decline of agriculture's contribution to the nation's gross domestic product (GDP), there is a proposal to phase out agricultural subsidies to comply with EU regulations.

2. Croatia can produce enough fossil fuels to meet its domestic energy needs.

False.

Croatia has limited fossil fuel resources, insufficient to meet the nation's domestic energy needs. Crude oil production has declined since the mid-1990s, while consumption has increased, resulting in an increasing need for imported oil.

3. Croatia's energy imports are the major contributor to the country's trade imbalance.

True.

Croatia has long had a large trade imbalance in which the value of the nation's exports has been more than doubled by the value of its imports. Among the items that contribute most greatly to the negative trade balance have been energy imports, automobiles/trucks/tractors, machinery/appliances, electrical equipment, iron and steel, plastics, pharmaceuticals, and paper products.

4. The number of tourists visiting Croatia annually is more than the country's total population.

True.

Croatia's negative trade balance makes the nation's tourism industry all the more important for helping balance the nation's balance of payments ledger. The sector is also an important source for jobs within the country. Since 2007, an average of over 9.3 million foreigners have visited Croatia each year, more than twice the nation's total population.

5. The highest concentrations of Croatia's poor are in the central and eastern regions.

True.

The central and eastern regions of the country, excluding the area around Zagreb, have by far the highest poverty rates. These regions, not surprisingly, are also the areas least touched by the economic benefits of the tourism sector, which primarily generates employment along the Adriatic coastal counties.

Society

1. The Croatian and Serbian languages are mutually intelligible.

True.

The Croatian and Serbian languages are mutually understandable, although there are differences in their vocabulary, grammar, and writing systems. For instance, Croatian is written only in the Latin alphabet, whereas Serbian can be written using either Latin or Cyrillic script.

2. Women are the minority in Croatia's higher education system.

False.

In 2008, women represented nearly 59% of all Croatian college graduates and 50% of all Ph.D. recipients. Women also show no relative drop-off in school attendance beyond primary levels of education.

3. Roman Catholicism is Croatia's state religion.

False.

Officially, Croatia has no state religion. Though after the declaration of Croatian independence in the 1990s, the Croatian government made several attempts to align itself closely with the Catholic Church. Since 2000, however, the state has adopted a more even-handed approach toward the country's various religious communities.

4. Early writings of modern Croatian date to the 15th century.

False.

The earliest writings in what evolved into the modern Croatian language come from church inscriptions dating back to the 11th century C.E. Several centuries later, the first real works in Croatian began to appear from a group of writers from Dalmatia.

5. The *tamburitza* was introduced by the Turks.

True.

The *tamburitza*, a three- or five-stringed mandolin-like instrument introduced by the Ottoman Turks in the 17th century, is associated with one major strain of Croatian folk music.

Security

1. U.S. aid to Croatia is earmarked predominately for education reform.

False.

Since 2006, U.S. aid to Croatia has focused on military assistance, including training, as well as support for ongoing demining operations in regions heavily mined in the 1990s fighting.

2. Slovenia voted to allow Croatia to join the EU.

False.

The issue of Slovenia's maritime border has been a sticking point between the two nations. Slovenia, a current EU member, used its veto vote to block Croatia's accession to the EU. In June 2010, Slovenians voted to allow the matter to enter binding arbitration, thus seemingly clearing the last major roadblock threatening Croatia's eventual EU accession.

3. The Sava River forms much of the Serbian-Croatian border.

False.

The Danube River forms much of the border between Serbia and Croatia.

4. The bridge planned for bypassing the city of Neum is a contentious issue between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

True.

Croatia plans to build a bridge linking the mainland to the Pelješac Peninsula. Bosnia and Herzegovina has protested, arguing that such a bridge might violate their territorial waters, as well as adversely affect future attempts to expand Neum's harbor.

5. Organized crime established itself during the Croatian conflict in the 1990s.

True.

Some elements of Croatia's criminal network are believed to have established themselves during the Croatian conflict during the 1990s. An international arms embargo then in effect made gun smuggling a very lucrative activity.