



# CULTURAL ORIENTATION

# SERBIAN



*Church of St. Demetrius, Gardoš, Belgrade  
Flickr / Pascal Willuhn*



# CULTURAL ORIENTATION | Serbian



## Profile

Introduction .....	6
Geographic Divisions .....	7
<i>Northern Plains</i> .....	8
<i>Western Mountains</i> .....	8
<i>Eastern Mountains</i> .....	9
Climate.....	9
Rivers.....	10
<i>Danube</i> .....	10
<i>Tisa</i> .....	11
<i>Sava</i> .....	11
<i>Drina</i> .....	11
<i>Morava</i> .....	12
Major Cities.....	12
<i>Belgrade</i> .....	12
<i>Novi Sad</i> .....	14
<i>Niš</i> .....	15
<i>Kragujevac</i> .....	15
<i>Subotica</i> .....	16
History.....	17
<i>Introduction</i> .....	17
<i>Early History and the First Serbian State</i> .....	18
<i>Dušan “The Mighty” and the Serbian Golden Age</i> .....	19
<i>The Battle of Kosovo and the Collapse of Serbia</i> .....	19
<i>The First Migration</i> .....	20
<i>The Great Migration of 1691</i> .....	20
<i>Serbian National Consciousness and Formal Independence</i> .....	21
<i>The Balkan Wars and the Formation of Yugoslavia</i> .....	22
<i>The Tito Era</i> .....	22
<i>Milošević’s Greater Serbia</i> .....	23
<i>Resistance in Kosovo</i> .....	24
<i>War in Bosnia</i> .....	25
<i>Conflict in Kosovo</i> .....	26
<i>Milošević’s Ouster</i> .....	27
<i>The Republic of Serbia</i> .....	28
Current Events.....	28
Government .....	29
Media .....	30
Economy .....	30

# CULTURAL ORIENTATION | Serbian



Ethnic Groups.....	32
<i>Serb</i> .....	32
<i>Hungarian</i> .....	32
<i>Bosniak</i> .....	33
<i>Roma</i> .....	34
<i>Other Ethnic Groups</i> .....	34
Languages .....	35
Assessment .....	50

## Religion

Introduction .....	51
The Role of Religion in the Government .....	52
<i>Saint Savaism (Svetosavlje)</i> .....	53
Religion and Daily Life .....	54
Religious Events and Holidays .....	54
<i>Easter (Vaskrs)</i> .....	55
<i>Christmas (Božić)</i> .....	56
<i>Patron Saint Day (Krsna Slava)</i> .....	57
Buildings of Worship.....	58
Behavior in Places of Worship .....	59
Assessment .....	65

## Traditions

Introduction .....	66
Honor and Values .....	67
Greetings and Gestures .....	67
<i>Communication Style</i> .....	68
Hospitality and Gift Giving .....	70
<i>Eating in a Serbian Home</i> .....	71
Dress .....	72
<i>Traditional Dress</i> .....	72
<i>Modern Dress</i> .....	72
Cuisine.....	73
<i>Main Dishes, Creams, and Relishes</i> .....	73
<i>Breads and Sweets</i> .....	74
<i>Beverages</i> .....	75
Gender Roles and Relationships .....	75
Folk Culture and Folklore .....	76
Arts and Literature .....	77
<i>Music</i> .....	77
<i>Literature</i> .....	78

## CULTURAL ORIENTATION | Serbian



Sports .....	79
Nonreligious Celebrations and Public Holidays .....	79
<i>New Year</i> .....	80
<i>Saint Vitus Day (Vidovdan)</i> .....	81
Dos and Don'ts .....	82
Assessment .....	87

### Urban Life

Introduction .....	88
History of Urbanization .....	89
Urban Economy .....	90
Health Care .....	91
Education .....	92
Transportation and Traffic .....	93
<i>Transportation Networks</i> .....	93
<i>Driving in and around Serbian Cities</i> .....	94
<i>Public Transportation</i> .....	96
Restaurants and Marketplace .....	97
<i>Dining Out</i> .....	97
<i>Marketplace</i> .....	99
Money .....	101
Crime and Safety .....	101
<i>Solicitations</i> .....	102
Assessment .....	109

### Rural Life

Introduction .....	110
Village Life .....	111
<i>Migration to Cities</i> .....	112
<i>Asking to Speak to a Person in Charge</i> .....	113
Economy .....	114
<i>Development of Agriculture</i> .....	114
<i>Farming</i> .....	115
<i>Rural Tourism</i> .....	115
Land Ownership and Privatization .....	116
Transportation and Roads .....	117
Health Care .....	118
Education .....	119
Border Crossings and Checkpoints .....	120
Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War .....	121
Assessment .....	128

# CULTURAL ORIENTATION | Serbian

---



## Family Life

---

Introduction .....	129
Typical Household and Family Structure .....	130
Family Roles for Men and Women .....	131
Status of Children and the Elderly .....	132
<i>Children</i> .....	132
<i>Elders</i> .....	133
Marriage and Divorce .....	134
<i>Marriage</i> .....	134
<i>Divorce</i> .....	135
Family Events and Rites of Passage .....	136
<i>Weddings</i> .....	136
<i>Birth</i> .....	137
<i>Funerals</i> .....	138
Naming Conventions .....	139
Assessment .....	145

## Further Reading and Resources

---

Further Reading and Resources .....	146
-------------------------------------	-----

## Final Assessment

---

Assessment .....	148
------------------	-----



*Serbian National Assembly Building, Belgrade  
Flickr / Jorge Láscar*

## Chapter 1 | Serbian Cultural Orientation

---

# Profile

## Introduction

The Republic of Serbia (Republika Srbija) occupies a strategic position in the Balkans, lying at the social, political, and geographic crossroads of Eastern and Western Europe.<sup>1</sup> For most of the last century, it was a part of Yugoslavia, which also included the modern countries of Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnia), Kosovo, Macedonia, and Montenegro. In 1991, these countries, then constituent states, began to declare independence. The end of the short-lived Union of Serbia and Montenegro (2003-2006) and the independence of Kosovo (2008) marked the closing chapters in Yugoslavia's turbulent history.<sup>2</sup>

Throughout the centuries, Serbs have experienced strong affiliation and intense conflict with ethnic groups that share their cultural roots. When Yugoslavia dissolved, ethnicity and religion divided the constituent states. Interethnic conflict and reshaping of political boundaries continue in Serbia today. Since the 1995 end of the Bosnian War and Kosovo's independence, an uneasy peace has existed between ethnic groups.<sup>3</sup>

Today, Serbia's population of 7.1 million is influenced by Central Europeans (Hungarians), Eastern Europeans (Bulgarians and Romanians), Southern Europeans (Albanians and Greeks), and smaller groups such as the Roma and the South Slavic ethnic groups of the Balkans (Croats, Bosniaks, Slovenes, etc.).<sup>4</sup> Although Serbians (those born in Serbia or with family heritage in Serbia) share cultural roots with other peoples in the area, they are set apart by historical experience, religious beliefs, and linguistic differences. The Serbian Orthodox Church is a distinguishing cultural identifier for Serbia and Serbians—a constant during the many centuries of Serb migrations and displacements. Though many do not practice daily, the Serbian Orthodox Church also unifies Serbs (those not born in Serbia but with heritage in former Yugoslavia).<sup>5</sup>



*Schoolgirls welcome guests with bread and salt  
Flickr / U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District*

The Serbian government continues to pursue policies to strengthen relations with its neighbors and to acknowledge and address atrocities committed in the past.<sup>6</sup> In March 2012, the Republic of Serbia was granted European Union (EU) candidate status.<sup>7</sup> While pursuing EU membership, it has drawn on its cultural and religious bonds to Russia, maintaining a strong relationship with Moscow.<sup>8, 9</sup>

## Geographic Divisions

Serbia is part of the Balkan Peninsula, a mountainous region between the Adriatic Sea on the west and the Black Sea on the east. Though the country's total area is slightly smaller than South Carolina (77,474 sq km/29,913 sq mi), it is geographically diverse. The northern part of Serbia is covered with broad, fertile plains. Mountains cut through the remainder of the country.<sup>10, 11</sup> Between these two regions, the Danube and Sava Rivers have served as geographic and political boundaries for much of Serbian

history.<sup>12</sup> South of these rivers, in central Serbia, the terrain is more hilly than mountainous. The Šumadija Hills, which range from 600–1,110 m (2,000–3,600 ft), are the region’s prominent physical feature and the heart of the medieval Serbian Empire.<sup>13</sup> Up to one-third of Serbia is covered in broad-leaved forest, mostly oak and beech. There are no lakes of any substantial size and many are man-made.<sup>14</sup>



*Serbia, major rivers, and surrounding Balkan countries*  
Graphic / DLIFLC

### *Northern Plains*

The Northern Plains, a relatively flat area that spreads across northern Serbia’s Vojvodina Province, consists of rich soils nourished by local rivers. The plains extend from around Belgrade to the borders of Romania, Hungary, Croatia, and Bosnia, merging into the Great Hungarian Plain that lies to the north of Serbia. This fertile region is the southern part of the Pannonian Plain, a remnant of an ancient inland sea. The plains rise into hills south of Belgrade (and the Sava and Danube rivers), soon merging into the mountains that extend through the remainder of the country. The Northern Plains, the agricultural heart of Serbia, supply much of the country’s wheat and corn (maize).<sup>15</sup> Other important crops include sugar beets, sunflowers, flax, and hemp. Petroleum and natural gas extraction take place in the west.<sup>16, 17</sup>



*Wetlands, Vojvodina*  
Wikimedia / Stefan Stojanović

### *Western Mountains*

Along Serbia’s western border lie the Zlatibor, Tara, and Kopaonik mountains—all eastern sections of the Dinaric Alps (Dinardi) that parallel the Adriatic coast through much of the Balkans.<sup>18</sup> The Kopaonik Range extends along Serbia’s rocky southwestern border with Kosovo.<sup>19</sup> The mountains in Serbia’s west have made much of the region inaccessible. Throughout history, this rugged geography limited the scope of invasions,

migrations, and settlements. The Dinaric Alps and their associated ranges lie at the crossroads of what were the Eastern (Byzantine) and Western Roman Empires, giving rise to many cultures.<sup>20</sup>

## Eastern Mountains



Between Jasenovik and Vrelo, Niš municipality  
Wikimedia / Kabelleger / David Guble

Covering Serbia's eastern territory are limestone basins and mountain ranges. To the southeast, ancient mountains and hills run parallel to the eastern bank of the Morava River. These are the Balkan Mountains, which form a natural border between Serbia and the nations to the east—Romania and Bulgaria. The Balkan Mountains arc from east to west in Bulgaria, curving into the eastern side of Serbia.<sup>21</sup> The country's highest point is located here: **Midžor Peak**, at 2,169 m

(7,116 ft).<sup>22</sup> At their northern end, the Balkans merge into the Carpathian Mountains, which extend north into Romania and then curve to the west.<sup>23</sup>

## Climate



Serbian countryside  
Flickr / Magalie L'Abbé

Serbia is landlocked. As a result, warm air masses from the Mediterranean cannot moderate the country's weather extremes. Serbia's continental climate means that cold, relatively dry winters follow warm, humid summers. In northern Serbia, winters are extremely arid and cold.<sup>24</sup> Freezing winds, known as *košava*, often sweep southwesterly through the Carpathian Mountains into Serbia. In winter, these squalls spread westward across the Serbian plains.<sup>25</sup> In contrast,

summers on the plains can be hot and dry, with average temperatures of 22°C (72°F) and highs of 45°C (113°F).<sup>26, 27</sup> Central Serbia enjoys a continental climate. In Belgrade, located on the Pannonian Plain's southern rim, the average temperature in January is 0°C (32°F). July is warmer, with an average temperature of 23°C (73°F).<sup>28, 29</sup>

In the mountain regions of the south, temperatures are cooler than in the rest of the country, averaging 18°C (64°F).<sup>30</sup> Winters are extremely cold and usually marked by heavy snowfall. Rainfall varies yearly, measuring 56-190 cm (22-75 in). The country's lowest yearly rainfall occurs in Vojvodina.<sup>31, 32</sup>

## Rivers

### *Danube*



*Danube River, Deliblato Sands, Vojvodina*  
Wikimedia / Petkovic Boris

The Danube River (Dunav) runs through Serbia for 588 km (365 mi), the country's longest and its main drainage river.<sup>33</sup> The river flows south into Serbia from Hungary, tracing much of Serbia's western border with Croatia, before turning southeast into Serbia's picturesque Vojvodina flatlands. Several rivers join it as it winds through the country. On Serbia's eastern side, the Danube River follows the Serbian-Romanian border southeast and then departs Serbia.<sup>34</sup> Where the

Danube River runs between Serbia and Romania, it flows through narrow, canyon-like gorges. Here, the Iron Gate Dam power plant provides energy to both countries. The dam, built in 1972, formed the largest lake in Serbia, Lake Đerdap, at 253 sq km (98 sq mi).<sup>35</sup> Eventually, the Danube empties into the Black Sea.<sup>36</sup>

The Danube is popular for river cruises because of its scenic course and navigability. It flows through wetlands in Vojvodina, the cities of Novi Sad and Belgrade, and the deep gorges of Đerdap National Park. A nature reserve, the park also protects several historical sites, including the Lepenski Vir Neolithic settlements and the medieval fortress of Golubac.<sup>37, 38</sup>

During the spring thaw, flooding along the Danube River and its tributaries is a recurring problem.<sup>39, 40, 41</sup> To defend against flooding, the government constructed a canal system stretching 12,700 sq km (4,903 sq mi) between the Danube and the Tisa rivers in Vojvodina. Constructed after World War II, the Dunav-Tisa-Dunav canal system is also used for irrigation, tourism, and shipping.<sup>42, 43</sup>

## Tisa

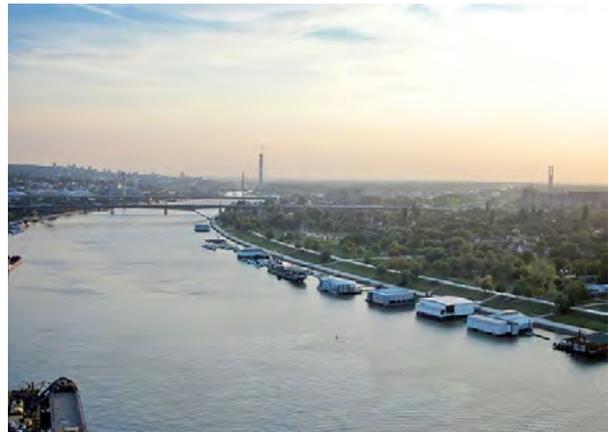
The most significant Danube tributary from the north is the Tisa River (Tisza), which flows through Hungary before entering Vojvodina. The Tisa joins the Danube in its natural course and through the Dunav-Tisa-Dunav canal network. The Serbian section of the Tisa is 168 km (104 mi) from its confluence with the Danube to the Serbia-Hungary border. When the high waters from the Danube and Tisa rivers meet, the Tisa waters flow back and flood the countryside. Levees along its banks control this natural event.<sup>44, 45</sup>



*Tisa and Danube rivers confluence, Vojvodina*  
Wikimedia / Marek Ślusarczyk (Tupungato)

## Sava

Of the Danube's tributaries, the longest and most important is the Sava River, which originates in the Julian Alps of Slovenia and flows eastward through Croatia and Bosnia before joining the Danube River at Belgrade. Here, the river forms several large islands including the 800-hectare (2,000-acre) Ada Ciganlija.<sup>46</sup> The Sava is navigable for small freight ships; it is known for its natural floodplains and wetlands that support rich biological and geological diversity.<sup>47, 48, 49</sup>



*Sava River, Belgrade*  
Flickr / Jeff Attaway

## Drina

The Sava River has several tributaries, the largest of which is the Drina River.<sup>50</sup> The Drina originates where the Piva and Tara rivers meet in Montenegro and flows north for 346 km (215 mi), separating a large section of Serbia from Bosnia. The Drina's course through Serbia is 220 km (137 mi) long.<sup>51</sup> The Drina starts as a series of rapids flowing through deep gorges. It becomes less turbulent as it reaches the plain, where it finally merges into the eastward-flowing Sava River. Several hydroelectric power

stations are on the Drina: Višegrad, Bajina Bašta, and Zvornik.<sup>52, 53</sup>

The Drina River represented a boundary between the Western and Eastern Roman Empires.<sup>54</sup> During World War I, major military operations were launched along the length of the Drina, then the border between the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Kingdom of Serbia.<sup>55</sup>

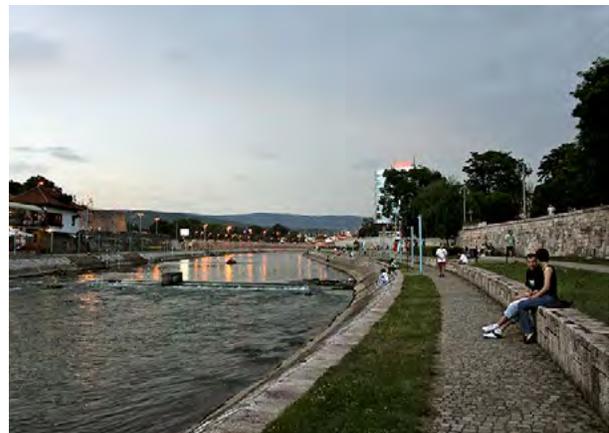


*Drina River, Perućac Village, western Serbia  
Wikimedia / Ant83*

## *Morava*

The Morava River flows through central Serbia, some the country's most fertile areas and most populated regions. The Morava is the longest river to lie entirely within Serbian boundaries. With its longer tributary, the Zapadna (West) Morava River, it is 493 km (306 mi) long and its basin covers 37,500 sq km (14,500 sq mi).<sup>56</sup>

The Great Morava (Velika Morava) is formed by the confluence of the Zapadna (West) and Juzna (South) Morava rivers, which together create the drainage basin of southern Serbia. From this confluence, the Great Morava follows a 221-km (137-mi) course north, merging into the Danube east of Belgrade.<sup>57</sup> Historically, all three branches of the Morava were navigable, but today only about 3 km (1.8 mi) are suitable for transportation. Like the Danube and the Sava, the Morava is subject to annual flooding.<sup>58</sup> Three hydroelectric stations were built to support growing populations in the surrounding valleys and to regulate flooding.<sup>59</sup>



*Morava River, Niš  
Flickr / Magalie L'Abbé*

## **Major Cities**

### *Belgrade*

Located on the southern rim of the Pannonian Plain, Belgrade (Beograd) is Serbia's capital and its largest city. It lies at the meeting point of two navigable rivers, the

Danube and the Sava, two of Belgrade's three historically important travel and trade routes. The third is to the southeast through the Morava-Vardar River Valley. Edgy and fast-paced, Belgrade is Serbia's educational and cultural center, with museums, galleries, theaters, and institutions of higher learning, notably the University of Belgrade.<sup>60</sup>



*View of Belgrade from Kalemegdan Park  
Flickr / Anne and David*

The heart of Belgrade, Kalemegdan Park, bears traces of successive peoples and empires going as far back as the Celts. Over the centuries, the city and its strategic location were fought over in more than 100 wars. In the process, multiple fortified settlements were constructed on the hill overlooking the Sava and Danube rivers. Kalemegdan Fortress, Belgrade's most famous landmark, is the most recent incarnation and the legacy of the struggle between the Austrian

and Ottoman empires. From the 17th through 19th centuries, the city stood at the boundary between these two great powers and it changed hands frequently, often being razed in the process.<sup>61, 62, 63</sup>



*Belgrade suburb of Beli Potok  
Wikimedia / Plamen*

More recently, Belgrade has served as the capital for several pan-Slavic confederations, including the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and later, Yugoslavia.<sup>64, 65</sup> In 1999 during the Kosovo War, numerous strategic sites in Belgrade were attacked by North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) missiles and bombs.<sup>66</sup> This was roughly 58 years after the Nazis leveled much of the city in 2 days of saturation bombing.<sup>67, 68</sup>

Belgrade has developed into an industrial center that produces electrical equipment, machinery, processed foods, chemicals, and textiles. The city is divided into 17 municipalities that support a population of 1.65 million.<sup>69, 70</sup> Of these municipalities, 10 make up the urban core of the city; the remaining municipalities are suburbs and more rural regions. Stari Grad, which means "old city," is one of the smallest of

these urban municipalities.<sup>71</sup> It is the cultural and historical city center and includes Kalemegdan Park.<sup>72, 73</sup>

## *Novi Sad*

Lying on the banks of the Danube River, Novi Sad is the country's second-largest city and capital of Vojvodina, Serbia's northern province and main agricultural region. Although NATO air strikes destroyed parts of the city in the 1999 Kosovo intervention, many of the oldest museums, churches, and other cultural sites escaped the bombing. Colorful Novi Sad is now a tourist destination, an industrial center, and the province's main commercial hub.<sup>74</sup> Its industries include



*Danube River, outskirts of Novi Sad*  
Flickr / Nick Savchenko

textiles, processed foods, and electrical equipment.<sup>75</sup> In addition, the IT industry in Novi Sad has rapidly expanded over the last few years.<sup>76, 77</sup>

Following large migrations of Serbs from Ottoman-controlled regions beginning in the 1690s, Novi Sad was the cultural center for Serbs during much of the 18th and 19th centuries.<sup>78</sup> Today, the city has a young, ethnically diverse population of around 319,000.<sup>79</sup> Novi Sad University, the second-largest state university in Serbia, draws young people from around the country and the greater Balkan region.<sup>80</sup> Reflecting the ethnic diversity



*Stari Grad, Novi Sad city center*  
Pixabay / danilography

of the region, the Public Broadcasting Service of Vojvodina broadcasts in Serbian, Croatian, Slovak, Hungarian, Romanian, Ukrainian, and Romani languages.<sup>81, 82</sup> Like Belgrade, Novi Sad has a dynamic arts and music scene, numerous restaurants, and a lively café culture. A focal point of the entertainment scene is the massive Petrovaradin Fortress, which hosts cultural and music events, including EXIT, an international music festival.<sup>83, 84, 85</sup>

## Niš

Niš is southern Serbia's principal city and one of the oldest in the Balkans. It is the birthplace of Constantine the Great, who founded the city of Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul) as the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire. Today, the city is a center for industry and culture. It is home to the University of Niš, one of Serbia's largest universities outside of Belgrade, as well as the National Theater and several museums and historical monuments.<sup>86, 87</sup> The city's manufacturing economy centers around tobacco products, electronics products, rubber products, railway and industrial equipment, and processed foods. With over 257,000 residents, Niš is the third-largest city in Serbia.<sup>88</sup>



Nišava River, city of Niš  
Wikimedia / MrPanyGoff

Niš is located near the union of two Morava River tributaries that serve as transportation corridors through the mountains of the southern Balkan Peninsula. This location makes it a nexus for road and rail traffic bound for Bulgaria to the east or Macedonia and Greece to the south. Besides Belgrade, Niš is the only Serbian city with regularly scheduled international flights.<sup>89</sup>

In Roman times, Niš was a powerful military stronghold and became an important economic, military and administrative center under the rule of Constantine the Great. Between the 6th and 10th centuries, Niš was repeatedly attacked and held at various times by the Huns, Avars, Slavs, Bulgarians, and Hungarians. Its most significant cultural and historical attractions include the Mediana, a fourth-century Roman estate, and Niš Fortress, the best-preserved Turkish fortress in the central Balkans.<sup>90</sup>

## Kragujevac

Located on the banks of the Lepenica River in central Serbia, Kragujevac is the Šumadija region's principal city. With over 180,000 residents, it is the fourth-largest city in Serbia. Between 1818 and 1841, Kragujevac was the capital of the Turkish principality of Serbia. It was here that the Serbs first rebelled against Turkish rule and the country's first newspaper was published. By 1851, the city had become the industrial hub of Serbia. On 21 October 1941, in retribution for Serbian resistance attacks during World War II, Nazi forces indiscriminately executed between 2,300 and 5,000 men and boys



*Kragujevac, central Serbia*  
Wikimedia / Mofesty

in the city. Kragujevac Memorial Park commemorates this violent act and 21 October is an annual national holiday.<sup>91, 92</sup>

Industrial and agricultural production—primarily textiles, weapons, machinery, electrical products, and motor vehicles—drives Kragujevac’s economy.<sup>93</sup> Its Zastava automobile factory, the only plant that produces passenger cars in Serbia, opened in 1953. Though the U.S.-imported Yugo of the 1980s is mentioned in lists of the world’s worst cars, Zastava was one of Yugoslavia’s most successful industrial concerns until the wars and trade embargoes of the 1990s crippled production. In 2008, Italian auto manufacturer FIAT purchased a majority position in Zastava for EUR 700 million, the largest foreign investment in Serbia’s history.<sup>94, 95</sup> As of 2017, production at FIAT Serbia, as the factory is now called, accounts for 3% of the country’s economic output and 8% of exports.<sup>96</sup>

## *Subotica*

Situated in northern Vojvodina near the Hungarian border, Subotica is a major city along the rail and road corridor between Belgrade and the Hungarian capital of Budapest. With a population of 100,000, it is Serbia’s fifth-most populous city. Subotica has the highest percentage of Roman Catholics of any Serbian city as well as the largest ethnic Hungarian population.<sup>97, 98</sup> As a result, the Hungarian language maintains a strong presence in Subotica.<sup>99</sup> The city was part of the Habsburg Empire of Austria (later Austria-Hungary) during the 18th and 19th centuries, unlike southern parts of Serbia that remained part of the Ottoman Empire. Toward the end of the 18th century, the city was declared a Free Royal Town by Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, spurring a period of growth that continued until World War I.<sup>100, 101</sup> In the 19th century, nearby Lake Palić—Serbia’s largest natural lake—became a popular resort and spa destination for the European elite.<sup>102</sup>



*Holy Trinity monument, Republic Square, Subotica*  
Wikimedia / Codeic

After the war, the reshaping of international borders cut off Subotica's Hungarian population from central Europe. Many Hungarians migrated out of Serbia, leaving Subotica with a Hungarian-speaking minority of about one-third of the total population.<sup>103</sup> The city became a border town in the new Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (later known as Yugoslavia) and declined in importance.<sup>104</sup>

Subotica today is a market city for the fertile fields of the Bačka region, the area of Vojvodina west of the Tisa River and north of the Danube River. As such, it is the marketing hub for produce, including paprika, a regional specialty. The city's architecture is notable for the number of art nouveau buildings, particularly the city hall and the synagogue, in addition to buildings that predate the Middle Ages.<sup>105, 106</sup> Subotica is also an industrial center, manufacturing plastics and chemicals. The city's educational institutions specialize in law, economics, and advanced vocational fields.<sup>107</sup>

## History

### *Introduction*



*Riverfront, Belgrade*  
Flickr / Tomasz Dunn

Serbia's history is inextricably tied to that of the Balkans, the region it shares with its many neighboring countries. Serbs are part of a larger group of people called South Slavs, a designation that includes Croats, Bosniaks, Montenegrins, Slovenes, Macedonians, and Bulgarians. South Slavs do not necessarily share the same language, religion, or culture, but they have sometimes shared homelands under foreign domination or lived as a unified state, such as Yugoslavia.

Non-Slavic peoples to the north and south—most notably Turks, Albanians, Hungarians, and Austrians—have also played important roles in Serbian and Balkan history.<sup>108</sup>

Traditionally, Serbia has occupied the region south of the Danube and Sava Rivers. Modern Serbia, however, includes Vojvodina, a region north of the Danube and Sava Rivers that was historically part of the Hungarian and later Austro-Hungarian empires. Because of large Serb migrations over the last half millennium, modern Vojvodina has a majority population of ethnic Serbs, although a significant Hungarian population lives in the northernmost regions.<sup>109</sup>

Many Serbs consider Kosovo an essential part of their nation’s history—akin to a Serb holy land. Successive migrations of Serbs from Kosovo left the region with a majority Albanian population, ultimately fueling divisions that resulted in purges and deadly ethnic violence in the late 1990s. Although Kosovo declared its independence in 2008, its status remains disputed by the Serbian government.<sup>110</sup>

### *Early History and the First Serbian State*

In the sixth and seventh centuries, the Southern Slavic culture spread west from the Carpathian Mountains into present Serbia and surrounding regions. The Serbs converted to Christianity sometime in the ninth century.<sup>111</sup> During their early history, continual warfare marked relations between the Serbs and their neighbors, including the Greeks, Bulgarians, and Magyars.<sup>112</sup>



*Nemanjić Dynasty genealogical tree, Gallery of Frescoes, Belgrade wolffchronicles.com*

The first stable Serbian state appeared in the principality of Raška (present-day western Serbia and northern Montenegro) under Stefan I Nemanja, who founded the Nemanjić Dynasty in 1170. At this time, the Balkan Peninsula was part of the Eastern Roman Empire, whose seat of power was Constantinople.<sup>113</sup> Nemanja remained a vassal of the Byzantine emperor and controlled much of the Balkans until 1185. His son and successor, Stefan II Nemanja, further strengthened Serbia’s position by maintaining good relations with Rome yet religious loyalty to Constantinople. In 1217, Pope Honorius III recognized Serbian political independence and gave Stefan Nemanja II the title of “King of Serbia, Dalmatia, and Bosnia.”<sup>114</sup> The writings of Stefan II and his brother Rastko (later canonized as Saint Sava and made the first archbishop of the Serbian

Orthodox Church) were the first works of Serbian literature.<sup>115</sup> Rastko’s canonization gave the Nemanjić Dynasty the sacred right to rule the Serbian land. His contributions to Serbian language and literature furthered the Serb sense of belonging to a common ethnic group. The churches built by the Nemanjić Dynasty through the 14th century preserved the memory of the Serbian state during the centuries of Turkish rule that followed.<sup>116, 117</sup>

## *Dušan “The Mighty” and the Serbian Golden Age*

The Nemanjić Dynasty grew stronger, moving its frontier southward as Constantinople weakened. Under Stefan Dušan (1331-1355) the Nemanjić Dynasty reached its peak, and Serbia dominated the Balkans. His forces penetrated deep into Byzantine territory, eventually incorporating Thessaly, Epirus, Macedonia, all of modern Albania and Montenegro, much of eastern Bosnia, and an area of Serbia as far north as the Danube.<sup>118</sup> Dušan proclaimed himself “Emperor and Autocrat of the Serbs, Greeks, Bulgarians, and Albanians.” He elevated the Serbian Orthodox archbishop of Peć to patriarch, and introduced the *Zakonik*, a new legal code combining Byzantine law with Serbian customs.<sup>119</sup> Dušan is considered the greatest ruler of medieval Serbia. Serbs refer to him as Dušan Silni (Dušan the Mighty) and consider his reign the Serbian Golden Age because it produced masterpieces of religious art that combined Western, Byzantine, and local styles.<sup>120, 121</sup>



*Serbian Emperor Dušan the Mighty*  
Wikimedia / Fresco painter of Lesnovo

## *The Battle of Kosovo and the Collapse of Serbia*

The Great Plague (1347-1351) resulted in massive depopulation, weakening the Christian Byzantine Empire.<sup>122</sup> After Dušan’s death in 1355, the Serbian Empire began to collapse when rivalries between Serbian nobles broke up the state.<sup>123</sup> During this time, the Ottomans (the Turkish Islamic Empire), who followed Islam, inflicted a series of defeats on the declining Byzantine Empire and then began their conquest of the Balkan Peninsula—a process that spanned nearly two centuries.<sup>124, 125</sup>



*Battle of Kosovo (1870), by Adam Stefanović*  
Wikimedia / Adam Stefanović

On 28 June 1389, Prince Lazar Hrebeljanović, the strongest regional ruler in Serbia, led an army that included Serbs, Bosniaks, Albanians, and Hungarians to meet the

Turkish Ottoman forces of Sultan Murad I at Kosovo Polje (“Field of Blackbirds”). After Murad I was killed by a Serbian noble, Murad’s son, Miloš Obilić, surrounded the Serbian Army. Prince Lazar was killed, and the Serbs suffered a bitter defeat.<sup>126</sup>

The Turkish did not immediately occupy Serbia, but this Battle of Kosovo became a legend, a theme of great heroic ballads and Serbian folk literature.<sup>127</sup> Prince Lazar was immortalized as a saint, Obilić as a hero. Serbian leader Vuk Branković, on the other hand, was called a traitor because he withdrew his forces when defeat became inevitable (though some historians dispute Branković’s exact role in the defeat).<sup>128</sup> Even today, the battle remains part of the Serbian national consciousness. The anniversary of the battle, 28 June, is a national holiday—Vidovdan (St. Vitus Day).<sup>129, 130</sup>

### *The First Migration*

Constantinople, once the heart of the Byzantine Empire, became the capital of the Ottoman Empire in 1453. Six years later, Serbian resistance to Ottoman rule ended with the fall of the last Serbian stronghold, the capital at Smederevo. With that, the Turks gained control over all Serbian territory. In the period following the Battle of Kosovo and the fall of Smederevo, Serbs migrated from present-day northern Kosovo and southern Serbia into other Balkan areas, including present-day Vojvodina, Bosnia, Montenegro, and Croatia. At this time, Vojvodina was a territory of the Kingdom of Hungary. By 1552, the Ottoman Empire had moved farther north, taking control of Vojvodina.<sup>131</sup>



Smederevo Fortress  
Wikimedia / Duja

Although some Serbs formed outlaw resistance groups (*hajduci*), the Serbs remained subjects of the Ottoman sultans for the next three centuries. The long period of Ottoman rule in the Balkans—nearly 500 years in all—is called the “Turkish Night” by many Serb historians. Trade was restricted, and all land was owned by the Sultan.<sup>132, 133</sup> There was, however, little forced conversion to Islam. Five religious millets, self-directed and self-governing non-Muslim communities, were recognized throughout the Ottoman-controlled Balkans. Most Balkan Christians were Orthodox members of the millet headed by the Greek patriarch in Constantinople, which had fallen to the Ottoman armies in 1453.<sup>134</sup>

## The Great Migration of 1691

The resistance of the *hajduci* and other guerrilla bands to Ottoman authority continued. One of the most significant revolts took place in 1690 when the Holy League (Austria, Poland, and Venice) incited the Serbs to support an Austrian invasion of neighboring Ottoman-controlled areas (the Great War, 1683-1690). The Austrian armies retreated across the Sava River, leaving the Serbs exposed to retaliation from the Turks.<sup>135</sup>



*Migration of the Serbs (Seoba Srba), by Paja Jovanović*  
Wikimedia / Paja Jovanović (1859-1957)

The Austrians invited their recent allies to settle in the north as frontier guards. In return, the Serbs were granted religious freedom and the right to elect their own *vojvoda*, or military governor. The ensuing 30,000-40,000 migrants from Kosovo ("Old Serbia") and southern Bosnia crossed the Danube and settled in the region later known as Vojvodina.<sup>136</sup> It was the first time Orthodox Serbs became part of Croatian and Hungarian territories. They founded new monasteries that became

cultural hubs. Called the Great Migration of 1691, it marked a gradual conversion of western Kosovo (Kosovo-Metohija) into a predominantly Albanian region. Albanians filled the void left by the Serbs.<sup>137</sup>

## Serbian National Consciousness and Formal Independence



*Vuk Stefanović Karadžić, by Joseph Kriehuber*  
Wikimedia / Sammlung und Foto Peter Geymayer

By the early 19th century, the Austro-Hungarian Empire and a fading Ottoman Empire ruled all of what later became Yugoslavia (except Montenegro). Declining Ottoman power left the Serbian area unstable. The first few decades were marked by violent struggles for Serb independence from Ottoman rule. As the century progressed, Serbia became increasingly autonomous, experienced economic growth, saw the beginnings of industrial development, and an elite class emerged.<sup>138</sup>

During this time, the Serbian scholar Vuk Stefanović Karadžić began to craft a modern, written Serbian language based on the spoken dialect, thus distancing it from Old Church Slavonic, the literary standard. He

revised the Cyrillic alphabet for Serbian use, compiled a grammar book and dictionary, and collected Serbian folk songs and poetry. Neither the church nor the state officially supported his work.<sup>139</sup> But he and Dositej Obradović, who spread Enlightenment to the Serbs, advanced Serbian culture and solidified a national identity.<sup>140</sup>

After an insurrection in Bosnia in 1875, Serbia and Montenegro fought against Turkey in support of the Bosnian rebels. When Russia joined the conflict in 1878, the Turks were defeated. Subsequently, the Treaty of Berlin granted Serbia formal independence and awarded additional territory to Serbia and to Montenegro. This marked the final collapse of the Ottoman Empire after three centuries of rule.<sup>141</sup>

In 1903, a member of the Serbian royal family, Petar Karađorđević, returned from 45 years of exile to take the throne. During the next 10-plus years, King Petar I advanced constitutional, economic, and educational reforms.<sup>142</sup> In foreign affairs, he aligned Serbia more closely to Russia than Austria-Hungary.<sup>143</sup>

### *The Balkan Wars and the Formation of Yugoslavia*

As the Ottoman Empire declined, Austria-Hungary, Serbia, and other powers vied for control of the empire's remaining Balkan lands. In 1908, Austria-Hungary formally annexed Bosnia, prompting the Serbs to join with Montenegro, Bulgaria, and Greece to divide the spoils of the Ottoman lands in Europe.<sup>144</sup> After the Balkan Wars of 1912-1913, Serbia gained Kosovo and northern and central Macedonia, and divided the Sandžak (a geographical region in southwestern Serbia and Montenegro) with Montenegro.<sup>145</sup>



Map of historical Sandžak region  
Wikimedia / Jrmcarth

When Austria-Hungary collapsed in 1918, Vojvodina and Montenegro united with Serbia, which had become the dominant power in the region. Former South Slavs of the Austro-Hungarian Empire requested the protection of the Serbian crown within the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. It was renamed Yugoslavia (Land of the South Slavs) in 1929.<sup>146</sup>

## *The Tito Era*

During World War II, a communist partisan group headed by Josip Broz Tito resisted German and Italian occupation and the division of Yugoslavia. The Germans responded with reprisal killings, leading to a massive loss of life, mostly among the Serbs of Bosnia and Croatia. With Soviet and Anglo-American help, all of Yugoslavia was liberated by 1944.<sup>147</sup>

On 29 November 1945, Yugoslavia became a socialist federation under the leadership of Prime Minister Tito and the Communist Party of Yugoslavia. It consisted of 6 republics: Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, Slovenia, Macedonia, and Montenegro. It also included two autonomous Serbian provinces: Vojvodina and Kosovo.<sup>148</sup>

Political life in Yugoslavia was dominated by Serbian communists for the next 40 years. During this time, Serbia evolved from an agrarian society into an industrial one. Under Tito's leadership, Yugoslav communists pursued socialist reforms and maintained close ties with the USSR until 1948. After the split, Tito established a foreign policy of nonalignment and a one-party political system. Given the cultural and religious diversity of the Balkans, historians argue that the integrity and modernization of Yugoslavia in the decades following World War II was the result of Tito's unique, dominating personality.<sup>149</sup> In 1974, a new constitution gave Kosovo and Vojvodina greater independence.<sup>150</sup> The office of the Yugoslav presidency—a collective headed by Tito—was reduced to eight members: one representative from each Yugoslav republic and autonomous province.<sup>151</sup>



*Marshal Tito (far right) with other Yugoslav partisans, 1944*  
Wikimedia / Imperial War Museum 4700-39

## *Milošević's Greater Serbia*

After Tito's death in 1980, Yugoslavia's economy began to fail, and the communist parties divided according to long-standing ethnic differences. This created stronger feelings of nationalism among ethnic groups, eventually leading to wars of independence. In particular, the ethnic conflict in Kosovo between Serbs and the Albanian majority (50% of the population) surfaced. In 1981, Kosovo Albanians demonstrated in favor of Albanian sovereignty. The uprisings were put down with force, followed by measures designed to discourage future protests.<sup>152, 153</sup>



President Slobodan Milošević, 1996  
Wikimedia / SSGT Lance Cheung, USAF

In the late 1980s, Slobodan Milošević, a former business official, quickly rose to power in Serbia. A member of the League of Communists of Serbia and an ultranationalist, he reignited desire among Balkan Serbs for a “Greater Serbia,” a movement banned during the Tito era. This movement pushed for the creation of a Serb state that would incorporate all regions of significance to Serbs, including regions outside Serbia with Serb populations.<sup>154</sup>

Milošević resisted political and economic reforms implemented by the other republics and the Yugoslav federal government. He also opposed the independence movement advocated by other Yugoslav republics; leading members of the federal Yugoslav Army agreed with Milošević’s opposition policy.<sup>155</sup> In 1989, shortly after becoming president of Serbia, he successfully used tensions in Vojvodina and Kosovo to enact constitutional changes that stripped the provinces of most of their autonomous powers.<sup>156, 157</sup> In response, Albanians in Kosovo called for separation from Yugoslavia.<sup>158</sup>

### *Resistance in Kosovo*

Milošević’s government took control of the Kosovo provincial government, dissolved the Kosovo Assembly, and closed Kosovo schools teaching in Albanian. These and other austere measures imposed on the Kosovo Albanian populace resulted in protests and nonviolent resistance. In February 1990, Yugoslavia sent troops, tanks, warplanes, and



Mural of Ibrahim Rugova, Pristina, Kosovo  
Wikimedia / Adam Jones, Ph.D.

2,000 additional police to Kosovo. Despite the Yugoslavian forces in the area, Kosovo Albanians created political, economic, and social institutions of their own. In May 1992, they held a secret election in which popular Albanian nationalist Ibrahim Rugova was elected president of the “Republic of Kosovo”; the elections and the Republic of Kosovo, however, were not recognized by the Serbians or any foreign government.<sup>159, 160, 161</sup>

The conflict in Kosovo was just one of several secessionist conflicts that spread across Yugoslavia beginning in the early 1990s. Public dissatisfaction with the political system in Yugoslavia, coupled with the manipulation of nationalist feelings by politicians, split each republic along ethnic and religious lines—Serb (Orthodox Christian), Croat (Roman Catholic), Bosniak (Muslim).<sup>162, 163</sup> While neither Slovenia nor Macedonia had significant numbers of Serbs, the situation was different in Croatia and in Bosnia, where Serbs constituted 12% and 31% of the population, respectively.<sup>164</sup>

On 25 June 1991, Slovenia and Croatia declared their independence and Macedonia did the same after a referendum in September 1991.<sup>165</sup> Bosnia voted for independence in early 1992 in a referendum boycotted mainly by the region's Serb population.<sup>166, 167</sup> The collective Yugoslav presidency dissolved, and the command of the Yugoslav People's Army came under Serbia.<sup>168</sup>

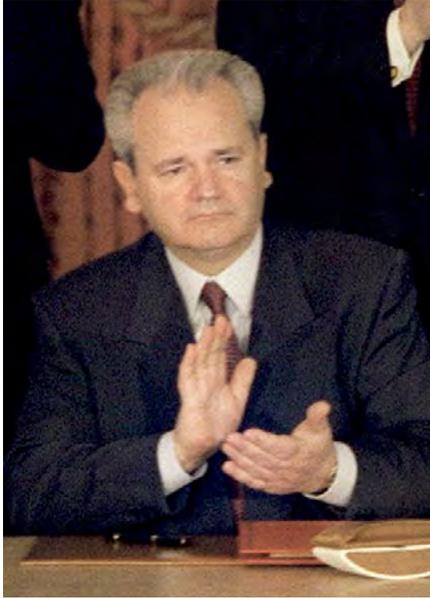
### *War in Bosnia*

On 27 April 1992 in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro joined in passing the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), creating a country only a fraction of its original size.<sup>169</sup> The new state was not internationally recognized because of its continued military involvement in other republics of the former Yugoslavia. This military involvement included ethnic cleansing in Bosnia by Serbian paramilitary troops to establish control of areas with mixed populations; this created a flood of refugees.<sup>170, 171, 172</sup>

Some of the worst fighting took place in Bosnia. There, with the assistance of the Yugoslav Army and Serbia, Bosnian Serb militias gained control of several regions that were consolidated in March 1992 into the Serbian Republic of Bosnia.<sup>173, 174</sup> In April 1992, Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, was besieged by Serb forces and became a worldwide symbol of the brutality of the Yugoslav wars.<sup>175, 176</sup> Almost immediately, the United Nations (UN) Security Council imposed strict economic sanctions that quickly led to economic decline in FRY. Despite the economic hardships, Milošević and his Socialist Party of Serbia managed to win the December 1992 presidential elections.<sup>177, 178</sup>



*Areas controlled by Serb forces (blue), 1992-1995  
Wikimedia / Mladifilozof*



*Slobodan Milošević, after signing the Dayton Peace Accord* Wikimedia / NATO

The conflict continued through most of 1995 and many atrocities were committed, including acts of genocide by Bosnian Serbs in Srebrenica, a UN-protected safe zone.<sup>179, 180</sup> Following the systematic killing of over 7,000 Bosniaks there in July 1995, NATO began a month-long air campaign against Serb forces in Bosnia.<sup>181, 182</sup> The bombing and the collapse of Bosnian Serb resistance brought them to the bargaining table.<sup>183</sup> In December 1995 in Dayton, Ohio, Bosnian Serbs accepted a series of agreements with the backing of Milošević. The Dayton Peace Accord established two largely autonomous political entities: the ethnically Serb-dominated Republic of Srpska (49% of the Bosnia territory) and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (51%). The agreement ended hostilities in Bosnia.<sup>184</sup> Milošević's

support of the Dayton Peace Accord resulted in economic sanctions being lifted in FRY.<sup>185</sup> Between 1992 and the signing of the peace accord, more than 100,000 people were killed and two million people, more than half the population of Bosnia, were forced to flee their homes.<sup>186</sup>

### *Conflict in Kosovo*



*Pontoon ferry replaces NATO-bombed bridges, Novi Sad, 1999* Wikimedia / Darko Dozet

The conflict between ethnic Serbs and ethnic Albanians was not discussed at the Dayton Peace talks, leaving it unresolved. In 1996, the pro-independence Kosovo Liberation Army, supported by many ethnic Albanians, began isolated attacks on Serbian police in Kosovo.<sup>187</sup> Meanwhile, Serbian special police continued their policy of creating a depopulated zone in western Kosovo, separating the Kosovo Albanian population from Albania. More than 300,000 Kosovo Albanians were displaced by late 1998.<sup>188, 189, 190</sup>

Ongoing tensions between ethnic Serbs and ethnic Albanians worsened, escalating into a full-scale war in 1999.<sup>191, 192</sup> Amid evidence of torture, forced expulsions, and other war crimes by Serbian and Yugoslav forces, abuses by the Kosovo Liberation

Army, and Milošević's rejection of international peace overtures, NATO intervened, heavily bombing targets in Kosovo and Serbia.<sup>193, 194, 195</sup> According to a U.S. Agency for International Development estimate, by May 1999 over 850,000 Kosovo Albanians were living as refugees in Albania, Macedonia, or Montenegro.<sup>196</sup> As many as 10,000 people, mainly ethnic Albanians, were killed.<sup>197</sup> Although Montenegro was a partner with Serbia in what remained of Yugoslavia, Montenegrin leaders distanced themselves from Serbia's approach to the problems in Kosovo.<sup>198</sup>

The Kumanovo Agreement on 10 June 1999 ended the Kosovo War.<sup>199</sup> Serbian and Yugoslav governments agreed to transfer military and governmental administration of Kosovo to the UN while Kosovo's political status remained, for the time being, as a part of Serbia and Yugoslavia.<sup>200</sup> Hundreds of thousands of displaced Kosovo Albanians soon began returning to the region, while all but about 120,000 Kosovo Serbs left.<sup>201</sup>

### *Milošević's Ouster*

Saddled with renewed trade sanctions imposed by the UN, EU, and the United States during the Kosovo War, the Serbian economy faltered.<sup>202</sup> Reflecting general dissatisfaction with the Milošević government, in September 2000 Serbians voted center-right democrat Vojislav Koštunica into the presidential office.<sup>203</sup> Initially refusing to leave office, Milošević was forced to step down a month later by popular uprisings around the country.<sup>204</sup> After a power-sharing agreement with Milošević's Socialist Party of Serbia, Koštunica formed a new government in 2001.<sup>205, 206</sup>



Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica, Sec. of State Condoleezza Rice, 2006  
Wikimedia / U.S. State Department photo

Within the year, Prime Minister Zoran Đinđić orchestrated Milošević's arrest for abuse of power and later transferred him to The Hague to be tried for war crimes alongside Bosnian Serb leaders Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadžić.<sup>207, 208</sup> Milošević was charged with genocide in Bosnia and ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. In March 2006, he died of a heart attack before the end of his trial. Karadžić and Mladic were found guilty of genocide in 2016 and 2017, respectively.<sup>209, 210</sup> In 2001, Yugoslavia's suspension from the UN was lifted, and it was once more accepted into UN organizations as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The United States and the EU then lifted economic sanctions and offered aid.<sup>211, 212</sup>

## The Republic of Serbia



Map of Serbia c. 2002-2006  
Wikimedia / PANONIAN

United States. Kosovo and Serbia continue to work toward reconciliation through talks facilitated by the EU.<sup>217, 218</sup>

In 2003, FRY became the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, a loose federation of the two republics.<sup>213</sup> In the meantime, violence targeting ethnic Serbs in Kosovo in March 2004 renewed efforts to address the status of Kosovo.<sup>214</sup> In 2006, Montenegro formally severed political ties with Serbia, in what was one of the least contentious breakups among the former Yugoslavian states. Serbia quickly recognized Montenegro's newly independent status and formally changed its name to the Republic of Serbia.<sup>215</sup>

In 2008, after two years of failed negotiations between Serbia and Kosovo, the latter declared itself independent of Serbia. While Serbia initially rejected Kosovo's independence, the two countries reached a series of agreements between 2013 and 2015.<sup>216</sup> As of 2018, Kosovo's independence was recognized by 111 UN member states, including the

## Current Events



President Aleksandar Vučić in 2012 (then Defense Minister) Wikimedia / Leon E. Panetta

Aleksandar Vučić, who served two terms as prime minister of Serbia (2014-2016 and 2016-2017), was elected president in 2017. Once an ultranationalist who served as Milošević's minister of information, President Vučić has been an advocate for Serbia's membership to the EU since 2014.<sup>219</sup> It was the promise of potential EU membership that propelled Vučić's party—the center-right Serbian Progressive Party—to gain the majority in the National Assembly (Serbia's parliament) in 2012. At that time, almost 70% of voters wanted to join the EU. On becoming prime minister in 2014, Vučić began making changes aimed at meeting EU membership requirements. These included reducing Serbia's debt and budget deficit by cutting public sector wages and pensions,

instituting budgets reforms, privatizing state-owned companies, and expanding the private sector. In June 2017, a month after Vučić took office as president, the National Assembly elected Ana Brnabić as Serbia’s first female prime minister.<sup>220, 221</sup>

Vučić is widely perceived as a stabilizing force in a historically volatile region.<sup>222</sup> He has promoted normalizing relations between Serbia and Kosovo, worked toward calming tensions in neighboring Bosnia, and has succeeded in reducing Serbia’s unemployment and debt.<sup>223</sup> Still, international observers and liberals in Serbia raise concerns over Vučić’s near-complete control over the country’s institutions, which could undermine democracy.<sup>224, 225</sup>

## Government

The Republic of Serbia is a parliamentary democracy, with three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judiciary. The functions of the government are defined in the Constitution of Serbia, which was adopted in 2006 after the Montenegro Independence Referendum.<sup>226, 227</sup> The prime minister of Serbia is head of the government and as such sets the agenda for parliament and proposes cabinet ministers to the parliament for approval. The president of Serbia, who is elected by popular vote, represents the country in international contexts. The president also recommends the candidate for prime minister and parliament has the final approval. The president holds office for a maximum of two 5-year terms. The highest court in Serbia is the Supreme Court of Cassation, which is the constitutional court and national court of appeals.<sup>228, 229</sup>



*Serbian National Assembly building, Belgrade  
Flickr / Filip Maljković*

Serbia’s National Assembly (Narodna Skupština) consists of 250 members directly elected by the public. The National Assembly has the authority to enact laws, approve budgets and cabinet nominees, and select or dismiss the prime minister and other ministers. It has the power to declare war and ratify international treaties. Members of the National Assembly are elected for a 4-year term with no term limits.<sup>230</sup> Currently, President Vučić’s party—the Serbian Progressive Party—dominates the National Assembly with 90 of the 200 seats.<sup>231, 232</sup>

## Media

Television is the main source of news and information in Serbia. There are 6 television stations and more than 90 channels.<sup>233</sup> Internet use is unrestricted, and as of 2016, there were 4.8 million internet users in Serbia. Facebook and Instagram are popular social media outlets.<sup>234, 235</sup>

Since 2015, the number of Russian media outlets in Serbia has grown. Moscow's two main news networks, Sputnik and RT, now offer television programming, online news, and radio broadcasts in Serbian. In addition, news is provided via Russian "Beyond the Headlines" supplements scattered throughout Serbian media.<sup>236</sup>



*Media at Wiki Loves Earth contest, Belgrade  
Flickr / Nebojša Ratković*

Reporters without Borders ranked Serbia 76th out of 180 countries in its 2018 World Press Freedom Index, ahead of most countries in the region.<sup>237</sup> But the independence and diversity of mass media have declined since 2014.<sup>238</sup> Journalists claim that advertising revenue is withheld from outlets that run reports that are critical of the government. In addition, some reporters claim they have been threatened or intimidated.<sup>239, 240, 241</sup>

## Economy

For most of the region's history, Serbia's economy was primarily agricultural.<sup>242</sup> Large-scale industrialization began only after World War II—much later than in the United States or western Europe.<sup>243</sup> It continued until the tumultuous breakup, or "Balkanization," of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, when the industrial sector was badly weakened.<sup>244</sup> The economy suffered further from UN economic sanctions (1992-1995) and NATO airstrikes (1999), which damaged cities and crippled national infrastructure.<sup>245, 246, 247</sup>



*Donja Vrbava, central Serbia  
Wikimedia / Grozni Laki*



Factory, Straževica, Belgrade  
Wikimedia / Sima90

After 2000, economic changes resumed, particularly after the government instituted market reforms in preparation for joining the EU.<sup>248</sup> It joined the World Bank and successfully restructured or canceled much of its debt.<sup>249, 250</sup> It also liberalized its trade policies and began privatizing business enterprises. Since becoming an independent nation, some economic challenges persist. Income inequality is pronounced; nearly one in four Serbians work for state-owned businesses or in government, and many are at risk of poverty and social exclusion.<sup>251</sup> Unemployment, which has improved in recent years, remains relatively high (14% in 2017).<sup>252, 253, 254</sup> Business competition is hindered by Serbia's widespread black market activity.<sup>255</sup> According to Serbia's 2015 Labor Force Survey, 20% of the country's labor force was working in the "shadow" economy.<sup>256, 257</sup>



Coal-fired Kolubara power plant, Belgrade  
Flickr / Bankwatch

Serbia continues to import more than it exports.<sup>258</sup> The EU is its biggest trade partner, accounting for over half of Serbia's foreign trade, followed by Russia.<sup>259</sup> Iron, steel, and copper products are Serbia's leading exports; FIAT is the biggest individual exporter.<sup>260</sup> Because fossil fuels are limited in the country, energy resources (mostly oil and natural gas) are among Serbia's largest imports. Most crude oil enters Serbia through a pipeline from a Croatian port on the Adriatic Sea. Natural gas, imported mostly from Russia, supplies most of Serbia's energy needs.<sup>261</sup>

Serbia's economy has proven resilient. In 2017 it grew by 3.5%, a significant increase over previous years. Industrial growth is widespread, but strongest in construction, manufacturing, and agriculture.<sup>262</sup> Serbia continues to implement economic reforms as part of the process toward EU membership. According to the World Economic Forum, the Serbian economy will continue to grow and is expected to become the economic "tiger" of southeastern Europe.<sup>263</sup>

## Ethnic Groups

With the split of Serbia and Montenegro into separate countries, as well as the independence of Kosovo, Serbia has become more ethnically homogeneous.<sup>264, 265</sup> The primary ethnic communities in Serbia are the Serbs, Hungarians, Roma, and Bosniaks.<sup>266, 267</sup>

### Serb

Serbs are a Slavic ethnic group and the majority population in most parts of Serbia today (83.3%). Early references to Serbs date back to the sixth century CE during Slavic migrations from northeastern Europe. By the seventh century, the Serbs were settled south of the Carpathian Mountains in the Balkan Peninsula. Initially dispersed through a large area, they lived in tribes and clans dominated by *župans* (nobles) in the empires of foreign rulers. Early on, Serb contact with the eastern Byzantine Empire around the ninth century led to their conversion from a pagan belief system to Christianity.<sup>268</sup>



*Gathering of friends and family, Novi Sad*  
Flickr / lucianf

The earliest Serb writings come from the Raška Principality, around the ancient town of Ras (present-day Novi Pazar).<sup>269, 270, 271</sup> The Nemanjić Dynasty and the founding of the Serbian Orthodox Church by Saint Sava were crucial in forging a unified Serbian identity.<sup>272</sup> These political and religious institutions, along with Serbian folklore in the form of epic poetry, formed the core of Serbian historical consciousness.<sup>273, 274</sup>

### Hungarian

Hungarians are the second-largest ethnic group in Serbia (3.5%). They were culturally influenced by the Austrians (with whom they held joint power in the Austro-Hungarian Empire) and the Turks (who occupied their territory for long periods).<sup>275, 276</sup> Hungary and Serbia also share a long history, particularly in Vojvodina, the area of modern-day Serbia that was part of the Kingdom of Hungary for a large part of the second millennium CE. Today, ethnic Hungarians constitute a significant minority in Vojvodina, especially in its northern part where 57% of ethnic Hungarians in Serbia live.<sup>277, 278</sup> Serbia's only Magyar-language daily newspaper, *Magyar Szó*, is published in Subotica. Hungarians in

Serbia maintain strong ties to Hungary and it is not uncommon for young Hungarians to leave Vojvodina to pursue higher education or look for employment in Budapest.<sup>279</sup> Catholicism is the predominant religion of the Hungarian people.<sup>280</sup>

## *Bosniak*

The Bosnian people are descended from the Slavic peoples of Bosnia. During the Ottoman-Turkish occupation of the Balkans (between the 15th and 19th centuries), large numbers of Bosniaks converted to Islam to avoid religious persecution. Today, most of their descendants are Sunni Muslim and represent 2% of Serbia's population.<sup>281</sup>

"Bosnian" refers to any inhabitants or citizens of Bosnia (regardless of ethnic origin or religious affiliation), but almost all Bosnian Muslims identify as "Bosniak." This term refers to both ethnicity and religious affiliation. Since 1993, Bosniak has become the official name for "Slav Muslims."<sup>282</sup> For centuries, Bosniaks have lived closely among Serbs and Croats, who practice Orthodox Christianity and Roman Catholicism, respectively.<sup>283</sup>

While Bosniaks live throughout Serbia, many are concentrated in western Serbia and in the Raška area in the southwest of the country.<sup>284</sup> Here they represent the majority population. In the region's main city, Novi Pazar, three-quarters of the population are Bosniak.<sup>285, 286</sup> Raška is part of a broader historical region known as Sandžak, half of which lies in Montenegro.<sup>287, 288</sup>



*Sisters in a Novi Pazar market  
Flickr / Franco Pecchio*

Although Raška was spared the worst of the conflicts during the Balkan wars, ethnic and political tensions between Serb and Bosniak communities exist. Cultural differences and practices include Bosniak women wearing the hijab (head covering).<sup>289, 290, 291</sup> Bosniaks see themselves as underrepresented in state institutions, such as the police.<sup>292</sup> Raška's economy is underdeveloped and unemployment is high. Some leading Bosniaks have called for political autonomy for the entire Sandžak region, others for better integration and equality with Serbs.<sup>293, 294, 295</sup>

## Roma

The Roma are a historically nomadic people who migrated from northern India and arrived in the Balkans in the 13th century. They are a diverse community spread throughout the country; the Roma may be Orthodox or Muslim and speak the language of the local population in addition to Serbian and Romani.<sup>296</sup> During the Kosovo conflict, as many as 100,000 Roma fled to Serbia because they were seen by some Kosovo Albanians as Serb allies.<sup>297, 298, 299</sup> Official figures put the current Serbian Roma population at 149,000 (2.1%), making them the third-largest ethnic group in Serbia, however, estimates suggest that there are at least 500,000 Roma living in the country.<sup>300</sup>

Throughout their history in the European continent, Roma have faced social stigma.<sup>301</sup> Traditionally, they were livestock traders, metalsmiths, fortune-tellers, and musicians who would travel in family units from town to town (gypsies). Many have since adopted a settled lifestyle, but remain socially isolated.<sup>302</sup> In Serbia, they face difficult living conditions; unemployment among Roma is high, and discrimination in access to employment, health care, and adequate housing are also concerns.<sup>303, 304</sup> Most Roma live in informal settlements, often without running water or electricity.<sup>305, 306, 307</sup> Additionally, 6% of Roma do not have national identity cards, effectively barring their access to social assistance. In recent years, the Serbian government has enacted laws to address the causes of Roma statelessness and the number of those unaccounted for has fallen by half since 2010.<sup>308, 309</sup>



Roma in Bujanovac, southern Serbia  
Wikimedia / Hedman

## Other Ethnic Groups

Vojvodina is somewhat more ethnically diverse than central Serbia, with ethnic minorities making up 45% of the population. Hungarians are the largest minority ethnic group (14.3%), followed by Slovaks (2.8%), Croats (2.8%), and Montenegrins (1.75%). Romanians and Vlachs—groups who speak the same language and are self-identified as equivalent by some, but not all—are the majority in some of the eastern towns of Vojvodina and central Serbia, respectively.<sup>310, 311</sup>

Regardless of the many population shifts over the past centuries, Serbs and Albanians have coexisted in the border area between independent Kosovo and modern Serbia.<sup>312, 313</sup> Here, Albanians are the majority population in Preševo and Bujanovac. Census figures, which indicate there were 61,467 Albanians in Serbia, are outdated because Albanians boycotted the 2011 census.<sup>314</sup>

## Languages

There is a continuum of dialects spoken in the Balkans that do not align neatly within country borders. Where in other parts of the world ethnicity is associated with an individual’s first language, in much of the Balkans the situation is more fluid. Similar to the historical tensions involved in defining national borders, defining national languages in the region has been a topic of heated debate and political maneuvering.<sup>315</sup> From the mid-19th century through the early 21st century, the primary language of today’s Serbia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Croatia, and Montenegro was defined as Serbo-Croatian.<sup>316</sup> It served as the official language of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and later Yugoslavia.<sup>317</sup>

А а	Б б	В в	Г г	Д д	Ђ ђ	Е е	Ж ж	З з	И и
<i>А а</i>	<i>Б б</i>	<i>В в</i>	<i>Г г</i>	<i>Д д</i>	<i>Ђ ђ</i>	<i>Е е</i>	<i>Ж ж</i>	<i>З з</i>	<i>И и</i>
a	be	ve	ge	de	đe	e	že	ze	i
[a]	[b]	[v]	[g]	[d]	[dʒ]	[e]	[ʒ]	[z]	[i]
Ј ј	К к	Л л	Љ љ	М м	Н н	Њ њ	О о	П п	Р р
<i>Ј ј</i>	<i>К к</i>	<i>Л л</i>	<i>Љ љ</i>	<i>М м</i>	<i>Н н</i>	<i>Њ њ</i>	<i>О о</i>	<i>П п</i>	<i>Р р</i>
je	ka	le	lje	me	ne	nje	o	pe	re
[j]	[k]	[l]	[lʲ]	[m]	[n]	[nj]	[o]	[p]	[r]
С с	Т т	Ђ ђ	У у	Ф ф	Х х	Ц ц	Ч ч	Џ џ	Ш ш
<i>С с</i>	<i>Т т</i>	<i>Ђ ђ</i>	<i>У у</i>	<i>Ф ф</i>	<i>Х х</i>	<i>Ц ц</i>	<i>Ч ч</i>	<i>Џ џ</i>	<i>Ш ш</i>
se	te	đe	u	fe	ha	ce	če	če	ša
[s]	[t]	[dʒ]	[u]	[f]	[x]	[t͡s]	[t͡ʃ]	[t͡ʃ]	[ʃ]

*Serbian Cyrillic alphabet, printed and cursive styles and pronunciation Omniglot / Simon Ager*

Of the many dialects spoken in these countries, Štokavian, the most widespread, is the basis for the Serbian language. The national languages in Bosnia, Croatia, and Montenegro are also based on Štokavian; the differences are subtle (pronunciation and loanwords).<sup>318</sup> As such, Serbians, Bosnians, Croats, and Montenegrins can communicate with each other with relative ease.<sup>319, 320, 321</sup>

Serbian is the Eastern variant of Štokavian, and most Serbs in Serbia use it as their language standard. Ekavian was originally only spoken in Vojvodina, but it spread through Serbia over the centuries to become the most common dialect. There are other regional dialects used in Serbia, some with greater dissimilarity.<sup>322</sup> As a result, a person from Belgrade, for example, may have difficulty understanding someone from Niš or Vranje if they are not speaking “standard” Serbian. The difficulty becomes greater with regional dialects from other former Yugoslav countries.<sup>323, 324</sup>

The official Serbian writing system is the Cyrillic alphabet. In general, the Latin alphabet is used by Croatians and Bosnians, whereas Serbs and Montenegrins use modified Cyrillic. The Cyrillic script was created by Eastern Orthodox monks during the 7th and 11th centuries BCE, becoming the lingua franca of the Balkans and Eastern Europe.<sup>325</sup> With the influence of Western culture, Serbs increasingly used a modified Latin script (there are four more letters than in the English alphabet), particularly in northern Serbia. Many newspapers, magazines, billboards, and menus are written in the Latin alphabet. Street signs in Belgrade and Novi Sad use Cyrillic and Latin scripts.<sup>326, 327</sup>

There are several non-Slavic languages spoken in Serbia. The Hungarian population's language, Magyar, is part of the Finno-Ugric branch of the Uralic language family and unrelated to Serbian.<sup>328</sup> Albanians speak Albanian, an Indo-European language believed to be the only surviving language descended from ancient Illyrian; Albanians use Latin script.<sup>329, 330</sup> Roma speak Serbian and Romani (related to languages spoken in northern India), including a mixed language referred to as Serbian-Romani.<sup>331, 332</sup>

A a	Á á	B b	C c	Cs cs	D d	E e	É é
a	á	bé	cé	cse	dé	e	é
[ɒ]	[aː]	[b]	[ts]	[ʃ]	[d]	[e]	[eː]
F f	G g	Gy gy	H h	I i	Í í	J j	K k
ef	gé	gyé	há	i	i	jé	ká
[f]	[g]	[j]	[h]	[i]	[iː]	[j]	[k]
L l	Ly ly	M m	N n	Ny ny	O o	Ó ó	Ö ö
el	elipsion	em	en	eny	o	ó	ö
[l]	[lj]	[m]	[n]	[ɲ]	[o]	[oː]	[ø]
Ő ő	P p	R r	S s	Sz sz	T t	Ty ty	U u
ő	pé	er	es	esz	té	tyé	u
[øː]	[p]	[r]	[s]	[s]	[t]	[tʃ]	[u]
Ú ú	Ü ü	Ű ű	V v	Z z	Zs zs		
ú	ü	ű	vé	zé	zsé		
[uː]	[y]	[yː]	[v]	[z]	[z]		

*Hungarian alphabet (magyar ábécé) and pronunciation*  
Omniglot / Simon Ager

## Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

- 1 Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Fact Sheet: U.S-Serbian Relations," 10 October 2017, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5388.htm>.
- 2 Nicholas Wood, "Montenegro Votes to Secede from Serbia," *New York Times*, 21 May 2006, <https://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/21/world/europe/21iht-montenegro.html?mtrref=www.google.com&qwh=80AE51D4F89E26C20FED9562B6289B63&gwt=pay>.
- 3 Darko Janjevic, "The Balkans: From Yugoslav Wars to an Ever-Tense Peace," *Deutsche Welle*, 4 June 2017, <https://p.dw.com/p/2dGIC>.
- 4 Central Intelligence Agency, "Serbia: People and Society," in *The World Factbook*, updated 8 June 2018, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ri.html>.
- 5 Tim Judah, "Chapter 2: An Empire on Earth: The Holy Roots," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 651, 657-680, Kindle.
- 6 Associated Press, "Yugoslav Leader Admits the Serbs' Role in Fomenting War," *New York Times*, 25 October 2000, <https://www.nytimes.com/2000/10/25/world/yugoslav-leader-admits-the-serbs-role-in-fomenting-war.html>.
- 7 Stephen Castle, "Serbia is Candidate for European Union," *New York Times*, 1 March 2012, <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/02/world/europe/serbia-is-candidate-for-european-union.html>.
- 8 Strafor Worldview, "Russia Stirs the Hornet's Nest," 28 March 2017, <https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/russia-stirs-hornets-nest>.
- 9 Daniel Serwer and Siniša Vuković, "This Is What It Looks like When Russia Really Wants to Mess with Your Election," *Foreign Policy*, 8 November 2016, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2016/11/08/this-is-what-it-looks-like-when-russia-really-wants-to-mess-with-your-election/>.
- 10 J. Cushman Laurent and Thomas Melady, "The Seven States of the Former Yugoslavia: An Evaluation," *Institute of World Politics*, Fall 2011, [https://www.iwp.edu/news\\_publications/detail/the-seven-states-of-the-former-yugoslavia-an-evaluation](https://www.iwp.edu/news_publications/detail/the-seven-states-of-the-former-yugoslavia-an-evaluation).
- 11 United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe, "Environmental Performance Reviews: Republic of Serbia: Second Review" (Committee on Environmental Policy, United Nations Publications, 2007), 7.
- 12 Mladen Klemenčić and Clive Schofield, "Boundary and Territory Briefing," *War and Peace on the Danube: The Evolution of the Croatia-Serbia Boundary* 3, no. 3 (Durham, UK: International Boundaries Research Unit, 2001), 15-16, <https://www.dur.ac.uk/ibru/publications/download/?id=218>.
- 13 John K. Cox, "Serbia Today: Geography and Economy," in *The History of Serbia* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2002), 6.
- 14 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: Land," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia#ref92888>.
- 15 U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Serbia: Record Wheat and Near-Record Corn Production," 30 November 2016, <https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/highlights/2016/11/Serbia/Index.htm>.
- 16 John B. Allcock, "Vojvodina," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 13 January 2016, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Vojvodina>.
- 17 Ivan Nonković, Ana Luković, and Petar Mitrović, "Oil and Gas Regulation in Serbia: Overview," Thomson Reuters Practical Law, law stated as of 1 February 2013, [https://uk.practicallaw.thomsonreuters.com/4-524-1945?transitionType=Default&contextData=\(sc.Default\)&firstPage=true&bhcp=1](https://uk.practicallaw.thomsonreuters.com/4-524-1945?transitionType=Default&contextData=(sc.Default)&firstPage=true&bhcp=1).
- 18 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: Land: Relief," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia#ref92890>.
- 19 Maps of World, "Serbia Map," updated 29 July 2015, <https://www.mapsofworld.com/serbia/>.
- 20 Summitpost.org, "Dinaric Alps: Map 2: The Physical Map of the Dinaric Alps and Position on the Map of Europe," updated 16 December 2014, <http://www.summitpost.org/area/range/155326/dinaric-alps.html>.
- 21 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Balkan Mountains," updated 21 April 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Balkan-Mountains>.
- 22 *World Atlas*, "Highest Mountains in Serbia and Kosovo," accessed 22 June 2018, <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/highest-mountains-in-serbia-and-kosovo.html>.
- 23 Borislav Stojkov, "The Carpathian Mountains in Serbia" (PowerPoint presentation, Carpathian Convention, Faculty of Geography, University of Belgrade, Vienna, May 2008), [http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl\\_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/Working%20Groups/Spatial%20Planning/200805\\_Strategic%20Workshop%20on%20Spatial%20Planning/15BS.pdf](http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/Working%20Groups/Spatial%20Planning/200805_Strategic%20Workshop%20on%20Spatial%20Planning/15BS.pdf).
- 24 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: Land: Relief," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia#ref92890>.
- 25 J. Küttner, "Der Kosava in Serbien," *Meteor. Z.* 57 (1940): 120-123. Available online at <http://glossary.ametsoc.org/wiki/Kosava>.

## Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

- 26 Miroslava Unkašević and Ivana Tošić, "The Maximum Temperatures and Heat Waves in Serbia During the Summer of 2007," *Climatic Change*, vol. 108 (September 2011): 207-223, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-010-0006-4>.
- 27 Climate Change Post, "Serbia," updated 14 June 2018, <https://www.climatechange.org/post/serbia/climate-change/>.
- 28 Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations, "Environmental Performance Reviews: Republic of Serbia: Second Review" (New York: United Nations Publications, 2007), 7.
- 29 USAID, "Factsheet: Climate Risk Profile: Serbia" (USAID Climate Change Integration Support, Task Order No. AID-OAA-TO-15-00030, June 2017), 1-2, [https://www.climatechange.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2017\\_USAID\\_Climate%20Change%20Risk%20Profile\\_Serbia.pdf](https://www.climatechange.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2017_USAID_Climate%20Change%20Risk%20Profile_Serbia.pdf).
- 30 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: Land: Relief," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia#ref92890>.
- 31 Climate Change Post, "Serbia," updated 14 June 2018, <https://www.climatechange.org/post/serbia/climate-change/>.
- 32 Climates to Travel, "Climate: Serbia," accessed 22 June 2018, <https://www.climatestotravel.com/climate/serbia>.
- 33 United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe, "Environmental Performance Reviews: Republic of Serbia: Second Review" (Committee on Environmental Policy, United Nations Publications, 2007), 7.
- 34 Peter Georgiev Penčev and Patricia Garland Pinka, "Danube River," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 September 2017, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Danube-River>.
- 35 Marina Babić Mladenović, Milan Radovanović, and Predrag Radosavljević, "Monitoring of the Iron Gate Hydropower and Navigation System on the Danube River," *Water Research Management Journal* 3, no. 1 (2013): 1-11, [http://www.wrmjournal.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=151&Itemid=182](http://www.wrmjournal.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=151&Itemid=182).
- 36 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Iron Gate," updated 29 September 2006, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Iron-Gate#ref868881>.
- 37 Earth Observatory, "The Danube's Iron Gates," 9 August 2006, <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=6819>.
- 38 Serbia.com, "Lepenski Vir, the Oldest Urban Settlement in Europe," accessed 27 June 2018, <http://www.serbia.com/visit-serbia/cultural-attractions/archaeological-sites/lepenski-vir-the-oldest-urban-settlement-in-europe/>.
- 39 International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, "Danube Flood Risk Project," accessed 27 June 2018, <http://www.icpdr.org/main/activities-projects/danube-floodrisk-project>.
- 40 Valerie Hopkins, "Serbia Readies Flood Defences as Danube Nears Record High," Reuters, 13 June 2013, <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-floods-balkans/serbia-readies-flood-defences-as-danube-nears-record-high-idUKBRE95C0HQ20130613>.
- 41 Telegraf, "Is Serbia Waiting for Something Even More Terrible Than Snow and Cold: New Cataclysm Is Threatening Us in 10 Days?" 27 February 2018, <http://www.telegraf.rs/english/2938500-is-serbia-waiting-for-something-even-more-terrible-than-snow-and-cold-new-cataclysm-is-threatening-us-in-10-days-photo>.
- 42 Serbia Construction, "Danube-Tisa-Danube Canal," accessed 2 July 2018, <http://www.serbiaconstruction.com/projects/danube-tisa-danube-canal/>.
- 43 International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, "Danube Facts and Figures: Serbia," September 2006, 2-3, <https://www.icpdr.org/main/sites/default/files/CS%20Facts%20Figures.pdf>.
- 44 Bakonyi Péter, "Flood and Drought Strategy of the Tisza River Basin," International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, 30 November 2010, 8, [https://www.icpdr.org/main/sites/default/files/Flood%20and%20Drought%20Strategy%20of%20the%20Tisza%20River%20Basin\\_V\\_clean.pdf](https://www.icpdr.org/main/sites/default/files/Flood%20and%20Drought%20Strategy%20of%20the%20Tisza%20River%20Basin_V_clean.pdf).
- 45 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Tisza River," updated 18 June 2013, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Tisza-River>.
- 46 Enjoy Belgrade Travel Guide, "Belgrade Rivers," accessed 2 July 2018, <http://www.belgrad.com/rivers.htm>.
- 47 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Sava River," updated 31 January 2017, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Sava-River>.
- 48 Sava Data Portal, "The Sava River," accessed 2 July 2018, <http://www.savariver.com/>.
- 49 WaterWays.net, "Sava River: Serbia," accessed 2 July 2018, [http://www.european-waterways.eu/e/info/serbia/save\\_sava\\_serbien.php](http://www.european-waterways.eu/e/info/serbia/save_sava_serbien.php).
- 50 International Sava River Basin Commission, "Sava River Basin Analysis Summary," December 2010, 11, [http://www.savacommission.org/dms/docs/dokumenti/documents\\_publications/publications/sava\\_river\\_basin\\_analysis\\_-\\_summary/sava\\_booklet\\_eng.pdf](http://www.savacommission.org/dms/docs/dokumenti/documents_publications/publications/sava_river_basin_analysis_-_summary/sava_booklet_eng.pdf).
- 51 Committee on Environmental Policy, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, "Introduction: 1.1 Physical Context," in *Environmental Performance Reviews: Republic of Serbia: Second Review* (United Nations Publications, 2007), 2007, 7.

### Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

- 52 Balkan Green Energy News, "UNECE's Drina Nexus Project Points to Untapped Cooperation Potential in Hydropower," 29 May 2017, <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/uneces-drina-nexus-project-points-untapped-cooperation-potential-hydropower/>.
- 53 Milena Panić et al., "Small Hydropower Plants in Serbia: Hydropower Potential, Current State and Perspectives," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* (Elsevier: 2013): 344, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236008472\\_Small\\_hydropower\\_plants\\_in\\_Serbia\\_Hydropower\\_potential\\_current\\_state\\_and\\_perspectives](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236008472_Small_hydropower_plants_in_Serbia_Hydropower_potential_current_state_and_perspectives).
- 54 Thierry Domin, "Chapter 1: From the Origins through the End of the First Millennium," in *History of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Origins to 1992*, SFOR Stabilization Force, first published in *SFOR Informer*, no.117 (11 July 2001), <https://www.nato.int/sfor/indexinf/117/p03a/chapter1.htm>.
- 55 History Channel, "Ten Major Land Battles of WW1 in 1914-29 December 1914," accessed 17 July 2018, <https://www.historychannel.com.au/h100/ten-major-land-battles-of-ww1-in-1914/>.
- 56 Serbia.com, "Rivers and Lakes," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://www.serbia.com/visit-serbia/natural-beauties/rivers-lakes/the-morava-river-the-cradle-of-serbian-state/>.
- 57 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Morava River," updated 29 September 2006, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Morava-River-Serbia>.
- 58 Telegraf, "Scenes from the Flooding Morava River Are Not Looking Good," 6 March 2018, <http://www.telegraf.rs/english/2940570-scenes-from-the-flooding-morava-river-are-not-looking-good-the-water-has-breached-to-the-houses-by-the-river-first-evacuations-are-ongoing-photo>.
- 59 National Tourism Organisation of Serbia, "The Velika Morava," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://www.serbia.travel/nature/rivers-and-lakes/Velika-Morava.a-287.637.html>.
- 60 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Belgrade," updated 22 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Belgrade>.
- 61 Jill Pope, "17 Things to Know Before You Go to Belgrade," 30 March 2015, <http://roadsandkingdoms.com/2015/17-things-to-know-before-you-go-to-belgrade/>.
- 62 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Belgrade," updated 22 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Belgrade>.
- 63 *Telegraph Travel*, "Why Belgrade Is the Greatest City You'd Never Thought to Visit," 15 February 2017, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/lists/reasons-your-next-city-break-should-be-to-belgrade/>.
- 64 Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State, "A Guide to the United States' History of Recognition, Diplomatic, and Consular Relations, by Country, since 1776: Kingdom of Serbia/Yugoslavia," accessed 18 July 2018, <https://history.state.gov/countries/kingdom-of-yugoslavia>.
- 65 Beograd.rs, "The Capital of Serbia and Yugoslavia," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://www.beograd.rs/en/discover-belgrade/201259-the-capital-of-serbia-and-yugoslavia/>.
- 66 PBS Frontline, "A Kosovo Chronology," accessed 18 July 2018, <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/kosovo/etc/cron.html>.
- 67 Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, "The Nazi Invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece," accessed 18 July 2018, <https://adst.org/2015/04/the-nazi-invasion-of-yugoslavia-and-greece/>.
- 68 Center of Military History, United States Army, "Part Two: The Yugoslav Campaign," in *The German Campaigns in The Balkans (Spring 1941)* (Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1986), 25-40, Facsimile Edition, [https://history.army.mil/books/wwii/balkan/20\\_260\\_2.htm](https://history.army.mil/books/wwii/balkan/20_260_2.htm).
- 69 World Population Review, "Population of Cities in Serbia: 2018," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/serbia-population/cities/>.
- 70 City Population, "Serbia: Belgrade City," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://www.citypopulation.de/php/serbia-belgradacity.php>.
- 71 Beograd.rs, "Stari Grad," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://www.beograd.rs/en/city-authority/202098-stari-grad/>.
- 72 Beograd.rs, "Kalemegdan," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://www.beograd.rs/cir/discover-belgrade/201327-kalemegdan/>.
- 73 Lilien Filipovitch Robinson, "Belgrade: Transformations and Confluences," *Serbian Studies* (Belmont, CA: Gale/Cengage Learning, 1 January 2010), [https://www.academia.edu/4271169/Serbian\\_Studies\\_vol\\_24\\_1-2](https://www.academia.edu/4271169/Serbian_Studies_vol_24_1-2).
- 74 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Novi Sad," updated 29 September 2006, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Novi-Sad>.
- 75 Michael A. Schuman, "Cities: Novi Sad," in *Nations in Transition: Serbia and Montenegro* (New York: Facts on File, Inc., 2004).
- 76 City of Novi Sad, Local Economic Development Office, "Novi Sad: European IT Centre," accessed 18 July 2018, [http://www.novisadinvest.rs/sites/default/files/dokumenti/NS\\_ITcity\\_eng.pdf](http://www.novisadinvest.rs/sites/default/files/dokumenti/NS_ITcity_eng.pdf).

## Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

- 77 Vojvodina Investment Promotion, "ICT in Serbia: At a Glance," accessed 18 July 2018, 9, 37, <https://vojvodinaictcluster.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/ICT-in-Serbia-At-a-Glance-2015.pdf>.
- 78 Michael E. Geisler, ed., "Victor Roudometof: Toward an Archaeology of National Commemorations in the Balkans," in *National Symbols, Fractured Identities* (Lebanon, NH: University Press of New England, 2005).
- 79 City Population, "Serbia: Niš City," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://www.citypopulation.de/php/serbia-niscity.php>.
- 80 University of Novi Sad, "Profile of the University," accessed 18 July 2018, [https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/md/zuv/international/medien/university\\_of\\_novi\\_sad.aktuell.pdf](https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/md/zuv/international/medien/university_of_novi_sad.aktuell.pdf).
- 81 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Novi Sad," updated 13 January 2016, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Novi-Sad>.
- 82 Radio-Televizija Vojvodine, "About Us," accessed 18 July 2018, [http://www.rtv.rs/sr\\_lat/about-us](http://www.rtv.rs/sr_lat/about-us).
- 83 City of Novi Sad, "Petrovaradin Fortress," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://www.novisad.rs/eng/petrovaradin-fortress-0>.
- 84 Travel and Leisure, "Exit in Novi Sad, Serbia," 7-10 July 2016, <http://www.travelandleisure.com/slideshows/2016-music-festivals#8>.
- 85 Serbia.com, "Petrovaradin Fortress on the Banks of the Danube," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://www.serbia.com/visit-serbia/cities/novi-sad/>.
- 86 World Population Review, "Population of Cities in Serbia (2018)," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/serbia-population/cities/>.
- 87 City Population, "Serbia: Niš City," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://www.citypopulation.de/php/serbia-niscity.php>.
- 88 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Niš," updated 13 January 2016, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Nis>.
- 89 European Commission, "Travelling to, in and from Serbia," accessed 11 July 2018, <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/serbia/information-assistance/travelling-and-serbia>.
- 90 National Tourism Organisation of Serbia, "Niš," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://www.serbia.travel/destinations/cities-and-municipalities/Nis.a-20.692.html>.
- 91 National Tourism Organisation of Serbia, "Kragujevac," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://www.serbia.travel/destinations/cities-and-municipalities/Kragujevac.a-21.692.html>.
- 92 Laurence Mitchell, "Central Serbia: Kragujevac (Крагујевац)," in *Serbia* (Bucks, England: Bradt Travel Guides, 2007), 204-206.
- 93 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Kragujevac," updated 13 January 2016, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Kragujevac>.
- 94 Breffni O'Rourke, "End of An Era as Last Yugo Car Rolls off Production Line," Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 20 November 2008, <https://www.rferl.org/a/End-Of-An-Era-As-Last-Yugo-Car-Rolls-Off-Production-Line/1351313.html>.
- 95 Andrew MacDowall, "Serbian Manufacturing: Cars Drive Hopes for Industrial Revival," *Financial Times*, 28 October 2013, <https://www.ft.com/content/7a7ab4e0-3a42-11e3-9243-00144feab7de>.
- 96 Reuters, "Fiat, Government, Unions Agree on Wage Rise in Serbia-Based Plant," 24 July 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/flat-serbia-idUSL5N1KF1WB>.
- 97 Subotica and Diversity, "Nationalities: In Vojvodina," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://suboticadiversity.weebly.com/nationalities.html>.
- 98 World Population Review, "Population of Cities in Serbia (2018)," accessed 18 July 2018, <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/serbia-population/cities/>.
- 99 Siarl Ferdinand and Flora Komlosi, "The Use of Hungarian and Serbian in the City of Szabadka/Subotica: An Empirical Study," *Hungarian Cultural Studies*, 10, e-Journal of the American Hungarian Educators Association (2017): 1, 12, <https://ahea.pitt.edu/ojs/index.php/ahea/article/download/278/556>.
- 100 András Ricz, Imre Nagy, and Anna Csizár Moliná, "Introduction" and "Subotica from Serbia," in *Crossing the Borders: Studies on Cross-Border Cooperation within the Danube Region* (Serbia: Regional Science Association, 2016), 2-3, 11-12, [http://institute.cesci-net.eu/tiny\\_mce\\_uploaded/EUSDR\\_Part\\_Two\\_12\\_SuboticaOsijek.pdf](http://institute.cesci-net.eu/tiny_mce_uploaded/EUSDR_Part_Two_12_SuboticaOsijek.pdf).
- 101 John B. Allcock, "Vojvodina," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 28 March 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Vojvodina>.
- 102 Dario De Santis, "The Hidden Beauty of Serbia's Subotica and Lake Palić," *Outpost Travel Media*, 26 July 2016, <https://outpostmagazine.com/subotica-lake-palic-serbia-travel-guide/>.
- 103 Siarl Ferdinand and Flora Komlosi, "The Use of Hungarian and Serbian in the City of Szabadka/Subotica: An Empirical Study," *Hungarian Cultural Studies*, 10, e-Journal of the American Hungarian Educators Association (2017): 1, 12, <https://ahea.pitt.edu/ojs/index.php/ahea/article/download/278/556>.
- 104 András Ricz, Imre Nagy, and Anna Csizár Moliná, "Introduction" and "Subotica from Serbia," in *Crossing the Borders: Studies on Cross-Border Cooperation within the Danube Region* (Serbia: Regional Science Association, 2016), 2-3, 11-12, [http://institute.cesci-net.eu/tiny\\_mce\\_uploaded/EUSDR\\_Part\\_Two\\_12\\_SuboticaOsijek.pdf](http://institute.cesci-net.eu/tiny_mce_uploaded/EUSDR_Part_Two_12_SuboticaOsijek.pdf).

## Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

- 105 Hidden Europe, "Art Nouveau in Subotica," 14 August 2016, <https://www.hiddeneurope.co.uk/art-nouveau-in-subotica>.
- 106 World Monuments Fund, "The History and Architecture of Subotica Synagogue (English)," accessed 18 July 2018, <https://www.wmf.org/slideshow/history-and-architecture-subotica-synagogue-english>.
- 107 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Subotica," updated 13 January 2016, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Subotica>.
- 108 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulson, "Serbia: Government and Society: History," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia/Government-and-society#ref214075>.
- 109 John B. Allcock, "Vojvodina Autonomous Province: Serbia," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 13 January 2016, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Vojvodina>.
- 110 Maja Zivanovic, "How Serbia's Chief Changed His Tune on Kosovo," *Balkan Insight*, 15 May 2018, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbian-president-modifies-rhetoric-on-kosovo-05-14-2018>.
- 111 Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, "Serbia: History," accessed 18 July 2018, <https://www.encyclopedia.com/places/spain-portugal-italy-greece-and-balkans/former-yugoslavian-political-geography/serbia#HISTORY>.
- 112 Sima M. Ćirković, "Ancient Heritage," in *The Serbs*, trans. Vuk Tošić (Hoboken: Blackwell Publishing, 2004), 7-15.
- 113 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulson, "Serbia: Antiquity: In the Roman Empire," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Balkans#ref43532>.
- 114 Sima M. Ćirković, "The Dynasty of Sacred Roots," in *The Serbs*, trans. Vuk Tošić (Hoboken: Blackwell Publishing, 2004), 34-65.
- 115 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulson, "Serbia: Medieval Serbia," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia/Government-and-society#ref43568>.
- 116 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Nemanjić Dynasty," 20 July 1998, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Nemanjic-dynasty>.
- 117 Tim Judah, "Chapter 2: An Empire on Earth: The Holy Roots," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 651, 657-680, Kindle.
- 118 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulson, "Serbia: Government and Society: Medieval Serbia," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia/Government-and-society#ref43568>.
- 119 Tim Judah, "Chapter 2: An Empire on Earth: The Holy Roots," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 746-759, Kindle.
- 120 John K. Cox, "The Splendor of Medieval Serbia: The Great Tsar Dušan," in *History of Serbia* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002), 21-22.
- 121 Sima M. Ćirković, "The Dynasty of Sacred Roots," in *The Serbs*, trans. Vuk Tošić (Hoboken: Blackwell Publishing, 2004), 64-75.
- 122 Uli Schamiloglu, "The Rise of the Ottoman Empire: The Black Death in Medieval Anatolia and its Impact on Turkish Civilization," in *Views from the Edge: Essays in Honor of Richard W. Bulliet* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2004), 270-272.
- 123 Tim Judah, "Chapter 3: It Is Better to Die in Battle than to Live in Shame," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 886-887, Kindle.
- 124 Sima M. Ćirković, "Between the Cross and the Crescent," in *The Serbs*, trans. Vuk Tošić (Hoboken: Blackwell Publishing, 2004), 84-85.
- 125 Malcolm Edward Yapp and Stanford Jay Shaw, "The Ottoman State to 1481: The Age of Expansion: Murad I," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 30 May 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ottoman-Empire#ref326028>.
- 126 Tim Judah, "Chapter 2: An Empire on Earth," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 809-832, Kindle.
- 127 Thomas A. Emmert, ed., "The Battle of Kosovo: Early Reports of Victory and Defeat," in *Kosovo: Legacy of a Medieval Battle*, accessed 20 July 2018, <https://cmes.arizona.edu/sites/cmes.arizona.edu/files/Background%20-Battle%20of%20Kosovo%20poetry.pdf>.
- 128 John V. A. Vine, "Chapter 8: The Balkans in the Late Fourteenth Century," in *The Late Medieval Balkans: A Critical Survey from the Late Twelfth Century to the Ottoman Conquest* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1994), 410.
- 129 John K. Cox, "Living with the Turks: The Battle of Kosovo and Its Legacy," in *The History of Serbia* (Westport CT: Greenwood Press, 2002), 32.

## Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

- 130 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: History: Conquest by the Ottoman Turks," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia/Government-and-society#ref477238>.
- 131 Sima M. Ćirković, "The Sultan's Protected Subjects," in *The Serbs*, trans. Vuk Tošić (Hoboken: Blackwell Publishing, 2004), 115-120.
- 132 James Evans, "Tradition: The Ottoman Occupation," in *Great Britain and the Creation of Yugoslavia: Negotiating Balkan Nationality and Identity* (London: I.B. Tauris, 30 July 2008): 85-86.
- 133 Steven W. Sowards, "Twenty-Five Lectures on Modern Balkan History: Lecture 3: The Principles of Ottoman Rule in the Balkans," Michigan State University, accessed 20 July 2018, <http://staff.lib.msu.edu/sowards/balkan/lecture3.html>.
- 134 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: History: Life in the Ottoman Period," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia/Government-and-society#ref43572>.
- 135 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: History: The Disintegration of Ottoman Rule," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia/Government-and-society#ref43574>.
- 136 Tim Judah, "Chapter 1: Death Does Not Exist," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 248-262, Kindle.
- 137 Sima M. Ćirković, "The Sultan's Protected Subjects," in *The Serbs*, trans. Vuk Tošić (Hoboken: Blackwell Publishing, 2004), 143-145.
- 138 Nations Encyclopedia, "Yugoslavia: *The Serbs* and Serbia, Vojvodina, and Montenegro," December 1990, <http://www.country-data.com/cgi-bin/query/r-14769.html>.
- 139 Tim Judah, "Chapter 3: It Is Better to Die in Battle than to Live in Shame," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 944-947, Kindle.
- 140 Tim Judah, "Chapter 4: Resurrection and Beyond," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 1416-1424, Kindle.
- 141 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Serbo-Turkish War," updated 23 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Serbo-Turkish-War>.
- 142 "Serbia: Peter I," *The Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia*, 6th ed. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2012), <http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0838579.html>.
- 143 Nations Encyclopedia, "Yugoslavia: *The Serbs* and Serbia, Vojvodina, and Montenegro," December 1990, <http://www.country-data.com/cgi-bin/query/r-14769.html>.
- 144 *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Nations*, "Serbia: History: Turkish Rule," Encyclopedia.com, 2007 <http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Serbia.aspx>.
- 145 Sandra King-Savic, "History and Identity within the Sandžak Region," Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, University of Kansas and the U.S. Foreign Military Studies Office at Fort Leavenworth, 2011-2012, 6, <http://sandzackaknjizevnost.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/361.-SANDRA-KING-SAVIC-HISTORY-AND-IDENTITY-OF-SANDZAK.pdf>.
- 146 John B. Allcock and John R. Lampe, "Yugoslavia: Former Federated Nation 1929-2003," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 6 February 2012, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Yugoslavia-former-federated-nation-1929-2003>.
- 147 John K. Cox, "Nazis, Partisans, Chetniks, and Ustaše: The Maelstrom of World War II," in *The History of Serbia* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2002), 81-98.
- 148 John K. Cox, "Serbia in Tito's Yugoslavia," in *The History of Serbia* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2002), 101-124.
- 149 Glenn E. Curtis, "Introduction," in *Yugoslavia: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1992), xxiv.
- 150 Sima M. Ćirković, "All the Serbs in One State," in *The Serbs*, trans. Vuk Tošić (Hoboken: Blackwell Publishing, 2004), 291-292.
- 151 BBC News, "Timeline: Break-Up of Yugoslavia," 22 May 2006, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4997380.stm>.
- 152 Alex N. Dragnich, "The Agony of Kosovo" *Chronicles Magazine*, 1 September 1998.
- 153 Tim Judah, "Chapter 7: We Choose the Heavenly Kingdom," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 3534-3569, Kindle.
- 154 Christina M. Morus, "Slobo the Redeemer: The Rhetoric of Slobodan Milosevic and the Construction of the Serbian 'People'," *Southern Communication Journal* 72, no.1 (22 February 2007): 1-19, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10417940601174660>.

### Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

- 155 YU Historija, "How the JNA Became a Great Serbian Army," accessed 20 July 2018, [http://www.yuhistorija.com/wars\\_91\\_99\\_txt01c1.html](http://www.yuhistorija.com/wars_91_99_txt01c1.html).
- 156 Institute for War and Peace Reporting, "Two Views of Reality: 1989 Removal of Kosovo's Autonomy," accessed 18 July 2018, <https://iwpr.net/global-voices/two-views-reality-1989-removal-kosovos-autonomy>.
- 157 Sherrill Stroschein, "Vojvodina," *Encyclopedia Princetoniensis*, accessed 22 July 2018, <https://pesd.princeton.edu/?q=node/245>.
- 158 Tim Judah, "Chapter 2: An Empire on Earth," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 862-864, Kindle.
- 159 John B. Allcock, Antonia Young, and John R. Lampe, "Kosovo: History: Kosovo in Yugoslavia," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 19 April 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Kosovo/Cultural-life#ref283792>.
- 160 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Ibrahim Rugova," 31 December 2006, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ibrahim-Rugova>.
- 161 John K. Cox, "Successor State or International Threat? Kosovo in the Late 1990s," in *The History of Serbia* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2002), 164-172.
- 162 John R. Lampe, "Bosnian Conflict," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 8 March 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Bosnian-conflict>.
- 163 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: History: Modern Serbia: The Disintegration of the Federation," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia/Government-and-society#ref214087>.
- 164 John R. Lampe, "Bosnian Conflict," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 8 March 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Bosnian-conflict>.
- 165 BBC News, "Slovenia Timeline," 12 January 2012, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country\\_profiles/1097340.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1097340.stm).
- 166 United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "The Conflicts," accessed 22 July 2018, <http://www.icty.org/en/about/what-former-yugoslavia/conflicts>.
- 167 John R. Lampe, "Bosnian Conflict," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 8 March 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Bosnian-conflict>.
- 168 YU Historija, "How the JNA Became a Great Serbian Army," accessed 20 July 2018, [http://www.yuhistorija.com/wars\\_91\\_99\\_txt01c1.html](http://www.yuhistorija.com/wars_91_99_txt01c1.html).
- 169 John F. Burns, "Confirming Split: Last 2 Republics Proclaim a Small New Yugoslavia," *New York Times Archives*, 28 April 1992, <https://www.nytimes.com/1992/04/28/world/confirming-split-last-2-republics-proclaim-a-small-new-yugoslavia.html>.
- 170 Director of Central Intelligence, "Combat Forces in Former Yugoslavia," *Supporting Analysis 2* (July 1993): 53, <https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/1993-07-01b.pdf>.
- 171 Association of Diplomatic Studies and Training, "The War in Bosnia and the Moral Dilemma of Refugees," accessed 22 July 2018, <https://adst.org/2014/03/the-war-in-bosnia-and-the-moral-dilemma-of-refugees/>.
- 172 Henery Kamm, "Yugoslav Refugee Crisis Europe's Worst Since 40s," *New York Times Archives*, 24 July 1992, <https://www.nytimes.com/1992/07/24/world/yugoslav-refugee-crisis-europe-s-worst-since-40-s.html>.
- 173 Center for Law and Military Operations, Judge Advocate General's School, United States Army, "Law and Military Operations in Kosovo: 1999-2001, Lessons Learned for Judge Advocates," 2001, 30-32, [http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military\\_Law/pdf/Lessons-Learned\\_Kosovo.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/pdf/Lessons-Learned_Kosovo.pdf).
- 174 John R. Lampe, "Bosnian Conflict: Independence and War," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 8 March 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Bosnian-conflict#ref281168>.
- 175 Bureau of European and Canadian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Fact Sheet: NATO Involvement in the Balkan Crisis," 9 May 1997, <https://1997-2001.state.gov/regions/eur/natobalk.html>.
- 176 Tim Judah, "Chapter 11: It Was War..." in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 4717-4820, Kindle.
- 177 Alan Taylor, "20 Years Since the Bosnian War," *Atlantic*, 13 April 2012, <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2012/04/20-years-since-the-bosnian-war/100278/>.
- 178 Stephen Kinzer, "In Embattled Serbia, a Fateful Election," *New York Times Archives*, 21 December 1992, <https://www.nytimes.com/1992/12/21/world/in-embattled-serbia-a-fateful-election.html>.
- 179 Tom Blanton and Emily Willard, eds., "Road to Dayton Paved with Genocide," National Security Archive, no. 535, 23 November 2015, <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB535-Srebrenica-genocide-on-road-to-Dayton-accords/>.
- 180 Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Background Note: Bosnia and Herzegovina," January 2009, <https://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2868.htm>.

### Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

- 181 Tim Judah, "Chapter 12: The Madmen Take over the Asylum: No One Will Harm You!" in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 5528-5469, Kindle.
- 182 Sabrina P. Ramet, "The War of Yugoslav Succession, 1992-1995," in *Three Yugoslavias: State Building and Legitimation, 1918-2005* (Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2006), 460.
- 183 Ivo H. Daalder, "Decision to Intervene: How the War in Bosnia Ended," Brookings, 1 December 1998, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/decision-to-intervene-how-the-war-in-bosnia-ended/>.
- 184 "Text of the Dayton Peace Agreement Initialed on November 21, 1995," posted on GlobalSecurity.org, accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/policy/sofa/dayton.pdf>.
- 185 Bill Clinton, "Dayton Accords," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 10 March 2011, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Dayton-Accords>.
- 186 United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "The Conflicts," accessed 22 July 2018, <http://www.icty.org/en/about/what-former-yugoslavia/conflicts>.
- 187 Chris Hedges, "Resistance to Serbia Turns Violent in Kosovo," *New York Times*, 18 February 1997, <https://www.nytimes.com/1997/02/17/world/resistance-to-serbia-turns-violent-in-kosovo.html>.
- 188 GlobalSecurity.org, "Kosovo Background," accessed 22 July 2018, [http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/kosovo\\_back.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/kosovo_back.htm).
- 189 Human Rights Watch, "The Autumn 2000 Electoral Victory of the Democratic Opposition of Serbia Opened the Door for Change in Serbian and Yugoslav Society and a Peaceful Resolution..." accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.hrw.org/reports/2001/kosovo/undword-01.htm>.
- 190 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Kosovo Conflict," updated 4 May 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Kosovo-conflict>.
- 191 Human Rights Watch, "1: Executive Summary," in *Under Orders: War Crimes in Kosovo*, 12, <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/3c2b204a0.pdf>.
- 192 U.S. Department of State Archive, "Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo: An Accounting," December 1999, [https://1997-2001.state.gov/global/human\\_rights/kosovoii/homepage.html](https://1997-2001.state.gov/global/human_rights/kosovoii/homepage.html).
- 193 United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "The Conflicts," accessed 22 July 2018, <http://www.icty.org/en/about/what-former-yugoslavia/conflicts>.
- 194 Human Rights Watch, "Summary: Principal Findings," *Civilian Deaths in the NATO Air Campaign* 12, no. 1 (February 2000), <https://www.hrw.org/reports/2000/nato/Natbm200.htm>.
- 195 Center for Law and Military Operations, United States Army, "Law and Military Operations in Kosovo: 1999-2001," 15 December 2001, 33-39, [http://www.loc.gov/frd/Military\\_Law/pdf/Lessons-Learned\\_Kosovo.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/frd/Military_Law/pdf/Lessons-Learned_Kosovo.pdf).
- 196 UNHCR Standing Committee, "The Kosovo Refugee Crisis: An Independent Evaluation of UNHCR's Emergency Preparedness and Response," 9 February 2000, <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/excom/standcom/3ae68d19c/kosovo-refugee-crisis-independent-evaluation-unhcrs-emergency-preparedness.html>.
- 197 Reuters, "Serbian Court Jails Nine for 1999 War Crimes in Kosovo," 11 February 2014, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-serbia-warcrimes-idUSBREA1A16Y20140211?feedNme=worldNews>.
- 198 Tim Judah, "Chapter 17: End of Empire: Our Nation Is a Hero," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 7389-7565, Kindle.
- 199 NATO, "Historical Overview: NATO's Role in Relation to the Conflict in Kosovo," updated 15 July 1999, <https://www.nato.int/kosovo/history.htm>.
- 200 Spyros Economides, "Chapter 8: Kosovo," in *United Nations Interventionism, 1991-2004* (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press), 2007.
- 201 Tim Judah, "Chapter 17: End of Empire: Our Nation Is a Hero," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 7389-7565, Kindle.
- 202 Agence France Presse, "List of International Sanctions Against Serbia," 9 October 2000, <https://www.globalpolicy.org/global-taxes/42528.html>.
- 203 Lulzim Cota, "Serbs in Kosovo Welcome Kostunica as President," United Press International, 6 October 2000, <https://www.upi.com/Archives/2000/10/06/Serbs-in-Kosovo-welcome-Kostunica-as-president/6541970804800/>.
- 204 Tim Judah, "Chapter 18: Revolution and Beyond: He's Finished," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 7731-7795, Kindle.
- 205 BBC News, "Timeline: After Milosevic," 6 June 2006, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country\\_profiles/1045154.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1045154.stm).
- 206 GlobalSecurity.org, "Serbia—Post-Milosevic Politics," accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/serbia/politics-2001.htm>.

## Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

- 207 The Prosecutor of The Tribunal Against Slobodan Milosevic, case no. IT-02-54-T, The Hague, 22 November 2002, [http://www.icty.org/x/cases/slobodan\\_milosevic/ind/en/mil-ai040421-e.htm](http://www.icty.org/x/cases/slobodan_milosevic/ind/en/mil-ai040421-e.htm).
- 208 Tim Judah, "Chapter 18: Revolution and Beyond: He's Finished," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 7816, Kindle.
- 209 Toby Sterling, Anthony Deutsch, Thomas Escrib, "Karadzic Guilty of Bosnia Genocide, Jailed for 40 Years," Reuters, 23 March 2016, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-warcrimes-bosnia-karadzic-idUSKCN0WP2ZW>.
- 210 Toby Sterling, Stephanie van den Berg, and Anthony Deutsch, "Ex-Bosnian Serb Commander Mladic Convicted of Genocide, Gets Life in Prison," Reuters, 21 November 2017, <https://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKBN1DL2WK-OCATP>.
- 211 Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, "EU Arms Embargo on the Former SFR of Yugoslavia (Bosnia and Herzegovina)," updated 12 November 2012, [https://www.sipri.org/databases/embargoes/eu\\_arms\\_embargoes/bosnia](https://www.sipri.org/databases/embargoes/eu_arms_embargoes/bosnia).
- 212 Stephen Castle, "EU Moves Swiftly to Lift Serbian Sanctions," *Independent*, 10 October 2000, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/eu-moves-swiftly-to-lift-serbian-sanctions-635133.html>.
- 213 Matt Rosenberg, "Yugoslavia Disappear: Officially Changes Name to Serbia and Montenegro," ThoughtCo., updated 17 March 2017, <http://geography.about.com/library/weekly/aa020503a.htm>.
- 214 Vladislav B. Sotirović, "Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo and the Rights of the Serbian Minority: Ten Years After the 'March Pogrom 2004'," *Global Research*, 29 November 2019, <https://www.globalresearch.ca/ethnic-cleansing-in-kosovo-and-the-rights-of-the-serbian-minority-ten-years-after-the-march-pogrom-2004/5416867>.
- 215 BBC News, "Montenegro Gets Serb Recognition," 15 June 2006, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/5083690.stm>.
- 216 German Practice in International Law, "Acceptance or Recognition of Kosovo's Independence: Does it Make a Difference?" 5 April 2018, <https://gpil.jura.uni-bonn.de/2018/04/acceptance-recognition-kosovos-independence-make-difference/>.
- 217 Valerie Hopkins, "Donald Trump's Big League Balkans Problem," *Foreign Policy*, 31 January 2017, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/01/31/donald-trumps-big-league-balkans-problem-kosovo-serbia/>.
- 218 Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "U.S. Relations with Kosovo: Fact Sheet," 4 October 2017, <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/100931.htm>.
- 219 Matthew Karnitschnig, "Serbia's Plan to Bring Back (Best of) Yugoslavia," *Politico*, updated 10 April 2017, <https://www.politico.eu/article/for-serbias-vucic-road-to-eu-runs-through-balkans/>.
- 220 BBC News, "Serbia Country Profile," 1 March 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17907947>.
- 221 Andrew MacDowall, "Serbia Gets its First Female—and Gay—Prime Minister," *Guardian*, 15 June 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jun/15/serbia-gains-its-first-female-and-gay-prime-minister-ana-brnabic>.
- 222 Aleks Eror, "How Aleksandar Vucic Became Europe's Favorite Autocrat," *Foreign Policy*, 9 March 2018, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/03/09/how-aleksandar-vucic-became-europes-favorite-autocrat/>.
- 223 Matthew Karnitschnig, "Serbia's Plan to Bring Back (Best of) Yugoslavia," *Politico*, updated 10 April 2017, <https://www.politico.eu/article/for-serbias-vucic-road-to-eu-runs-through-balkans/>.
- 224 Aleks Eror, "How Aleksandar Vucic Became Europe's Favorite Autocrat," *Foreign Policy*, 9 March 2018, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/03/09/how-aleksandar-vucic-became-europes-favorite-autocrat/>.
- 225 B92, "Protest Held in Belgrade against 'Vucic's Autocratic Regime'," 1 June 2017, [https://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics.php?yyyy=2017&mm=06&dd=01&nav\\_id=101423](https://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics.php?yyyy=2017&mm=06&dd=01&nav_id=101423).
- 226 Serbia.com, "National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia," accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.serbia.com/about-serbia/political-system/>.
- 227 "Constitution of the Republic of Serbia," article V, accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/74694/119555/F838981147/SRB74694%20Eng.pdf>.
- 228 Republic Electoral Commission, Republic of Serbia, "Presidential Elections," accessed 22 July 2018, <http://www.rik.parlament.gov.rs/english/izbori-za-predsednika-republike.php>.
- 229 Republic of Serbia, Supreme Court of Cassation, "History of the Court: Background of the Highest Court in Serbia," accessed 22 July 2018, <http://www.vk.sud.rs/en/history-court>.
- 230 Republic Electoral Commission, Republic of Serbia, "Parliamentary Elections," accessed 22 July 2018, <http://www.rik.parlament.gov.rs/english/izbori-za-narodne-poslanike.php>.
- 231 Reuters, "Serbia's President Eyes Early Parliamentary Vote," 31 October 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-serbia-election-president/serbias-president-eyes-early-parliamentary-vote-idUSKBN1D017C?il=0>.

## Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

- 232 Andrew Byrne, "Ruling Progressive Party Claims Serbia Election Victory," *Financial Times*, 24 April 2016, <https://www.ft.com/content/78f37810-0a1e-11e6-b0f1-61f22853ff3>.
- 233 BBC News, "Serbia Profile: Media," 2 March 2017, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17912585>.
- 234 Internet Live Stats, "Serbia Internet Users," 1 July 2016, <http://www.internetlivestats.com/internet-users/serbia/>.
- 235 GlobalStats Stat Counter, "Social Media Stats Serbia: June 2017-June 2018," accessed 22 July 2018, <http://gs.statcounter.com/social-media-stats/all/serbia>.
- 236 Strafor, "Russia Stirs the Hornet's Nest," 28 March 2017, <https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/russia-stirs-hornets-nest>.
- 237 Reporters Without Borders, "2018 World Press Freedom Index," accessed 22 July 2018, <https://rsf.org/en/ranking#>.
- 238 Bertelsmann Stiftung, "Serbia Country Report: BTI 2018," Transformation Index BTI, accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.bti-project.org/en/reports/country-reports/detail/itc/SRB/>.
- 239 Shannon O'Toole, "A Cry for Help from Serbia's Independent Media," *Freedom House*, 5 October 2017, <https://freedomhouse.org/blog/cry-help-serbia-s-independent-media>.
- 240 Aleks Eror, "How Aleksandar Vucic Became Europe's Favorite Autocrat," *Foreign Policy*, 9 March 2018, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/03/09/how-aleksandar-vucic-became-europes-favorite-autocrat/>.
- 241 Associated Press, "Serbia's Media Stage Blackout over Pressure on Free Press," *Voice of America News*, 28 September 2017, <https://www.voanews.com/a/serbia-media-stage-blackout-over-pressure-on-free-press/4048086.html>.
- 242 Ian Innerhofer, "Post-War Economies (South East Europe): Agriculture and Industry," *International Encyclopedia of the First World War*, updated 12 April 2017, <https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/post-war-economies-south-east-europe>.
- 243 John K. Cox, "Serbia Today," in *The History of Serbia* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2002), 1.
- 244 Slobodan G. Markovich, "Rural Domination and the Egalitarian Spirit of the Principality/Kingdom of Serbia," in *The Political and Economic Heritage of Modern Serbia* (Belgrade: University of Belgrade, accessed 22 July 2018), 94-95, 117, [https://www.academia.edu/2946387/The\\_Political\\_and\\_Economic\\_Heritage\\_of\\_Modern\\_Serbia?auto=download](https://www.academia.edu/2946387/The_Political_and_Economic_Heritage_of_Modern_Serbia?auto=download).
- 245 Michael Schuman, "Economy," in *Serbia and Montenegro* (New York: Infobase Publishing, 2014), 95.
- 246 Paul Richter, "Clinton Orders Tightening of Sanctions Against Serbs," *Los Angeles Times*, 27 April 1993, [http://articles.latimes.com/1993-04-27/news/mn-27925\\_1\\_economic-sanctions](http://articles.latimes.com/1993-04-27/news/mn-27925_1_economic-sanctions).
- 247 Steven Erlanger, "Economy: Serbs Face Bleak Future after War," *Guardian*, 3 May 1999, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/1999/may/04/2>.
- 248 Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union, Brussels, "Chronology of Relations between the Republic of Serbia and the European Union," accessed 22 July 2018, <http://www.eu-brussels.mfa.gov.rs/doktext.php?subaction=showfull&id=1379508333&ucat=106&template=MenIE NG&>.
- 249 World Bank, "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Joins World Bank," 8 May 2001, <https://reliefweb.int/report/serbia/federal-republic-yugoslavia-joins-world-bank>.
- 250 World Bank, "Best-in-Class: Serbia's Solution for Improved Debt Management," 12 October 2016, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/10/12/best-in-class-serbia-solution-for-improved-debt-management>.
- 251 Transformation Index BTI, "Serbia Country Report: BTI 2018," accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.bti-project.org/en/reports/country-reports/detail/itc/srb/>.
- 252 European Commission, "Economic Development and Competitiveness," in *Serbia 2018 Report* (commission staff working document, Strasbourg, 17 April 2018), 40-46, <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20180417-serbia-report.pdf>.
- 253 Ivana Sekularac, "IMF Urges Serbia To Speed Up Privatisation of State-Owned Firms," *Reuters*, 5 July 2017, <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-serbia-imf/imf-urges-serbia-to-speed-up-privatisation-of-state-owned-firms-idUKKBN19Q1FR>.
- 254 World Bank, "Unemployment, Total (% of Total Labor Force) (Modeled ILO Estimate)," *International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT Database*, data retrieved November 2017, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.TOTL.ZS>.
- 255 Snezana Bjelotomic, "Serbia Loses 8mIn EUR a Day Because of Shadow Economy," *Serbian Monitor*, 20 February 2018, <http://serbianmonitor.com/en/serbia-loses-8mIn-eur-day-because-of-shadow-economy/>.
- 256 Transformation Index BTI, "Serbia Country Report: BTI 2018," accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.bti-project.org/en/reports/country-reports/detail/itc/srb/>.
- 257 Gorana Krstić et al., "The Shadow Economy in Serbia: New Findings and Recommendations for Reform," USAID, March 2013, [https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/pnaec461.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pnaec461.pdf).

## Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

- 258 Reuters, "Serbia's Trade Deficit Widens to 748.9 Million Euros in Jan-Feb," 30 March 2018, <http://www.kitco.com/news/2018-03-30/Serbia-apos-s-trade-deficit-widens-to-748-9-million-euros-in-Jan-Feb.html>.
- 259 Directorate-General for Trade, European Commission, "European Union, Trade in Goods with Serbia," 16 April 2018, [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/august/tradoc\\_140028.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/august/tradoc_140028.pdf).
- 260 Export.gov, "Serbia: Market Overview," 26 February 2018, [https://www.export.gov/article?series=a0pt0000000PAunAAG&type=Country\\_Commercial\\_kav](https://www.export.gov/article?series=a0pt0000000PAunAAG&type=Country_Commercial_kav).
- 261 TASS Russian News Agency, "Russia-Serbia: Perspectives of Economic Cooperation," 29 May 2017, <http://tass.com/sp/948374>.
- 262 Bertelsmann Stiftung, "Serbia Country Report: BTI 2018," Transformation Index BTI, accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.bti-project.org/en/reports/country-reports/detail/itc/srb/>.
- 263 World Economic Forum, "The Future of Serbia's Economy," 18 January 2016, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/the-future-of-serbia-s-economy/>.
- 264 Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, "No Progress Reported in Kosovo, Serbia Normalization Talks," 24 March 2018, <https://www.rferl.org/a/no-progress-reported-talks-vucic-thaci-normalize-relations-kosovo-serbia-brussels/29120862.html>.
- 265 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: Ethnic Groups," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia#ref214071>.
- 266 Forum for Ethnic Relations, "National Minorities in Serbia's Relationship with the Neighbours" (policy paper, year 7, issue 1, Belgrade, March 2017), 10, <http://fer.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Forum-1-2017-ENG-12032017-1-1.pdf>.
- 267 Central Intelligence Agency, "Serbia: People and Society: Ethnic Groups," in *The World Factbook*, updated 8 June 2018, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ri.html>.
- 268 Sima M. Ćirković, "Introduction: Time, Space, People," in *The Serbs*, trans. Vuk Tošić (Hoboken: Blackwell Publishing, 2004), xvi-xxx.
- 269 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: People," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia#ref42930>.
- 270 Sima M. Ćirković, "Ancient Heritage," in *The Serbs*, trans. Vuk Tošić (Hoboken: Blackwell Publishing, 2004), 30.
- 271 Tim Judah, "Chapter 1: Death Does Not Exist," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 419-420, Kindle.
- 272 John K. Cox, "The Splendor of Medieval Serbia," in *The History of Serbia* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2002), 20.
- 273 Sima M. Ćirković, "Introduction: Time, Space, People," in *The Serbs*, trans. Vuk Tošić (Hoboken: Blackwell Publishing, 2004), xiii.
- 274 Tim Judah, "Chapter 3: It Is Better to Die in Battle than to Live in Shame," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 1165-1168, Kindle.
- 275 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Hungarian People," updated 29 May 2007, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hungarian-people>.
- 276 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Hungarian Language," 20 July 1998, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hungarian-language>.
- 277 Forum for Ethnic Relations, "National Minorities in Serbia's Relationship with the Neighbours" (policy paper, year 7, issue 1, Belgrade, March 2017), 11, <http://fer.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Forum-1-2017-ENG-12032017-1-1.pdf>.
- 278 John K. Cox, "Serbia Today: Geography and Economy," in *The History of Serbia* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2002), 6.
- 279 Nick Thorpe, "Hungary Creating New Mass of EU Citizens," BBC News, 7 November 2013, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24848361>.
- 280 Krisztina Rácz, "Feels Like Home Again: The 'Balkanness' of Hungarians from Vojvodina in Hungary" (paper, Current Issues in European Cultural Studies conference, Advanced Cultural Studies Institute of Sweden, Norrköping, 15-17 June 2011), 4, <http://www.ep.liu.se/ecp/062/045/ecp11062045.pdf>.
- 281 International Crisis Group, "Serbia's Sandzak: Still Forgotten," *Europe Report* 162 (8 April 2005): 27, <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/425e8bf14.pdf>.
- 282 Carol R. Ember, Melvin Ember, and Ian A. Skoggard, eds., "Bosnian Muslims, Bosniaks," in *Encyclopedia of World Cultures* (Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Publishing Group, 2002), <https://www.encyclopedia.com/humanities/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/bosnian-muslims-bosniaks>.
- 283 Peter Geoghegan, "At Balkan Crossroads, Anger at 'Black Sheep' Image," Politico, 8 September 2017, <https://www.politico.eu/article/serbia-sandzak-islam-caught-between-competing-worlds/>.

## Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

- 284 Forum for Ethnic Relations, "National Minorities in Serbia's Relationship with the Neighbours" (policy paper, year 7, issue 1, Belgrade, March 2017), 10, <http://fer.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Forum-1-2017-ENG-12032017-1-1.pdf>.
- 285 *Economist*, "The Troubles of Sandzak: Together We Are Stronger!" 27 August 2011, <https://www.economist.com/node/21526933>.
- 286 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Novi Pazar," updated 13 January 2016, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Novi-Pazar>.
- 287 *Economist*, "The Sandzak Region: To the Baths," 5 June 2008, <https://www.economist.com/node/11511477>.
- 288 Kenneth Morrison, "Introduction," in *The Sandzak: A History* (Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 1 December 2013), 1-20.
- 289 Elissa Helms, *The New Bosnian Mosaic: Identities, Memories and Moral Claims in a Post-War Society*, (London: Routledge, 17 February 2016), 127-130.
- 290 Francine Friedman, "The Muslim Slavs of Bosnia and Herzegovina (with Reference to the Sandžak of Novi Pazar): Islam as a National Identity," *Nationalities Papers* 28, no. 1 (2000), <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/00905990050002498?needAccess=true>.
- 291 European Western Balkans, "Politico: Sandžak the 'Black Sheep of Serbia'," 11 September 2017, <https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2017/09/11/politico-sandzak-black-sheep-serbia/>.
- 292 *Economist*, "The Troubles of Sandzak: Together We Are Stronger!" 27 August 2011, <https://www.economist.com/node/21526933>.
- 293 Balkan Stories, "In the Sandžak," accessed 22 July 2018, <https://balkanstories.net/import-export/in-the-sandzak/>.
- 294 Minorities at Risk, "Assessment for Sandzak Muslims in Serbia," 31 December 2006, <http://www.mar.umd.edu/assessment.asp?groupid=34505>.
- 295 Srđan Barišić et al., "Opinion Poll Conducted among the Sandžak Youth: How Susceptible Are the Youth to Islamic Extremism?" Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia, May 2016, <http://www.helsinki.org.rs/doc/files35.pdf>.
- 296 European Roma Rights Centre, "Serbia: A Report by the European Roma Rights Centre, Country Profile 2011-2012," 7, [http://www.errc.org/uploads/upload\\_en/file/serbia-country-profile-2011-2012.pdf](http://www.errc.org/uploads/upload_en/file/serbia-country-profile-2011-2012.pdf).
- 297 Human Rights Watch, "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Abuses Against Serbs and Roma in the New Kosovo," *Human Rights Watch* 11, no. 10 (August 1999), <https://www.hrw.org/reports/1999/kosov2/>.
- 298 Tim Judah, "Chapter 17: End of Empire: Our Nation Is a Hero," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 7541-7542, Kindle.
- 299 Claire Taylor, "Serbia's Stateless Roma Struggle for Visibility," *Balkan Insight*, 12 January 2018, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbia-s-stateless-roma-struggle-for-visibility-01-09-2018>.
- 300 Nemanja Rujevic, "Roma: Discriminated in Serbia, Unwanted in Germany," *Deutsche Welle*, 10 August 2015, <https://p.dw.com/p/1GCrd>.
- 301 Anthony Sampson, "Europe's Nomads . . . but Not by Choice," *Guardian*, 7 April 2000, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2000/apr/08/immigration.uk>.
- 302 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Roma," updated 26 July 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Rom>.
- 303 United Nations Country Team in Serbia, "Roma Remain One of the Most Vulnerable Groups, Continue to Face Difficult Living Conditions and Discrimination in Access to Social Protection, Health, Employment and Adequate Housing," 8 April 2016, <http://rs.one.un.org/content/unct/serbia/en/home/presscenter/international-roma-day--8-april-2016.html>.
- 304 Human Rights Watch, "World Report 2018: Serbia/Kosovo: Events of 2017," accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018/country-chapters/serbia/kosovo>.
- 305 European Roma Rights Centre, "Serbia: A Report by the European Roma Rights Centre, Country Profile 2011-2012," 7, [http://www.errc.org/uploads/upload\\_en/file/serbia-country-profile-2011-2012.pdf](http://www.errc.org/uploads/upload_en/file/serbia-country-profile-2011-2012.pdf).
- 306 Minority Rights Group International, "Serbia: Roma," accessed 22 July 2018, <http://minorityrights.org/minorities/roma-16/>.
- 307 OSCE Mission to Serbia, Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe, "Roma Remain One of Most Vulnerable Groups, Continue to Face Difficult Living Conditions and Discrimination in Access to Social Protection, Health, Employment and Adequate Housing, as Stated in Reports by Independent Bodies," 8 April 2016, <https://www.osce.org/serbia/231936>.
- 308 Claire Taylor, "Serbia's Stateless Roma Struggle for Visibility," *Balkan Insight*, 12 January 2018, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbia-s-stateless-roma-struggle-for-visibility-01-09-2018>.
- 309 Roma Integration 2020, Regional Cooperation Council, "Roma in the Region," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://www.rcc.int/romaintegration2020/pages/3/roma-in-the-region>.

## Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

- 310 Central Intelligence Agency, "Serbia: People and Society: Ethnic Groups," in *The World Factbook*, updated 8 June 2018, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ri.html>.
- 311 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: Ethnic Groups," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia#ref214071>.
- 312 Ivo Daalder and Michael O'Hanlon, "The Roots of the War," PBS Frontline, June 2000, <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/kosovo/readings/roots.html>.
- 313 BBC News, "Regions and Territories: Kosovo," 24 January 2012, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country\\_profiles/3524092.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/3524092.stm).
- 314 Ivana Nikolic, "Albanians in Serbia Rally for Kosovo Textbooks," Balkan Insight, 18 February 2016, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbia-kosovo-textbooks-war-sparks-more-protests-02-18-2016>.
- 315 Asya Pereltsvaig, "(Serbo-)Croatian: A Tale of Two Languages—Or Three? Or Four?" *Languages of the World: Exploring the Rich Diversity of Human Languages*, 18 August 2014, <https://www.languagesoftheworld.info/europe/serbo-croatian-tale-two-languages-three-four.html>.
- 316 Дарко Махчмобнћ, "Serbo-Croatian Language Issues," Omniglot, accessed 13 August 2018, <https://www.omniglot.com/language/articles/serbocroatian.htm>.
- 317 Wayles Browne, "Serbo-Croatian Language," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 8 August 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Serbo-Croatian-language>.
- 318 Wayles Browne, "Serbo-Croatian Language: Groupings, Geography, and Religion," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 8 August 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Serbo-Croatian-language>.
- 319 Robert Lindsay, "Mutual Intelligibility of Languages in the Slavic Family," Academia.edu, accessed 15 August 2018, [https://www.academia.edu/4080349/Mutual\\_Intelligibility\\_of\\_Languages\\_in\\_the\\_Slavic\\_Family](https://www.academia.edu/4080349/Mutual_Intelligibility_of_Languages_in_the_Slavic_Family).
- 320 Asya Pereltsvaig, "(Serbo-)Croatian: A Tale of Two Languages—Or Three? Or Four?" *Languages of the World: Exploring the Rich Diversity of Human Languages*, 18 August 2014, <https://www.languagesoftheworld.info/europe/serbo-croatian-tale-two-languages-three-four.html>.
- 321 UCLA Department of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Languages and Cultures, "Background Information (Serbian)," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://slavic.ucla.edu/languages/bcs/serbian-background-info/>.
- 322 Gary F. Simons and Charles D. Fennig, eds., "Serbian: Language of Serbia," *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, 21st ed. (Dallas, Texas: SIL International, 2018), <https://www.ethnologue.com/language/srp>.
- 323 Robert Lindsay, "Mutual Intelligibility of Languages in the Slavic Family," Academia.edu, accessed 15 August 2018, [https://www.academia.edu/4080349/Mutual\\_Intelligibility\\_of\\_Languages\\_in\\_the\\_Slavic\\_Family](https://www.academia.edu/4080349/Mutual_Intelligibility_of_Languages_in_the_Slavic_Family).
- 324 Asya Pereltsvaig, "(Serbo-)Croatian: A Tale of Two Languages—Or Three? Or Four?" *Languages of the World: Exploring the Rich Diversity of Human Languages*, 18 August 2014, <https://www.languagesoftheworld.info/europe/serbo-croatian-tale-two-languages-three-four.html>.
- 325 Thomas F. Magner, "Digraphia in the Territories of the Croats and Serbs," *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 150 (10 August 2001): 11-26, <https://www.deepdyve.com/lp/de-gruyter/digraphia-in-the-territories-of-the-croats-and-serbs-9biWZDK0Vs/1>.
- 326 Wayles Browne, "Serbo-Croatian Language: Writing, Pronunciation, and Spelling," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 8 August 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Serbo-Croatian-language>.
- 327 Thomas F. Magner, "Digraphia in the Territories of the Croats and Serbs," *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 150 (10 August 2001): 11-26, <https://www.languagesoftheworld.info/europe/serbo-croatian-tale-two-languages-three-four.html>.
- 328 Gary F. Simons and Charles D. Fennig, eds., "Languages of Serbia: Hungarian," *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, 21st ed. (Dallas, Texas: SIL International, 2018), <https://www.ethnologue.com/country/RS/languages>.
- 329 Steven W. Sowards, "Lecture 1: Geography and Ethnic Geography of the Balkans to 1500," Twenty-Five Lectures on Modern Balkan History, May 1996, <http://staff.lib.msu.edu/sowards/balkan/lecture1.html>.
- 330 Gary F. Simons and Charles D. Fennig, eds., "Albanian, Gheg," *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, 21st ed. (Dallas, Texas: SIL International, 2018), [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=aln](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=aln).
- 331 Gary F. Simons and Charles D. Fennig, eds., "Serbia," *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, 21st ed. (Dallas, Texas: SIL International, 2018), <https://www.ethnologue.com/country/rs/languages>.
- 332 Gary F. Simons and Charles D. Fennig, eds., "Serbian-Romani," *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, 21st ed. (Dallas, Texas: SIL International, 2018), <https://www.ethnologue.com/subgroups/serbian-romani>.

# Serbian Cultural Orientation

## Chapter 1 | Profile

### Assessment

1. The Morava River flows through the most fertile lands of central Serbia.
2. Serbia's northern plains are the least fertile area of the country.
3. The Battle of Kosovo has been immortalized in Serbian folk literature and heroic ballads.
4. Belgrade has been ruled by a number of different political entities over the centuries.
5. After Prime Minister Tito died, the republics of Yugoslavia became more closely unified.

*Assessment Answers: 1. True; 2. True; 3. True; 4. True; 5. False*



*Church of Saint Sava, Belgrade  
Flickr / George Groutas*

## Chapter 2 | Serbian Cultural Orientation

---

# Religion

## Introduction

The Serbian Orthodox Church is the dominant religious body in Serbia. Besides its historical support of collective values, the Church has promoted respect for authority, patriarchy, and tradition. These values resonate among the Serbian population today. The origins of the Serbian Orthodox Church date back to the consecration of Prince Rastko Nemanja (Saint Sava) as archbishop of Serbia in 1219. The Serbian Orthodox Church has come to represent Serbian nationalism, most notably during the several centuries of Ottoman domination.<sup>333, 334</sup> Until 1766, the chief see (religious center) of the Serbian Orthodox Church was mostly located in the Kosovo city of Peć, and many

Serbs see Kosovo as the cradle of Serbian Orthodox civilization.<sup>335</sup> For this reason, many modern-day Serbs are opposed to Kosovo independence.<sup>336</sup>

Today, religious affiliation is one of the defining characteristics of Serbia's ethnic populations—more so than language. Ethnic Serbs are primarily members of the Serbian Orthodox Church (84.6%); Croats and Hungarians, who live mainly in the northern province of Vojvodina, are predominantly Roman Catholic (5%). Around 3.1% of the population is Muslim, including ethnic Albanians in the south, Bosniaks in the Sandžak region (along the border with Montenegro), and some Roma.<sup>337, 338</sup> Slovaks, who live primarily in Vojvodina, are mostly Protestant Christians (1%).<sup>339, 340</sup>



*Serbian Scouts are baptized into the Serbian Orthodox faith, Šabac, western Serbia Flickr / Kevin Wallis*

## The Role of Religion in the Government

The Serbian constitution establishes freedom of religion, which is generally respected.<sup>341</sup> At the same time, laws in Serbia limit religious practices of some groups and give preference to the Serbian Orthodox Church. Smaller religious groups must register to gain legal status, which some claim is too difficult and costly to carry out. Unregistered religious organizations may not open bank accounts, publish religious literature, receive tax exemptions, or carry out other customary legal and business activities. Members of minority religious groups have reported acts of discrimination against them—including negative media reports, vandalism, and hate crimes. Public officials have sometimes spoken negatively about unapproved religious groups or their members.<sup>342</sup>



*Debate at the University of Niš Flickr/ UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia*

Religious law in Serbia recognizes seven “traditional” religions that have “historic continuity.” Among them are the Serbian Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Reformed Christian Church, and the Evangelical Christian Church.<sup>343</sup> The

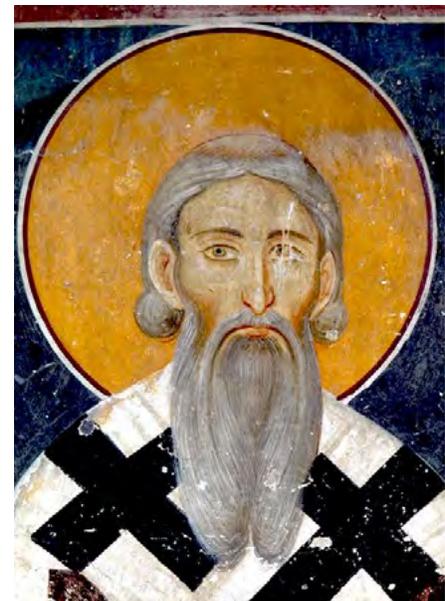
law also provides the Jewish and Islamic communities the right to practice their religion. In addition, the law recognizes the Russian and Greek Orthodox churches, though they have not formally registered with the government. But it excludes the Orthodox churches of Montenegro and Macedonia.<sup>344</sup> The Serbian government has helped fund construction of Orthodox Church buildings, and it declares some Orthodox religious celebrations as national holidays. Public schools must offer classes in either civic education or one of the seven recognized religions.<sup>345, 346</sup>



*Church of the Holy Trinity, Russian Orthodox church in Belgrade  
Flickr / Tamara Polajnar*

### *Saint Savaism (Svetosavlje)*

While Serbian public life is secular, the relationship between religion and politics is complex. The Serbian Orthodox Church wields conservative and nationalist influence by portraying itself as the keeper of Serbian identity and stressing the importance of orthodoxy in national life.<sup>347</sup> Using the ideology of a union of religious and state power called Saint Savaism (Svetosavlje), the church has become increasingly involved in state affairs since the 1990s.<sup>348, 349, 350</sup>



*Fresco of Saint Sava,  
Studenica Monastery Wikimedia*

In 2001, the government introduced religious education into Serbian public schools under Prime Minister Zoran Đinđić, whose government was eager for the support of the Serbian Orthodox Church.<sup>351</sup> Orthodox Christian rituals are more common in state institutions and schools. Some have adopted the celebration of patron saints (*slava*), which was solely a family celebration in communist Yugoslavia. In 2018, the Serbian Army celebrated Saint George as its patron saint for the first time. One of the most controversial traditions is the nationwide celebration day for Saint Sava, the patron saint of Serbian schools.<sup>352</sup>

The involvement of the Orthodox Church in secular affairs has growing opposition among Serbian intellectuals, who say it represents a breach of the Serbian constitution's

separation of church and state.<sup>353</sup> Government officials argue that the changes have more to do with national identity than religion, and that it “sends a message that Serbia is the country of Serbs first and other citizens second.”<sup>354</sup>

In recent years, Serbian Orthodox clerics have been highly critical of the Vučić administration’s efforts at compromise over Kosovo’s independence.<sup>355</sup> In 2018, the Orthodox Church renamed itself the Serbian Orthodox Church—Peć Patriarchate.<sup>356</sup>

## Religion and Daily Life

Although most Serbs identify as members of the Serbian Orthodox Church, participation in formal religious activities is low.<sup>357</sup> Church attendance dropped significantly during the communist era. The official doctrine at that time was atheism, and thus, the government marginalized formal religion. During the 1990s, church attendance was estimated at less than 10% of the population.<sup>358</sup> Even now, most people attend church on holidays, rather than weekly.<sup>359</sup> Overt religious practices are not a daily ritual.<sup>360, 361</sup>



*Lighting candles, Church of Saint Sava, Belgrade  
Flickr / Magalie L'Abbé*

Historically, religious identification in Serbia has been expressed through nationalism, as seen in the Serbia-Kosovo conflict.<sup>362</sup> Because the state aligns with the Serbian Orthodox Church, members of other religions may suffer discrimination. Recently, there has been some progress toward including a wider range of organized religions in Serbia.<sup>363</sup>

People who live in the countryside are more likely to engage in religious practices that affect their everyday lives. Here, people may adhere to folk traditions with religious roots. The belief in supernatural beings, such as ghosts or vampires, draws anthropologists to the region for study. Rural Serbians may also observe traditional religious holidays with more colorful and lively festivals than are typically found in the cities.<sup>364</sup>

## Religious Events and Holidays

Many of the major holidays in Serbia are religious and tied to the Serbian Orthodox Church calendar.<sup>365</sup> Since the Orthodox Church continues to use the Julian calendar,

rather than the Gregorian calendar adopted by the West, several of these holidays fall on different days from those celebrated in Protestant- or Roman Catholic-dominated countries. For example, Christmas in Serbia falls on 7 January and Easter is observed anywhere from one to five weeks later than its date on the Gregorian calendar.<sup>366</sup>

The Serbian government recognizes two religion-based national holidays: Orthodox Good Friday through Easter Monday (4 days), and Christmas Day. All Serbians, no matter their religion, typically receive Good Friday, the Monday following Easter, and Orthodox Christmas Day off from work. Only after-hours stores and certain institutions remain open for business.<sup>367</sup> Employees who practice other faiths approved by the government may also receive time off work to observe their religious holidays. These include Catholic Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter; Islamic Eid al-Fitr (last day of Ramadan) and Eid al-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice); and Jewish Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement).<sup>368</sup>



*Interior, Church of Saint Sava, Belgrade  
Flickr / Antti T. Nissinen*

### *Easter (Vaskrs)*

The Easter celebration (Vaskrs or Uskrs) begins on the Friday before Easter and ends one day after Easter. Easter is associated with numerous customs, rituals, and special dishes. For strict Orthodox Serbians, the holiday follows a six-week period of Lenten fasting.<sup>369</sup>



*Colored eggs during Easter (Vaskrs)  
Wikimedia / Тсмена*

Families begin preparations for Easter on the Friday before, Good Friday. Observant families eat only fruits, vegetables, and nuts, attend church, and perform religious rituals on this most solemn day of the Easter holiday. Regardless of how religious they are, most families spend the day boiling and coloring eggs. While eggs can be many different colors, the most common is red, as it holds special importance for the holiday. Families may keep a red egg in the home as a protective symbol long after Easter.<sup>370</sup>

On Saturday, families traditionally prepare the meal for the next day when the fast ends. Around the country, Serbians hold competitions for the most beautifully decorated eggs. On Easter Sunday, families attend church services. After the service, it is traditional for families to ask the parish priest to bless their colored eggs.<sup>371</sup>

Most Serbians spend Easter Sunday visiting friends and family. Colored eggs may be exchanged between hosts and guests, who may use the traditional Easter greeting "*Hristos Vaskrese!*" (Christ resurrected!) with a response of "*Vaistinu Vaskrese!*" (Indeed resurrected!).<sup>372</sup> Eggs and candy are hidden in yards and around the house for children to find. Egg-tapping competitions between siblings is also traditional: each player holds a hard-boiled egg that they tap against their opponent's egg. The player whose egg remains intact is the winner.<sup>373</sup>

Family members share formal dinners together, breaking their fast with specially prepared meat dishes, different types of salads made from fresh vegetables, and holiday breads.<sup>374</sup> In eastern Serbia and some parts of Vojvodina, the Easter bread (*kovrčnjak*) is made from dough braided around a single red egg.<sup>375</sup>

## Christmas (*Božić*)



Christmas table in Serbia  
Wikimedia / Petar Milošević

A national holiday, Orthodox Christmas falls on 7 January. The celebration in Serbia is a blend of Christian symbols and pagan traditions. The Christmas season begins weeks before the actual holiday. Christmas markets throughout the country offer holiday foods, hand-crafted items, mulled wine, and local specialties. The three Sundays before Christmas are dedicated to celebrating children, mothers, and fathers, respectively. On these days, the celebrated family member

may be "held captive" and released only after paying a "ransom" of gifts to the other family members.<sup>376</sup>

Christmas Eve begins with the ritual burning of oak branches (*badnjak*), followed by feasting and celebrating. The burning of the *badnjak* is a symbolic sacrifice intended to bring good fortune in the coming year. In cities, *badnjak* are sold in markets, but

in rural areas families will venture into the woods and cut their own. In some homes, hay is scattered across the floor, symbolic of Christ's manger.<sup>377</sup>

Serbians celebrate Christmas Day with a large meal, typically featuring roast pork (*pecenica*) as the main dish. A central feature of the Christmas meal is *česnica*, a ceremonial, round loaf of bread containing a coin. During the meal, the family breaks up the loaf and the person who finds the coin will have good fortune in the coming year.<sup>378, 379</sup>

### *Patron Saint Day (Krsna Slava)*



*Slava bread (slavski kolač)*  
Flickr / Ivana Sokolović

Krsna Slava or Slava, is considered one of the most important holidays for a family. The annual Serbian Orthodox feast has its roots in the pre-Christian worship of ancestors, which played an important role in ancient Slavic cultures. With the advent of Christianity, patron saints replaced ancestor-protectors. Today, family members gather with friends and neighbors to observe one of 78 saint days, or Slavass, annually.<sup>380, 381</sup> Each household celebrates one patron saint as a hereditary family holiday.<sup>382</sup> The most celebrated saint day is in honor of Saint Nicholas on December 19th (Nikoljdan); about half the population celebrates this Slava. All Slava celebration days are working holidays and most workplaces remain open. In 2014, the Krsna Slava was inscribed into the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.<sup>383, 384, 385</sup>

Slava began in the ninth century when the Christian religion spread among Serbs. Historians believe that either a village or an individual family would choose a patron saint as a protector. That saint's birthday eventually became the date on which family members would receive baptism. In successive generations, the saint's name and family celebration date became a yearly tradition passed from father to son; a woman claims the saint of her husband.<sup>386</sup>

There are regional differences in how Serbians celebrate Slava; some may begin with a church service, but all involve a ceremonial bread (*slavski kolač*) and pudding (*žito* or *koljivo*). A special candle (*slavska sveća*) also remains lit throughout the day. Meals

are generous, and if the Slava falls during a fasting period (*posna slava*), they may consist of salads, fish stew, and roasted fish. The patron saint is usually represented at the feast by his or her icon set in a prominent place in the home. The icon serves as the focal point for the rest of the celebration.<sup>387, 388, 389</sup>

## Buildings of Worship



St. Mark's Serbian Orthodox church, Belgrade  
Wikimedia / Dcabrilo

Orthodox churches in Serbia share similar design patterns. A circular or rectangular central section with formal chairs often appears near the front, where dignitaries or important guests sit. In contrast, the general public stands during the services because there are no pews or seats. Many churches are constructed with a dome, symbolizing heaven.<sup>390, 391</sup> Frescoes reflecting biblical teachings and paintings of religious figures adorn church walls and interior screens. Ottoman rulers often covered these religious scenes with plaster, but the Serbs later restored them.<sup>392</sup>

There are Serbian Orthodox churches throughout the country. With a capacity of 10,000 people, Saint Sava Cathedral in Belgrade is the world's second-largest orthodox church and Serbia's largest.<sup>393</sup> Nikolajevska (Saint Nicholas), also in Belgrade, was constructed in the 18th century in the baroque style. It contains icons painted by Serbia's most famous icon painter, Dimitrije Bačević, and is said to hold remains of Saint Andrew.<sup>394, 395</sup>



White Angel of Mileševa Monastery  
Flickr / Levan Ramishvili

Christian monasteries also dot the Serbian countryside, many of them dating back centuries. The 12th-century Studenica Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is located in a small village in the Raška District.<sup>396</sup> The "Western Gate" at the entrance is built of stone topped with a wooden pyramid-shaped roof. The monastery includes a residence hall, a dining hall, an old stone building, the King's Church, and the larger Church of

the Virgin Mary. White marble covers the outer walls; frescoes and paintings depicting members of Nemanjić family, the Virgin Mary and child, and Saint Sava adorn the interior walls and structures.<sup>397, 398</sup>

Mileševa Monastery, another famous monastery, is in southwest Serbia. Founded in approximately 1234, the body of Saint Sava is entombed here. Turkish forces burned the monastery in the 17th century, but it was later rebuilt. In the church, the gravesite of Saint Sava is commemorated with lit candles. Paintings of Saint Sava and King Vladislav from the 13th century were heavily damaged during the Ottoman period and World War II.<sup>399, 400</sup>

## Behavior in Places of Worship

Statues, frescoes, and images of Christ and other Christian figures are sacred and should be approached quietly and with respect.<sup>401</sup> The Orthodox churches represent not only Serbia’s religious background but also its political and cultural heritage.<sup>402, 403</sup>



The iconostasis, St. Mark's Serbian Orthodox church, Belgrade  
Wikimedia / Orjen

Visitors to Serbian churches and monasteries should dress modestly and avoid wearing revealing or dirty clothing. Shorts and miniskirts are not appropriate. Proper dress includes clean shirts and long pants for men and skirts or pants with blouses or sweaters for women.<sup>404</sup> Visitors should remove hats before entering and refrain from touching paintings or statues. Although men and women may enter churches and worship together, women are not allowed

in the altar space behind the wall or screen that holds religious icons and paintings (the *iconostasis*). All visitors should keep their voices low and refrain from laughing loudly or making any remarks that could disturb others.<sup>405</sup>

May I enter the church?		
Visitor:	mogoo lee daa oodyem oo tsRkvoo?	May I enter the church?
Local:	daa	Yes.

Exchange 1

When visiting a Muslim mosque, visitors must conduct themselves politely and modestly. All clothing should be clean and loose-fitting. Women’s skirts should reach the knee and men should wear pants and shirts. It is customary for a woman to cover her head with a scarf before entering a mosque, and everyone may be required to remove their shoes.<sup>406, 407</sup>

In general, visitors to any church or building of worship should follow rules posted in writing or that local people are observing. Food or drink should not enter a church, monastery, or mosque, and visitors should not take photographs inside or outside the building unless given permission.<sup>408</sup> Times of prayer depend on the protocols of individual churches. If visitors enter during a service, they should stand silently to observe and not walk around.<sup>409, 410</sup>

Do I need to cover my head?		
Visitor:	daa lee moRam daa pokReeyem glaavoo?	Do I need to cover my head?
Local:	ne, aalee tyete mozhdaa moReteete ako poseeteete manasteerR	No, but if you visit a monastery you might have to.

*Exchange 2*

When do you hold services?		
Visitor:	kaadaa ye sloozhbaa?	When do you hold services?
Local:	nedelyom	On Sundays.

*Exchange 3*

### Endnotes for Chapter 2: Religion

- 333 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, “Nemanjić Dynasty,” 20 July 1998, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Nemanjic-dynasty>.
- 334 Tim Judah, “Chapter 2: An Empire on Earth: The Holy Roots,” in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000), loc. 651, 657-680, Kindle.
- 335 Aleksandar Vasovic, “Serbia’s Orthodox Church to Change Name to Stress Kosovo Link,” Reuters, 8 March 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-serbia-church-kosovo/serbias-orthodox-church-to-change-name-to-stress-kosovo-link-idUSKCN1GK1XX>.
- 336 Sima Avramović et al., “The Predicament of Serbian Orthodox Holy Places in Kosovo and Metohia: Elements for a Historical, Legal and Conservational Understanding,” University of Belgrade Law Faculty, 2010, 20-27, <http://www.ius.bg.ac.rs/prof/Materijali/avrsim/The%20Predicament%20of%20Serbian%20Orthodox%20Holy%20Places.pdf>.
- 337 Central Intelligence Agency, “Serbia: People and Society: Religions,” in *The World Factbook*, updated 8 June 2018, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ri.html>.
- 338 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, “Serbia: People: Religion,” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 11 April 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia#ref228323>.
- 339 Index Mundi, “Serbia Demographics Profile 2018,” updated 20 January 2018, [https://www.indexmundi.com/serbia/demographics\\_profile.html](https://www.indexmundi.com/serbia/demographics_profile.html).
- 340 Vojvodina Slovak Cultural Institute, “Slovaks in Serbia,” trans. Ondrej Mihál, 2018, <http://www.slovackizavod.org.rs/en/kultura-i-sira-javnost/12949>.
- 341 Freedom House, “Freedom in the World 2018: Serbia: Profile,” accessed 10 July 2018, <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2018/serbia>.
- 342 U.S. Department of State, “Serbia 2017 International Religious Freedom Report,” 1, 11, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/281200.pdf>.
- 343 Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe and Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, “Act on Churches and Religious Communities,” *Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, no. 36 (2006), <https://www.legislationline.org>.
- 344 U.S. Department of State, “Serbia,” 4, accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/171719.pdf>.
- 345 U.S. Department of State, “Serbia 2017 International Religious Freedom Report,” 1, 3-5, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/281200.pdf>.
- 346 GlobalSecurity.com, “Serbian Orthodox Church,” updated 20 September 2013, <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/europe/orthodox-serbian.htm>.
- 347 Aleksandar Vasovic, “Serbia’s Orthodox Church to Change Name to Stress Kosovo Link,” Reuters, 8 March 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-serb-ia-church-kosovo/serbias-orthodox-church-to-change-name-to-stress-kosovo-link-idUSKCN1GK1XX>.
- 348 Marko P. Djurić, “Serbian Orthodoxy between Two Worlds,” *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe* 38, no. 2, art. 6 (2018): 87-89, <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/ree/vol38/iss2/6>.
- 349 Marina Falina, “Svetosavlje: A Case Study in the Nationalization of Religion,” *SZRKG* (2007): 505-507, 525-526, <https://www.e-periodica.ch/cntmng?pid=zfk-002:2007:101::656>.
- 350 Staša Zajović and Katie Mahuron, “Challenging the Growing Power of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Public Life: The Case of Women in Black—Serbia,” Association for Women’s Rights in Development, accessed 22 July 2018, [https://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/feminists\\_on\\_the\\_frontlines\\_-\\_challenging\\_serbian\\_orthodox\\_-\\_women\\_in\\_black-serbia.pdf](https://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/feminists_on_the_frontlines_-_challenging_serbian_orthodox_-_women_in_black-serbia.pdf).
- 351 Bojan Aleksov, “Religious Education in Serbia,” *Religion, State & Society* 32, no. 4 (December 2004): 341-363, <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/5504/14018c95e966f0e6f178e28a45a60c89aba1.pdf>.
- 352 Filip Rudic, “Orthodox Customs Spread Deeper into Serbian Institutions,” *Balkan Insight*, 8 May 2018, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/orthodox-christian-customs-taking-over-serbian-institutions-05-07-2018>.
- 353 Dragoljub Kaurin and W. John Morgan, “Orthodoxy and Education in Post-Socialist Serbia: A Comment,” *Journal of Religion and Society* 15 (2013): 3, <http://moses.creighton.edu/jrs/2013/2013-18.pdf>.
- 354 Filip Rudic, “Orthodox Customs Spread Deeper into Serbian Institutions,” *Balkan Insight*, 8 May 2018, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/orthodox-christian-customs-taking-over-serbian-institutions-05-07-2018>.
- 355 Maja Zivanovic, “Serbian Church Clerics Savage Vucic’s Handling of Kosovo,” *Balkan Insight*, 16 May 2018, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbian-orthodox-church-issues-new-critics-over-kosovo-05-16-2018>.
- 356 Aleksandar Vasovic, “Serbia’s Orthodox Church to Change Name to Stress Kosovo Link,” Reuters, 8 March 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-serb-ia-church-kosovo/serbias-orthodox-church-to-change-name-to-stress-kosovo-link-idUSKCN1GK1XX>.
- 357 U.S. Department of State, “Serbia,” 1, accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/171719.pdf>.

### Endnotes for Chapter 2: Religion

- 358 Pew Research Center, "Religious Belief and National Belonging in Central and Eastern Europe," 10 May 2017, <http://www.pewforum.org/2017/05/10/religious-belief-and-national-belonging-in-central-and-eastern-europe/>.
- 359 Countries and Their Cultures, "Serbs: Religion and Expressive Culture," accessed 22 July 2018, <http://www.everyculture.com/Europe/Serbs-Religion-and-Expressive-Culture.html>.
- 360 Sima Avramovic, "Understanding Secularism in a Post-Communist State: Case of Serbia," International Center for Law and Religious Studies, accessed 21 July 2018, <https://www.iclrs.org/content/blurb/files/Serbia.1.pdf>.
- 361 Violeta Cvetkovska Ocokoljic and Tatjana Cvetkovski, "The Influence of Religion on the Creation of National Identity in Serbia," *Journal of Identity and Migration Studies* 4, no. 2 (2010): 81-103, [http://e-migration.ro/jims/Vol4\\_No2\\_2010/Articles/JIMS\\_Vol4\\_No2\\_2010\\_pp81-103\\_OCOKOLJIC.pdf](http://e-migration.ro/jims/Vol4_No2_2010/Articles/JIMS_Vol4_No2_2010_pp81-103_OCOKOLJIC.pdf).
- 362 B.A. Robinson, "Religious Violence: Religious Aspects of the Yugoslavia-Kosovo Conflict," Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance, updated 8 April 2007, [http://www.religioustolerance.org/war\\_koso.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/war_koso.htm).
- 363 U.S. Department of State, "Serbia 2017 International Religious Freedom Report," accessed 22 July 2018, 1, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/281200.pdf>.
- 364 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulson, "Serbia: Cultural Life: Daily Life and Social Customs," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2017, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia/Government-and-society#ref228350>.
- 365 Serbian Orthodox Church, "On the Julian Calendar, Church Tradition, and Standing for the Faith," 10 January 2016, [http://www.spc.rs/eng/julian\\_calendar\\_church\\_tradition\\_and\\_standing\\_faith](http://www.spc.rs/eng/julian_calendar_church_tradition_and_standing_faith).
- 366 TimeandDate.com, "Change from Julian to Gregorian Calendar," accessed 21 July 2018, [http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/julian-gregorian-switch.html?c\\_location=ufi](http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/julian-gregorian-switch.html?c_location=ufi).
- 367 National Bank of Serbia, "Public Holidays in Serbia," accessed 22 July 2018, [https://www.nbs.rs/internet/english/15/neradni\\_dani.html](https://www.nbs.rs/internet/english/15/neradni_dani.html).
- 368 National Tourism Organisation of Serbia, "Opening Times and Holidays," accessed 22 July 2018, <http://www.serbia.travel/about-serbia/society/opening-times-and-holidays.726.html>.
- 369 Information Service of the Serbian Orthodox Church, "Fasting and Great Lent," 18 March 2018, [http://www.spc.rs/eng/fasting\\_and\\_great\\_lent](http://www.spc.rs/eng/fasting_and_great_lent).
- 370 Gordana Andrić, "Serbia Upholds its Easter Egg Traditions," *Balkan Insight*, 20 April 2014, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbia-upholds-its-easter-egg-traditions>.
- 371 Petar Živić, "Serbian Spring Holidays: Serbian Orthodox Easter," *Serbia Incoming by Fly Orient*, 15 March 2016, <https://www.serbiaincoming.com/magazine/serbian-spring-holidays-serbian-orthodox-easter/>.
- 372 Ivana Nikolic, Nemanja Cabric, and Filip Avramovic, "Celebrating Easter, Serbian Style," *Balkan Insight*, 29 April 2016, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/celebrating-easter-serbian-style-04-28-2016>.
- 373 Gordana Andrić, "Serbia Upholds Its Easter Egg Traditions," *Balkan Insight*, 20 April 2014, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbia-upholds-its-easter-egg-traditions>.
- 374 Ivana Nikolic, Nemanja Cabric, and Filip Avramovic, "Celebrating Easter, Serbian Style," *Balkan Insight*, 29 April 2016, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/celebrating-easter-serbian-style-04-28-2016>.
- 375 Serbia.com, "Unique Easter Traditions in Serbia," 28 April 2018, <https://www.serbia.com/unique-easter-traditions-serbia/>.
- 376 Gordana Andrić and Birn Belgrade, "Celebrate Christmas, Serbian Style," *Cord Magazine*, accessed 22 July 2018, <https://cordmagazine.com/feature/orthodox-christmas-celebrate-christmas-serbian-style/>.
- 377 Gordana Andrić and Birn Belgrade, "Celebrate Christmas, Serbian Style," *Cord Magazine*, accessed 22 July 2018, <https://cordmagazine.com/feature/orthodox-christmas-celebrate-christmas-serbian-style/>.
- 378 BBC Travel, "Serbia: The Place to Be: Christmas in Belgrade," accessed 21 July 2018, <http://www.bbc.com/storyworks/travel/serbia-the-place-to-be/christmas-in-belgrade>.
- 379 Gordana Andrić, "Celebrate Christmas, Serbia Style," *Balkan Insight*, 6 January 2014, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/celebrate-christmas-serbian-style>.
- 380 Karl Kaser, ed., "Patriarchy in the Balkans: Temporal and Cross-Cultural Approaches," in *Household and Family in the Balkans: Two Decades of Historical Family Research at University of Graz* (Berlin: LIT Verlag Münster, 2012), 51.
- 381 Sabina Hadžibubić, "The Slava Celebration: A Private and a Public Matter," *Temenos* 53, no. 1 (2017): 37, <https://journal.fi/temenos/article/view/51325/26255>.
- 382 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Serbian Orthodox Church, "Slava," accessed 22 July 2018, <http://sacserbchurch.org/sac/history-tradition/>.

### Endnotes for Chapter 2: Religion

- 383 Intangible Cultural Heritage, UNESCO, "Slava, Celebration of Family Saint Patron's Day: Serbia," accessed 22 July 2018, <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/slava-celebration-of-family-saint-patrons-day-01010>.
- 384 Serbia.com, "Patron Saint Day," accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.serbia.com/about-serbia/culture/ethnic-heritage/national-customs/patron-saint-day/>.
- 385 Petar Živić, "Slava: What Makes Serbs Different from Other Orthodox," *Serbia Incoming by Fly Orient*, accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.serbiaincoming.com/magazine/slava-what-makes-serbs-different-from-other-orthodox/>.
- 386 Dimitrije Popadic, "The Role of the Icon in the Serbian Krsna Slava Celebration: Ecclesiastical and Missiological Challenges," *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe* 20, no. 4 (Newberg, OR: George Fox University, 2000), <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/51119735.pdf>.
- 387 Dimitrije Popadic, "The Role of the Icon in the Serbian Krsna Slava Celebration: Ecclesiastical and Missiological Challenges," *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe* 20, no. 4 (Newberg, OR: George Fox University, 2000), <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/51119735.pdf>.
- 388 Serbia.com, "Patron Saint Day," accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.serbia.com/about-serbia/culture/ethnic-heritage/national-customs/patron-saint-day/>.
- 389 Petar Živić, "Slava: What Makes Serbs Different from Other Orthodox," *Serbia Incoming by Fly Orient*, accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.serbiaincoming.com/magazine/slava-what-makes-serbs-different-from-other-orthodox/>.
- 390 Nevena Debljović Ristić, "Theology and the Eastern Orthodox Church: Architecture Interpretation of the Triadological Principle," *European Journal of Science and Theology* 10, no.1 (Belgrade: Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, February 2014): 242-244, [http://www.ejst.tuiasi.ro/Files/43/22\\_Ristic.pdf](http://www.ejst.tuiasi.ro/Files/43/22_Ristic.pdf).
- 391 Hilarion Alfeyev, "The Architecture, Icons, and Music of the Orthodox Church," in *Orthodox Christianity*, vol. 3, (Yonkers: SVS Press), 57.
- 392 Laurence Mitchell, "Background Information: Art and Architecture," in *Serbia* (Bucks, England: Bradt Travel Guides, 2007), 41-42.
- 393 *World Atlas*, "World Facts: The Largest Orthodox Cathedrals in The World," accessed 22 July 2018, <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-largest-orthodox-cathedrals-in-the-world.html>.
- 394 Beograd, "Church Architecture," accessed 22 July 2018, <http://www.beograd.rs/en/serbian-orthodox-church/201396-church-architecture/>.
- 395 Laurence Mitchell, "Belgrade: What to See and Do," in *Serbia* (Bucks, England: Bradt Travel Guides, 2007), 167-168.
- 396 UNESCO, "Studena Monastery," accessed 22 July 2018, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/389>.
- 397 Valerie Singleton, "Getting Spiritual in Serbia," *Independent*, 3 May 2014, <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/europe/getting-spiritual-in-serbia-9315226.html>.
- 398 Monastery of Studencia, "History," accessed 22 July 2018, <http://www.manastirstudena.rs/en-index/#/history>.
- 399 Valerie Singleton, "Getting Spiritual in Serbia," *Independent*, 3 May 2014, <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/europe/getting-spiritual-in-serbia-9315226.html>.
- 400 Serbia.com, "Milieševa Monastery, the Guardian of Medieval Frescoes of Timeless Beauty," accessed 22 July 2018, <http://www.serbia.com/visit-serbia/cultural-attractions/monasteries-and-churches/mileseva-monastery-the-guardian-of-medieval-frescoes-of-timeless-beauty/>.
- 401 Anthony Alevizopoulos, "The Sacred Icons and the Holy Cross," Orthodox Church: Its Faith, Worship and Life, 20 April 2011, <http://molonlabe70.blogspot.com/2011/04/sacred-icons-and-holy-cross.html>.
- 402 Jim Forest, "The Serbian Orthodox Church," 12 December 2004, <http://www.incommunion.org/2004/12/12/the-serbian-orthodox-church/>.
- 403 Christopher Deliso, *Culture and Customs of Serbia and Montenegro* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2009), 35.
- 404 Expatify.com, "Learning the Social Customs of Serbia," 22 December 200, <http://www.expatify.com/serbia/learning-the-social-customs-of-serbia.html>.
- 405 David Barr, "Church Etiquette or Some Things You Should Know While in Church," Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, accessed 22 July 2018, <http://ww1.antiochian.org/christianeducation/etiquette>.
- 406 Expatify.com, "Learning the Social Customs of Serbia," 2 December 2009, <http://www.expatify.com/serbia/learning-the-social-customs-of-serbia.html>.
- 407 Matt Willis, "Practical Information: Visiting Places of Worship," *DK Eyewitness Travel Guide Serbia* (New York: Penguin, 18 October 2016), 149.
- 408 St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, "Church and Clergy Etiquette," accessed 22 July 2018, <https://stbarbarachurchnc.org/etiquette.html>.
- 409 Matt Willis, "Practical Information: Visiting Places of Worship," *DK Eyewitness Travel Guide Serbia* (New York: Penguin, 18 October 2016), 149.

### Endnotes for Chapter 2: Religion

410 David Cownie and Juliana Cownie, "Chapter 2: Orthodox Church Life," in *A Guide to Orthodox Life* (Etna, CA: Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies), 54-100, <http://orthodoxinfo.com/praxis/guidech2.pdf>.

# Serbian Cultural Orientation

## Chapter 2 | Religion

### Assessment

1. There are no clothing restrictions when visiting a Serbian Orthodox Church.
2. The Serbian Constitution does not specify a state religion.
3. Religious education is not taught in public schools.
4. In Serbia today, the participation rate in formal religious activities is low.
5. Family members fast from food and drink during the Serbian Orthodox Christmas celebration.

*Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. True; 3. True; 4. False; 5. False*



*Slava traditions: slavski kolač bread and slavska sveća candle, which remains lit throughout the day*  
Wikimedia / Goran Andjelic

## Chapter 3 | Serbian Cultural Orientation

---

# Traditions

## Introduction

The richness and diversity of Serbian culture owes much to a mixing of nations caused by the great migrations and foreign occupations over the centuries. The Roman and Byzantine Empires, Greek missionaries, and, for over four centuries, the Ottoman Empire all contributed to Serbian culture. From the 12th through the 18th century, the mostly Christian Serbian population saw their rights curtailed and their traditions suppressed. The occupiers destroyed monasteries and churches—symbols of Serbian culture. Yet during this period, and throughout their history, Serbs have fiercely guarded their culture through a robust oral tradition of prose, poetry, and song. Today,

Serbian traditions derive from ancient Slavic belief systems and historical influences, which are closely connected to specific events, holidays, and hardships.<sup>411, 412</sup>

## Honor and Values

Personal and collective pride and honor are significant values in Serbian culture. “Preserving pride” (*sačuvati ponos*) is a topic of everyday conversation, both in the context of politics and on a social level.<sup>413</sup> Serbians take pride in the work they do. Hosts take great pride in offering homemade spirits (*loza*) and home-cooked meals to their guests. In traditional households, it is a matter of pride for the man of the house to perform the “masculine” duties of building or repairing things around the house, and for a woman to maintain the more “feminine” duties of housekeeping and child rearing.<sup>414</sup>



Prince Lazar Hrebeljanović, Kruševac, central Serbia  
Wikimedia / sr:Корисник:Sunrise

Serbs have a strong sense of national unity and social collectivism. People tend to be extremely loyal toward their friends and family. The importance of “sticking together” crosses over to communities and political groups, and Serbs may view any attempt to break this as antisocial. Loyalty ultimately influences the way Serbs build relationships and conduct business. Historically, the Serbian Orthodox Church has encouraged society over the individual, and still serves as an extension of Serbian national identity for many people.<sup>415</sup>

## Greetings and Gestures

When a foreign man greets a Serbian man, the two shake hands and look directly into the other’s eyes. Direct eye contact is important, regardless of age and gender; it communicates respect and a straightforward attitude. Serbians value trust, using nonverbal communication such as eye contact, physical distance, and gestures to gauge a person’s trustworthiness.<sup>416, 417</sup>

When a foreign man or woman greets a Serbian woman, the two offer a light handshake only. Serbian friends and family members may hug or kiss each other lightly on the cheeks, alternating three times. Such expressive behavior, however, is not appropriate

for visitors to the country.<sup>418</sup> If seated when being introduced to someone, the guest should stand up, especially if the person is a woman or is elderly.<sup>419</sup>

Foreign visitors should conduct themselves conservatively. Address people formally and avoid first names unless invited to do otherwise. The spoken greeting that accompanies a handshake varies. If meeting for the first time, it is appropriate to say, "*DobaaR dan*" (Good afternoon) or "*Dobro jutro*" (Good morning). When greeting someone you have already met, you may say something more casual, such as "*Kaako ste?*" (How are you?).<sup>420, 421</sup>



U.S. VP Michael Pence and Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić  
Wikimedia/Vice President Michael R. Pence

Good afternoon.		
Visitor:	dobaaR dan	Good afternoon.
Local:	dobaaR dan	Good afternoon.

Exchange 4

How are you?		
Visitor:	kaako ste?	How are you?
Local:	dobRo, veoma dobRo	Fine, very well.

Exchange 5

Good night!		
Visitor:	lakoo noty!	Good night!
Local:	lakoo noty!	Good night!

Exchange 6

### Communication Style

A visitor who knows something about Serbian history and shows eagerness to learn may be more apt to garner respect. This approach will generally lead to the most

cooperation from locals. That said, visitors should avoid discussing politically sensitive topics such as the NATO bombings or the status of Kosovo until a closer relationship is established. The best policy is to remain open-minded and friendly, keeping the conversation light. Be informed about past and current events and offer opinions when asked.<sup>422, 423</sup>



Serbian Scouts group from Niš  
Flickr / Kevin Wallis

In casual conversation, Serbs tend to be direct, open, and expressive. Their sense of humor often contains satire and *inat*, an ingrained cultural trait that means “stubbornness” or “defiance.” Westerners might describe *inat* as black humor, but Serbs see it as a display of strength in adversity.<sup>424</sup>

It is common for someone to ask a question that could be considered overly personal in the United States.<sup>425</sup> Visitors should be careful not to overreact if queried about their personal life. Because Serbians are family oriented, it is appropriate to ask politely about family members during initial exchanges. Whether meeting or taking leave of a person or group of people, visitors should remember to use clear, polite expressions.<sup>426</sup>

Hi, Mr. Petrovich! Are you doing well?		
Visitor:	dobaaR dan, gospodeene petRoveetyoo!	Hi, Mr. Petrovich.
Local:	zdRaavo	Hello!
Visitor:	daa lee ste dobRo?	Are you doing well?
Local:	daa	Yes.

Exchange 7

How is your family?		
Visitor:	kaako vam ye poRodeetsa?	How is your family?
Local:	hvaalaa, dobRo ye	They are doing fine, thank you.

Exchange 8

# Hospitality and Gift Giving

In Serbia, hospitality is an essential part of life, and meals are social events filled with small, but important rituals. Lunch and dinner are opportunities for family and friends to gather. If invited to a local’s home for a meal or a celebration, observe cultural protocols. Punctuality is valued in others, even though Serbians frequently do not arrive on time. Given this mixed message, it is advisable for a foreign guest to err on the side of caution and arrive on time.<sup>427</sup> Guests should dress appropriately in clean, reserved clothing, and accept hospitality graciously. It is customary for guests to remove their shoes before entering a home and to bring a gift.<sup>428</sup> An appropriate gift is a box of chocolates, a bottle of wine, or flowers.<sup>429</sup>

Thank you for your hospitality.		
Visitor:	zaeesta sam vam zahvalan na gostopReemstvoo	Thank you for your hospitality.
Local:	neeye to neeshta	It is nothing. / Don’t mention it.

*Exchange 9*

This gift is for you.		
Visitor:	ovo ye vash poklon	This gift is for you.
Local:	hvaalaa	Thank you.

*Exchange 10*

Serbs are genial, warm hosts who try to make their guests feel comfortable. They may feel slighted if someone refuses an offer of coffee, tea, or any other specially prepared food or drink. Therefore, guests should politely accept what a host offers.<sup>430</sup> Often, as a welcome to the home, a host will immediately serve black coffee, a homemade or local *rakija* (brandy), or a small amount of sweet fruit preserves followed by a glass of water.<sup>431, 432</sup>



*Sharing dinner at a Belgrade restaurant  
Flickr / Tamara Polajnar*

## Eating in a Serbian Home

While dining in a Serbian home, there are a few formal rules. Guests wait for their host to begin eating before they start, usually preceded by “*Prijatno!*” (Bon appetite!).<sup>433</sup> Guests should not hesitate to ask for more food. Typically, soup is the first course, followed by a main course, and then dessert. Since Serbians take great pride in the food they prepare, showing interest in the meal is a welcome compliment. Guests should also compliment the host on the quality of the meal. At the end of the meal, guests should remain seated until the host leaves the table.<sup>434</sup>



Syrian refugees receive a hot meal, Belgrade  
Flickr / Kevin Wallis

If a guest is drinking an alcoholic beverage, the host or hostess will automatically fill it when it is empty. Do not empty the glass completely if you do not want more.<sup>435</sup> When toasting each other or someone specific (saying “*Živeli!*”), it is important for those initiating and receiving the toast to maintain direct eye contact.<sup>436</sup> To break eye contact or avoid looking into the other’s eyes can be misunderstood as disrespect or weakness.<sup>437</sup>

This food is very tasty.		
Visitor:	ovaa hRaanaa ye veomaa ookoosnaa	This food is very tasty.
Local:	hvaalaa zove se saaRma	Thank you, it’s called <i>sarma</i> .

*Exchange 11*

What is the name of this dish?		
Visitor:	kaako se zove ovo yelo?	What is the name of this dish?
Local:	ovo ye geebaneetsa	This is <i>gibanica</i> .

*Exchange 12*

## Dress

### Traditional Dress



Coworkers, Wikipedia Serbia  
Wikimedia / Mickey Mystique

Serbians today dress similarly to their counterparts in other European countries, and traditional folk dress is mostly restricted to Serbian cultural festivals.<sup>438</sup> Historically, Serbs wore clothing that was colorful and richly decorated by hand. Several items of traditional Serbian dress are distinctive and widely marketed by modern retailers specializing in folk clothing. Among these are *opanci*—leather shoes with upturned toes that are fastened to the feet by ankle straps.

The *šajkača*, a traditional hat characterized by its V-shaped top, is still worn by elders in some rural areas. The hat became a symbol of the Serbian Army in World War I and resistance fighters during World War II. Later, it was reappropriated as a Serbian nationalist symbol by Bosnian Serb commanders during the Bosnian War in the 1990s.<sup>439, 440</sup>

### Modern Dress



Serbian politician Jana Ljubičić (right)  
Wikimedia / EU2016 SK

Clothing in Serbia is like that worn in the United States and Western Europe. Typically, men and women wear conservative business attire at work: dark colored suits, or, optionally for women, fashionable but muted dresses. For a slightly less formal look, men may remove their jacket.<sup>441, 442</sup> In Vojvodina, and in urban areas throughout Serbia, people wear trendy clothing.<sup>443</sup> For formal events, Serbians often wear designer styles according to their financial

means.<sup>444, 445</sup> For daily, casual wear, residents of Serbian cities and the countryside wear jeans, shirts, T-shirts, sweaters, and athletic or casual leather shoes.<sup>446</sup>

Is this acceptable to wear?		
Visitor:	daa lee ye ovo dozvoljeno daa se nosee?	Is this acceptable to wear?
Local:	daa	Yes.

Exchange 13

## Cuisine

Serbian cuisine is derived from several culinary traditions, with dishes influenced by Greek, Turkish, Italian, Hungarian, German, and Austrian styles.<sup>447</sup> Because these influences have extended over large parts of the Balkans, many Serbian dishes have popular counterparts in adjacent countries.<sup>448</sup>

Most Serbians eat three meals daily: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Breakfast may include bread, meat, and/or eggs. The most popular breakfast meal is *burek* (a savory pastry filled with cheese or ground meat) and yogurt.<sup>449</sup> Lunch is often the largest meal and typically is eaten after noon.<sup>450</sup> This meal may include several courses, such as soup, a main meat dish, salad, and dessert. Dinner, eaten around 5 or 6 p.m., is much lighter.<sup>451, 452</sup>



Traditional Serbian foods  
Flickr / Antonis Gkeka

Though Serbia is not a large country, regional cuisine variations are noticeable. In Vojvodina, for example, Austrian and Hungarian influences are seen in the popularity of goulash, dumplings, noodles, *kulen* (smoked sausage spiced with paprika), and *buhle* (soft buns filled with jam and other fillings).<sup>453</sup>

### Main Dishes, Creams, and Relishes

Serbian kitchens contain all varieties of preserves, relishes, and food accompaniments, many of which are homemade. *Ajvar* is a red pepper relish or spread, often made with eggplant, garlic, and chili peppers. Spicy or mild, it is the most common relish in Serbia and families pass on recipes from generation to generation.<sup>454, 455</sup> Other condiments include *kajmak*, a specialty of the southwestern mountain regions that is similar in texture (though not in flavor) to cream cheese; and *kiseli kupus*, the

Serbian version of sauerkraut. *Sladko*, a type of sweetened fruit preserve, is also very common.<sup>456</sup>

Serbian food tends to be spicy and meat-based. The most popular national dishes are *pljeskavica* (spicy grilled pork or beef patties served with onions) and *sarma* (fermented cabbage leaves filled with minced meat and rice). *Sarma* is often served with a side of sour cream and a bowl of hearty bean soup (*pasulj*).<sup>457, 458</sup> *Musaka* (a baked dish of minced pork or beef with eggs and potatoes) and *podvarak* (roasted pork with *kiseli kupus* and onions) are also popular.<sup>459</sup>



Homemade ajvar  
Wikimedia / Nikola Škorić

What ingredients are used to make <i>sarma</i> ?		
Visitor:	koye sasstoyke koReesteete za pRavlyenye sasRme?	What ingredients are used to make <i>sarma</i> ?
Local:	keeselee koopos, leestovee keeselog kooposaa, mleveno meso, look, yaye, so, beebeR, peRshoon, peeReenach, mlevena tsRvenaa papReekaa, slaaneenaa	Shredded sauerkraut and sauerkraut leaves, ground meat, onion, egg, salt, pepper, parsley, rice, paprika, bacon

Exchange 14

## Breads and Sweets

Bread has long been a staple of most Serbian meals, and a traditional welcome is to offer guests *warm pogača* (homemade bread) dipped in salt.<sup>460</sup> Bread is also associated with many Serbian Orthodox religious rituals. Krsna Slava, the celebration of a family's patron saint, is commemorated with *slavski kolać*, a circular bread loaf on which religious and family seals are often imprinted. *Gibanica* is a cheese pie made of thin layers of pastry dough layered with cottage cheese, and *proja* is a type of corn bread.<sup>461</sup>

Typical sweets include baklava, a Balkan dessert staple inherited from Serbia's former Ottoman rulers, and *palačinke*, a crêpe-like pancake served with chocolate cream, ground walnuts, ground biscuit, or honey. Pastry shops (*poslastičarnica*)

often offer coffee with a large selection of pastries (*kolač*), cakes (*torta*), and strudels (*štrudla*).<sup>462, 463, 464</sup>

This food tastes so good.		
Visitor:	hRaana ye yako ookoosnaa	This food tastes so good.
Local:	hvaalaa	Thank you.

Exchange 15

## Beverages

Fruit juices and mineral waters are popular in Serbia, as is coffee (*kafa*) or “*Turska*,” a variation of the Turkish style (water and sugar is boiled with the grounds and then poured into a cup). Serbians drink herbal and regular teas far less often, consuming them only as the occasional comfort beverage or medicinal supplement.<sup>465, 466</sup>



Serbian beer varieties  
Wikimedia / LeeKeoma

Beer (*pivo*) is a favorite alcoholic drink in Serbia. There are numerous breweries, many of which are now owned by international companies such as Carlsberg, Heineken, and Efes. Popular brands include Apatinsko, Zajecarsko, Lav, and Jelen. Homemade and commercial fruit brandies, known as *rakija*, are also very popular. One of the most common is *šljivovica*, which is made from plums and frequently called the Serbian national drink.<sup>467, 468</sup>

## Gender Roles and Relationships

Serbia’s constitution provides women and men the same legal status and rights. This includes equal legal protections and equal access to social services, such as education and health care; women are entitled to receive a family pension if widowed and sometimes when divorced. Even so, longstanding patriarchal gender patterns remain. For example, while women have inheritance rights equal to those of men, it is not uncommon for a woman to hand over her share of an inheritance to a brother or son. Traditional beliefs hold that men should oversee finances and landholdings for

the family; women should find economic security through marriage.<sup>469</sup>

In the last decade, the Serbian government passed laws that promote gender equality and strengthen protective measures for domestic violence victims. It has also implemented a National Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Women.<sup>470, 471</sup> Nevertheless, women lack functional equality in both status and position. In 2017, women earned 20% less per month than their male counterparts, experienced slower career advancement, and were underrepresented in most professions. At the same time, women spent twice as much time in unpaid household work than men.<sup>472, 473</sup>



Outdoor market, Pančevo, Vojvodina  
Flickr / Olga Pavlovsky

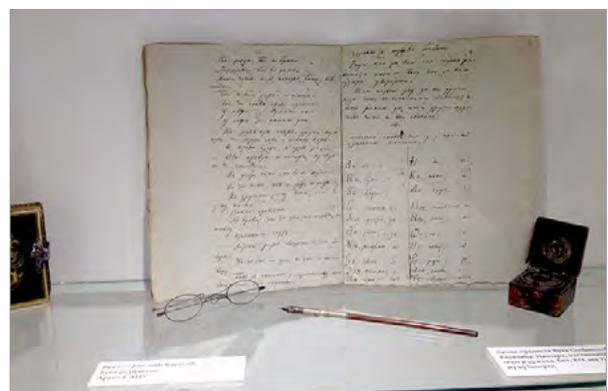
Studies have found that women and Roma are subject to the most discrimination in Serbia. One in two women has experienced domestic violence. Child marriage among the Roma is prevalent; more than half of all Roma girls marry before age 18.<sup>474, 475, 476</sup> Women's rights groups also claim that the Serbian Orthodox Church works to influence legal reforms and to impose conservative patriarchal social values.<sup>477</sup>

Quotas have led to greater political participation by women in the National Assembly; in 2017, women represented 33% of the National Assembly. Yet their participation in decision-making at the local level was significantly lower. In 2017, only 5% of municipal presidents or mayors were women.<sup>478, 479</sup>

## Folk Culture and Folklore

Much of Serbia's rich folklore is embedded in the numerous epic poems and folk songs that have been passed down for centuries. These epic poems and songs were originally spoken and sung by wandering minstrels (*guslars*) who played a one-stringed instrument known as a *gusla*.<sup>480, 481</sup>

When Vuk Stefanović Karadžić's collections of these poems and songs



Some personal items of Vuk Stefanović Karadžić, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Art  
Wikimedia / Intermedichbo

were published during the first half of the 19th century, they were a huge success throughout Europe. German linguist/folklorist Jacob Grimm (of Grimm’s fairy tales) learned Serbian to read the original stories in their native language. Translations were carried out by illustrious figures such as the Russian poet Alexander Pushkin and the British political economist Sir John Bowring.<sup>482</sup>

Most famous Serbian epic poems recount the 1389 Battle of Kosovo, an actual event into which mythological elements have been woven. Other epic poems cover the period following the Battle of Kosovo, when most of what is now central Serbia was under Ottoman domination. During this time, epic poetry read orally became an intrinsic way Serbs preserved their historical and cultural identity under the assimilative pressures of the Ottomans.<sup>483</sup> Many of the poems focus on resistance against the Turks waged by *hajduks* and *uskoks*—raiders that lived within the Ottoman-controlled lands and on its borders, respectively.<sup>484</sup>



*Kosovo Maiden (1919) by Uroš Predić*  
Serbian Wikipedia

## Arts and Literature

### Music

Traditional folk music has remained popular in Serbia, particularly in more rural areas, but Western culture continues to place an indelible stamp on Serbian music. Clubs in Belgrade and other large Serbian cities play wildly diverse music styles—from rock to blues to jazz to fusion. During the 1990s, Serbia’s own contribution to the fusion scene was turbo-folk, a meshing of traditional Serbian folk styles with techno-pop dance rhythms. Turbo-folk performers such as Ceca became the most identifiable music stars in Serbia. But the music itself has come under attack as many view it as a soundtrack for the nationalistic policies of the Milošević era. In the last decade, Serbian folk rap has taken on a huge following in the Balkans. A crossbreed of folk music with hip-hop, with often violent lyrics that retell stories of drug trafficking, murder, and corruption, Serbian folk rap has been called the “most original sound to emerge from hip hop in years.”<sup>485</sup> Some of the biggest names in the genre are Elitni Odredi and Coby.<sup>486</sup>



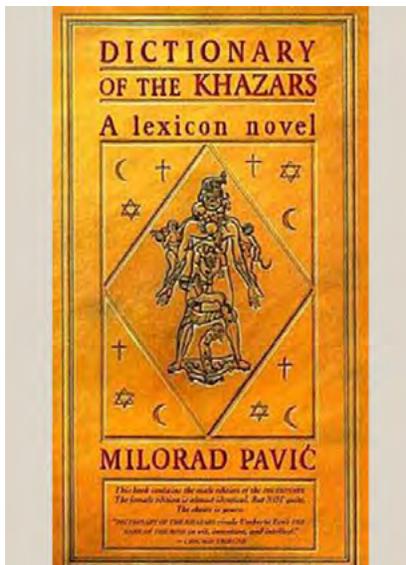
Pop-rock band Eva Braun, Exit Festival  
Wikimedia / Goran Vasović

A far more traditional and respected Serbian musical genre is *blehmuzika*, a music style dominated by brass instruments. Its cadences echo the military music of Turkey overlaid on melodies that often spring from Roma (gypsy) folk tunes. Each August, the small village of Guća attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors to a music festival that showcases *blehmuzika* bands from across the Balkans.<sup>487, 488, 489</sup> *Blehmuzika's* roots may be in folk traditions, but it continues to

evolve, and some music critics consider it the consummate jazz form of the Balkans. Legendary jazz trumpeter Miles Davis, upon hearing the thumping rhythms and feverish melodies at Guća, observed, “I didn’t know you could play trumpet that way.”<sup>490</sup>

## Literature

The earliest Serbian literature dates to the medieval era and is mostly church-related. Saint Sava and King Stefan II Nemanja wrote about the lives of Orthodox religious leaders. In the 19th century, Vuk Stefanović Karadžić, in addition to his collection of epic poems and songs, created a standardized Serbian Cyrillic alphabet and compiled the first Serbian dictionary.<sup>491</sup>



M. Pavić's Dictionary of the Khazars  
Wikimedia

Among modern Serbian writers, Milorad Pavić's books have drawn attention for their unique narrative constructions. One of the most widely read of these is his *Dictionary of the Khazars: A Lexicon Novel*, first published in 1984.<sup>492</sup> *Dictionary* takes the form of three cross-referenced encyclopedias containing entries about the religious conversion of a fictional version of the Khazars, an ancient Asiatic people. It is written from the perspective of experts relying on historical documents from Christian, Judaic, and Muslim sources, respectively. The book also comes in “male” and “female” versions that differ in only one significant paragraph. Underlying the playful nature of the book's presentation, which may be read in several different ways, are questions concerning the complexities of truth.<sup>493, 494</sup>

## Sports

Serbians are passionate sports enthusiasts, excelling in a variety of fields, as is evident in the hundreds of athletic facilities and stadiums across the country.<sup>495</sup> Football (soccer) is overwhelmingly popular in Serbia. The national team, competing as Yugoslavia between 1992 and 2003 and as Serbia and Montenegro from 2003 until 2006, has had isolated success in international competition. The high point came in 1998, when the team made the second round of the World Cup. As the Republic of Serbia, the team qualified for the World Cup in 2010 and 2018.<sup>496</sup>

Basketball is also a favorite sport.<sup>497</sup> Serbia has sent several of its star players to the U.S. National Basketball Association, including Vlade Divac, Pedrag Stojaković, and Bogdan Bogdanović.<sup>498</sup> Tennis has gained popularity. Serbian players, including Ana Ivanović, Jelena Janković, and Nenad Zimonjić, have excelled at international competitions.<sup>499</sup> Often placed in the pantheon of the world's best players, Novak Đoković has won numerous international singles titles, most recently the 2018 Wimbledon Championships.<sup>500, 501</sup>



Milica (left) and Ana Dabović, Serbian national basketball team  
Wikimedia / basketinside.com



2014 European Water Polo Championships, Serbia vs. Montenegro  
Wikimedia / Laslovarga

It should be noted that the men's national water polo team is Serbia's most successful national team and considered one of the best in the world. In 2016, they won the Olympic Gold medal, becoming the first team to hold titles in all five major championships: European Championship, World Championship, World Cup, World League, and the Olympic Games.<sup>502</sup>

## Nonreligious Celebrations and Public Holidays

Secular public holidays in Serbia include two nonworking days for New Year's, International Labor Day (1 May), Serbian Statehood Day (15 February), and Armistice Day (11 November).<sup>503</sup> On 1 May, many Serbians spend their day off outside—picnicking

and barbecuing in parks and along riverbanks or camping in the mountains. Armistice Day commemorates the ceasing of hostilities between the Allies of World War I and Germany in 1918.<sup>504</sup> Victory Day, held on 9 May, is a working holiday and most workplaces remain open. The holiday commemorates Nazi Germany's defeat in World War II, and it is celebrated with military displays around Serbia.<sup>505</sup>

There is a long history of scheduling important political events on religious holidays in Serbia. For example, the Constitution Day holiday (renamed Serbian Statehood Day or Dan državnosti Srbije), was moved to 15 February shortly after Serbia and Montenegro separated.<sup>506</sup> The Serbian Army celebrates Army Day on this day, which also marks a significant Serbian Orthodox festival—Candlemas (Sretenje). Serbian Statehood Day commemorates the first Serbian uprising against the Ottoman Empire (1804) and the ratification of the first constitution (1835), both of which took place on Candlemas.<sup>507</sup>

Will you be celebrating Prvi Maj?		
Visitor:	daa lee tyete pRoslaveetee pRvee maay?	Will you be celebrating Prvi Maj?
Local:	daa!	Yes!

Exchange 16

*New Year*

There are two New Year celebrations in Serbia. For the Orthodox Church, the new year is ushered in on the evening between 13 and 14 January. Before 1923, this was called the Orthodox or “Old” New Year; it is now the “Serbian New Year.” It is informally celebrated as a holiday among many Orthodox Serbs who fast for 40 days before Orthodox Christmas (7 January).<sup>508</sup>



Stuffed pork roast, Belgrade  
Flickr / julie corsi

For most of Serbia’s population, however, the new year is ushered in with widespread celebrating with friends and family between 31 December and 1 January. In households, there is an abundance of food and drink, including *sarma*, spit-roasted pork (*prase na ražnju*), tortes, strudels, nut rolls, and *rakija*. Families decorate trees and exchange gifts on New Year’s Day rather

than Christmas Day. At midnight on New Year's Eve, Deda Mraz (Grandpa Frost) visits homes and leaves presents under the tree.<sup>509</sup> In Belgrade and other cities, locals attend New Year's Eve concerts and watch fireworks displays; restaurants, clubs, and cafés have live performances.<sup>510</sup>

### *Saint Vitus Day (Vidovdan)*



*Monument to the fallen freedom fighters of WWII, Vlasotince, southern Serbia* Wikimedia / VI

Saint Vitus Day (Vidovdan) (28 June) has singular significance for Serbians. This slava, or feast day, celebrates Saint Vitus (Vid), who is widely venerated in South Slavic regions. But vastly more important is that the day marks the anniversary of the Battle of Kosovo in 1389, when the Serbian empire collapsed under the Ottoman Turk invasion. Although some historical sources say the battle took place on 15 June, Serbians commemorate it on 28 June, which coincides with Saint Vitus Day.<sup>511</sup>



*Battle of Kosovo (detail of Miloš Obilić), Aleksandar Dobrić, Belgrade National Museum* Wikimedia/Belgrade National Museum

For many Serbians, the Battle of Kosovo expresses a division point in their history—the end of the Kingdom of Serbia's Golden Age and the beginning of nearly 500 years of domination by the Ottoman Empire. The battle itself and the many legends associated with it have combined to forge a national and historical identity.<sup>512, 513</sup> It is perhaps the most sacred day on the Serbian national calendar, and its importance is difficult to overestimate.<sup>514</sup> Among other things, this day symbolizes Serbian determination to fight foreign domination. On 28 June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which had recently annexed the region, visited Sarajevo. Historians argue that the timing inspired the outraged Serbian nationalists who assassinated Franz. The assassination of the archduke then set in motion World War I.<sup>515, 516, 517</sup>

## Dos and Don'ts

- **Do** remove your hat when entering a Serbian Orthodox Church.
- **Do not** criticize or show any disrespect to Serbian officials, citizens, or their country.
- **Do not** take photographs of police or military installations.
- **Do not** engage in political discussions about Kosovo or argue in support of Kosovo independence. It is an extremely sensitive topic.
- **Do not** stare at or engage in overt expressions of affection with the opposite sex.
- **Do not** point to anybody with a finger. Use the entire right hand instead.
- **Do not** point upward with the middle finger. It is obscene in the United States and equally so in Serbia.
- **Do not** use obscene or indecent language. Many Serbians understand American slang.
- **Do not** lump Serbians in with the other nations from the former Yugoslavia.



*Christmas holidays, česnica and rakija  
Wikimedia / Petar Milošević*

## Endnotes for Chapter 3: Traditions

- 411 Lara Žmukić, “Serbian Culture,” in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 52, Kindle.
- 412 Serbia.com, “Serbian Customs and Traditions are Still an Important Part of the Culture,” accessed 17 July 2018, <https://www.serbia.com/about-serbia/culture/ethnic-heritage/national-customs/>.
- 413 Cultural Atlas, “Serbian Culture: Core Concepts,” accessed 8 August 2018, <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/serbian-culture/core-concepts-2768f650-8784-4b96-b58a-9e1ed8ff2210>.
- 414 Lara Žmukić, “Serbian Culture,” in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 59, Kindle.
- 415 Lara Žmukić, “Serbian Culture,” in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 53-54, Kindle.
- 416 World Trade Center San Diego, “Business Tips,” accessed 17 July 2018, <https://mbjprotocol.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/CE-Serbia.pdf>.
- 417 Chara Scroope, “Serbian Culture: Communication,” Cultural Atlas, 2017, <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/serbian-culture/communication-d49d2198-9ba4-4313-b686-536b5b5c4650#communication-d49d2198-9ba4-4313-b686-536b5b5c4650>.
- 418 Lara Žmukić, “Social Customs,” in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 90-91, Kindle.
- 419 Chara Scroope, “Serbian Culture: Greetings,” Cultural Atlas, 2017, <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/serbian-culture/greetings-253e0bcf-a3b4-4f3f-8881-79bcb3175cd8#greetings-253e0bcf-a3b4-4f3f-8881-79bcb3175cd8>.
- 420 World Trade Center San Diego “Business Tips,” accessed 17 July 2018, <https://mbjprotocol.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/CE-Serbia.pdf>.
- 421 World Travel Guide, “Serbia: Doing Business and Staying in Touch,” accessed 17 July 2018, <https://www.worldtravelguide.net/guides/europe/serbia/business-communications/>.
- 422 Laurence Mitchell, “Practical Information: Cultural Etiquette,” in *Serbia* (Bucks, England: Bradt Travel Guides, 2007), 93.
- 423 Lara Žmukić, “Pride and Honor,” in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 58, Kindle.
- 424 Cultural Atlas, “Serbian Culture: Core Concepts,” accessed 8 August 2018, <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/serbian-culture/core-concepts-2768f650-8784-4b96-b58a-9e1ed8ff2210>.
- 425 Chara Scroope, “Serbian Culture: Communication,” Cultural Atlas, 2017, <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/serbian-culture/communication-d49d2198-9ba4-4313-b686-536b5b5c4650>.
- 426 Chara Scroope, “Serbian Culture: Business Culture,” Cultural Atlas, 2017, <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/serbian-culture/business-culture-fb5273f3-49b6-4327-8043-17dd3611b9a4>.
- 427 Maralyn Hill, “Global Etiquette: European Business Meetings,” Luxe Beat, accessed 17 July 2018, <https://luxebatmag.com/global-etiquette-european-business-meetings/>.
- 428 Lara Žmukić, “Invitations Home,” in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 91, Kindle.
- 429 Countries and Their Cultures, “Serbia and Montenegro,” accessed 17 July 2018, <http://www.everyculture.com/Sa-Th/Serbia-and-Montenegro.html>.
- 430 Laurence Mitchell, “Practical Information: Cultural Etiquette,” in *Serbia* (Bucks, England: Bradt Travel Guides, 2007), 93.
- 431 Lara Žmukić, “Invitations Home,” in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 93, Kindle.
- 432 National Tourism Organisation of Serbia, “Villages,” accessed 17 July 2018, <http://www.serbia.travel/destinations/villages.693.html>.
- 433 Christopher Deliso, “Chapter 5: Cuisine and Fashion,” in *Culture and Customs of Serbia and Montenegro* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2009), 84-95.
- 434 Lara Žmukić, “Invitations Home,” in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 92-95, Kindle.
- 435 Lara Žmukić, “Invitations Home,” in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 94, Kindle.
- 436 Chara Scroope, “Serbian Culture: Etiquette,” Cultural Atlas, 2017, <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/serbian-culture/etiquette-818f53e1-9bc5-47bc-8036-4e74e9a64010>.
- 437 World Trade Center San Diego, “Business Tips,” accessed 17 July 2018, <https://mbjprotocol.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/CE-Serbia.pdf>.
- 438 Michael A. Schuman, “Chapter 8: Daily Life: Dress,” in *Nations in Transition: Serbia and Montenegro* (New York: Facts on File, Inc., 2004), 125-126.

### Endnotes for Chapter 3: Traditions

- 439 Christopher Deliso, "Chapter 5: Cuisine and Fashion," in *Culture and Customs of Serbia and Montenegro* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2009), 95-98.
- 440 Jasna Bjeladinović-Jerđić, "Traditional Attire," in *The History of Serbian Culture*, trans. Randall A. Major (Middelsex, England: Porthill Publishers, 1999), 165-173.
- 441 Worldwide-Tax.com, "Serbia Business Practice and Business Etiquette Tips," accessed 17 July 2018, <http://www.worldwide-tax.com/serbia/serpractice.asp>.
- 442 Alphatrad UK, "As Borders Open to Business, It's Good to Know Your Etiquette," 3 March 2015, <https://www.alphatrad.co.uk/news/serbian-business-etiquette>.
- 443 Mona Mangat, "Dressing Up and Stepping Out," Balkan Insight, 28 July 2009, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/dressing-up-and-stepping-out>.
- 444 Leo, "Women Street Fashion: Belgrade Street: Style 2018," Best Fashion Blog, accessed 17 March 2018, <http://thebestfashionblog.com/womens-fashion/women-street-fashion-2011-belgrade-street-style>.
- 445 Gordana Andric, "Belgrade Fashion Week: Coming to a Catwalk Near You," Balkan Insight, 27 March 2011, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/coming-to-a-catwalk-near-you>.
- 446 Serbia Fashion Week, "Serbia Street Style: Beograd," 5 January 2017, <http://serbiafashionweek.com/en/2015/05/01/serbia-street-style-beograd/>.
- 447 David C. King, "Food," in *Cultures of the World: Serbia and Montenegro* (Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2005), 123.
- 448 Still in Belgrade, "Traditional Serbian Cuisine," 2 January 2013, <http://stillinbelgrade.com/traditional-serbian-cuisine/>.
- 449 Belgrade My Way, "Serbian Food and Drink Guide," accessed 17 July 2018, <http://belgrademyway.com/experience-belgrade/eating/food-drink-guide/>.
- 450 Laurence Mitchell, "Practical Information: Eating and Drinking," in *Serbia* (Bucks, England: Bradt Travel Guides, 2007), 82.
- 451 Christopher Deliso, "Chapter 5: Cuisine and Fashion," in *Culture and Customs of Serbia and Montenegro* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2009), 84-95.
- 452 Ken Albala, "Serbia," in *Food Cultures of the World Encyclopedia*, vol. 2 (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011), 328-330.
- 453 David King, "Food," in *Cultures of the World: Serbia and Montenegro* (Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2005), 124.
- 454 Laurence Mitchell, "Practical Information: Eating and Drinking," in *Serbia* (Bucks, England: Bradt Travel Guides, 2007), 82.
- 455 Serbia.com, "Autumn in Serbia, Joy of Scents, Flavors, Festivals," 11 September 2013, <https://www.serbia.com/autumn-in-serbia-joy-of-scents-flavors-festivals/>.
- 456 Neda Brasanac, "Serbian Cuisine, Europe's Best Kept Secret of Culture and Flavor," accessed 17 July 2018, <https://urbanroamers.com/2018/06/19/serbian-cuisine-best-kept-secret/>.
- 457 Ken Albala, "Serbia," in *Food Cultures of the World Encyclopedia*, vol. 2 (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011), 328-330.
- 458 TravelSerbia.Info, "Food and Drink in Serbia," accessed 17 July 2018, <http://www.travelsrbia.info/foodanddrink.php>.
- 459 Laurence Mitchell, "Practical Information: Eating and Drinking," in *Serbia* (Bucks, England: Bradt Travel Guides, 2007), 83.
- 460 Ken Albala, "Serbia," in *Food Cultures of the World Encyclopedia*, vol. 2 (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011), 329.
- 461 Belgrade My Way, "Serbian Food and Drink Guide," accessed 17 July 2018, <http://belgrademyway.com/experience-belgrade/eating/food-drink-guide/>.
- 462 TravelSerbia.Info, "Food and Drink in Serbia," accessed 17 July 2018, <http://www.travelsrbia.info/foodanddrink.php>.
- 463 Laurence Mitchell, "Practical Information: Eating and Drinking," in *Serbia* (Bucks, England: Bradt Travel Guides, 2007), 85.
- 464 Belgrade My Way, "Serbian Food and Drink Guide," accessed 17 July 2018, <http://belgrademyway.com/experience-belgrade/eating/food-drink-guide/>.
- 465 Belgrade My Way, "Serbian Food and Drink Guide," accessed 17 July 2018, <http://belgrademyway.com/experience-belgrade/eating/food-drink-guide/>.
- 466 Laurence Mitchell, "Practical Information: Eating and Drinking," in *Serbia* (Bucks, England: Bradt Travel Guides, 2007), 86.
- 467 TravelSerbia.Info, "Food and Drink in Serbia," accessed 17 July 2018, <http://www.travelsrbia.info/foodanddrink.php>.
- 468 Europe up Close, "Serbian Rakija: A Strong Drink with Good Spirit," 20 January 2017, <https://europeupclose.com/article/serbian-rakija-a-strong-drink-with-good-spirit/>.

### Endnotes for Chapter 3: Traditions

- 469 Kosana Beker, in cooperation with Women's Centre Užice, Femina Creativa Subotica, Women's Initiative Priboj, and Ternipe Pirot, "3.8: Land Ownership and Access to Financial and Other Services," in *Situation of Rural Women in Serbia Report* (Belgrade: The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, March 2017), 54-58, [http://rs.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/serbia/docs/Publications/Situation%20of%20rural%20women%20in%20Serbia\\_ENG\\_final.pdf](http://rs.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/serbia/docs/Publications/Situation%20of%20rural%20women%20in%20Serbia_ENG_final.pdf).
- 470 U.S. Department of State, "Serbia 2017 Human Rights Report," accessed 17 July 2018, 22, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/277459.pdf>.
- 471 Mirjana Dokmanovic, "Gender Analysis for Serbia," (letter of contract N°2016/377481, final report, December 2016) 8, [http://europa.rs/files//Gender\\_Equality/Gender-Analysis-Serbia-dec-2016.pdf](http://europa.rs/files//Gender_Equality/Gender-Analysis-Serbia-dec-2016.pdf).
- 472 U.S. Department of State, "Serbia 2017 Human Rights Report," accessed 17 July 2018, 33, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/277459.pdf>.
- 473 USAID, "Stronger Support for Serbian Victims of Domestic Violence," updated 5 December 2016, <https://www.usaid.gov/results-data/success-stories/stronger-support-victims-domestic-violence>.
- 474 Borgen Project, "Serbia's Domestic Violence Epidemic," 27 December 2013, <https://borgenproject.org/serbias-domestic-violence-epidemic/>.
- 475 UN Women, "Serbia Fights to Curb Violence Against Women," 31 October 2017, <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/10/serbia-fights-to-curb-violence-against-women>.
- 476 UNICEF Serbia, "Child Marriage among the Roma Population in Serbia," November 2017, <https://www.unicef.org/serbia/en/reports/child-marriage-among-roma-population-serbia>.
- 477 KORAK-HAPI-STEP, "The Position of Women in Serbia in 2014: Facts That Disconfirm the Common Picture," 1 October 2014, <http://en.korak-hapi-step.eu/the-position-of-women-in-serbia-in-2014-facts-that-disconfirm-the-common-picture/>.
- 478 UN Women, "Serbia," accessed 17 July 2018, <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/serbia>.
- 479 U.S. Department of State, "Serbia 2017 Human Rights Report," accessed 17 July 2018, 33, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/277459.pdf>.
- 480 Felix J. Oisnas, "3: Folk Epic," in *Folklore and Folklife*, ed. Richard A. Dorson (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982), 111.
- 481 Miroslav J. Hanak and Nadežda Andreeva-Popova, "Folklore and Romantic Drama," in *Romantic Drama: A Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages* (Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 1994), 128.
- 482 Nada Milošević-Đorđević, "The Oral Tradition," in *The History of Serbian Culture*, trans. Randall A. Major (Middelsex, England: Porthill Publishers, 1999), 147-163.
- 483 Nada Milošević-Đorđević, "The Oral Tradition," in *The History of Serbian Culture*, trans. Randall A. Major (Middelsex, England: Porthill Publishers, 1999), 147-163.
- 484 Thomas Emmert, "The Kosovo Legacy," in *Kosovo*, compiled and produced by William Dorich (Alhambra, CA: Kosovo Charity Fund, 1992), <http://www.njegos.org/orthodoxy/kosovo.htm>.
- 485 Marko Šarić, "Enter the World of Serbian Rap, Where MC's Talk About Crime on a Next Level," *Noisey Vice*, 14 May 2018, [https://noisey.vice.com/en\\_uk/article/mbkaaa/serbian-folk-rap-hip-hop-mcs-2018](https://noisey.vice.com/en_uk/article/mbkaaa/serbian-folk-rap-hip-hop-mcs-2018).
- 486 Nicole Itano, "Turbo-Folk Music is the Sound of Serbia Feeling Sorry for Itself," *Christian Science Monitor*, 5 May 2008, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0505/p20s01-woeu.html?page=1>.
- 487 Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, "Serbia's Guca Trumpet Festival Celebrates Traditional Music," 9 August 2013, <https://www.rferl.org/a/serbia-guca-trumpet-festival/25071256.html>.
- 488 Jack Taylor, "Wild Annual Trumpet Festival Held in Guca, Serbia," *Getty Images*, 11 August 2017, [https://www.gettyimages.com/album/wild-annual-trumpet-festival-hosted-in-guca-serbia-held-since-1961-the--V7nIzOz7qkqk5q\\_1YPewxQ#brass-band-performs-for-revellers-in-a-restaurant-during-the-guca-picture-id830973908](https://www.gettyimages.com/album/wild-annual-trumpet-festival-hosted-in-guca-serbia-held-since-1961-the--V7nIzOz7qkqk5q_1YPewxQ#brass-band-performs-for-revellers-in-a-restaurant-during-the-guca-picture-id830973908).
- 489 Matt Bolton, "A Touch of Brass in Serbia," *BBC News*, 4 October 2012, <http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20120925-a-touch-of-brass-in-serbia>.
- 490 Michael Schuman, "Culture: Blehmuzika," in *Serbia and Montenegro* (New York: Infobase Publishing, 2014), 105.
- 491 Ramila Marinković, "Medieval Literature," in *The History of Serbian Culture*, trans. Randall A. Major (Middelsex, England: Porthill Publishers, 1999), 53-66.
- 492 Dragan Marković, "Milorad Pavić," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 22 April 2016, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Milorad-Pavic>.
- 493 Novica Petković, "Twentieth Century Literature," in *The History of Serbian Culture*, trans. Randall A. Major (Middelsex, England: Porthill Publishers, 1999), 273-294.
- 494 Robert Coover, "He Thinks the Way We Dream," *New York Times*, 20 November 1998, <https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/books/98/12/06/specials/pavic-khazars.html?mcubz=0>.
- 495 Lara Žmukić, "Sports," in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 122-124, Kindle

### Endnotes for Chapter 3: Traditions

- 496 Eurosport, "World Cup 2018 Serbia Team Profile: How They Qualified, Star Man, World Cup Record, Fixtures," 17 June 2018, <https://www.eurosport.com/football/world-cup/2018/world-cup-2018-serbia-team-profile-how-they-qualified-star-man-world-cup-record-fixtures-sto6765656/story.shtml>.
- 497 Chloe Pantazi, "The 13 Countries with the World's Tallest Residents, Ranked," Business Insider, 25 July 2016, <http://www.businessinsider.com/the-countries-with-the-tallest-people-in-the-world-2016-7>.
- 498 Adam Wells, "Bogdan Bogdanovic Wins MVP, Leads World Past USA in 2018 Rising Stars Challenge," Bleacher Reports, 16 February 2018, <https://bleacherreport.com/articles/2759936-bogdan-bogdanovic-wins-mvp-leads-world-past-usa-in-2018-rising-stars-challenge>.
- 499 Paula Newton, "'Serb and Volley': Serbia's Rise to Tennis Powerhouse," CNN, 19 December 2014, <http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/19/world/europe/serbia-tennis-powerhouse/index.html>.
- 500 Gerald Marzorati, "Wimbledon 2018: Novak Djokovic Sees the Light," *New Yorker*, 16 July 2018, <https://www.newyorker.com/news/sporting-scene/wimbledon-2018-novak-djokovic-sees-the-light>.
- 501 Andrew Eichenholz, "Can Novak Djokovic Become the Greatest Tennis Player Ever?" *Rolling Stone*, 6 June 2016, <https://www.rollingstone.com/sports/news/can-novak-djokovic-become-the-greatest-tennis-player-ever-20160606>.
- 502 Anne Lepesant, "Serbia Men's Water Polo Downs Croatia, 11-7, for Olympic Gold," Swim Swam, 20 August 2016, <https://swimswam.com/serbia-mens-wa-ter-polo-downs-croatia-11-7-olympic-gold/>.
- 503 National Bank of Serbia, "National Holidays in Serbia," accessed 17 July 2018, [https://www.nbs.rs/internet/english/15/neradni\\_dani.html](https://www.nbs.rs/internet/english/15/neradni_dani.html).
- 504 Serbia.com, "Serbia Marks Armistice Day," accessed 17 July 2018, <https://www.serbia.com/serbia-marks-armistice-day/>.
- 505 B92, "Victory Day and Europe Day Marked in Serbia," 9 May 2018, [https://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics.php?yyyy=2018&mm=05&dd=09&nav\\_id=104119](https://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics.php?yyyy=2018&mm=05&dd=09&nav_id=104119).
- 506 B92, "Serbia Celebrates Statehood Day," 15 February 2018, [https://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics.php?yyyy=2018&mm=02&dd=15&nav\\_id=103491](https://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics.php?yyyy=2018&mm=02&dd=15&nav_id=103491).
- 507 Ljiljana Šarić, Karen Gammelgaard, and Kjetil Rå Hauge, "Collective Memory and Media Genres: 1.3 Sretenje: Underlying Events," in *Transforming National Holidays: Identity Discourse in the West and South Slavic Countries, 1985-2010* (Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing, 2012), 38-39.
- 508 Barbara Rolek, "How Eastern Europeans Celebrate New Year's," Spruce Eats, 31 May 2018, <https://www.thespruceeats.com/how-eastern-europeans-celebrate-new-years-1136792>.
- 509 Barbara Rolek, "How Eastern Europeans Celebrate New Year's," Spruce Eats, 31 May 2018, <https://www.thespruceeats.com/how-eastern-europeans-celebrate-new-years-1136792>.
- 510 Nemanja Cabric and David Galic, "What is 'Serbian New Year'?" Balkan Insight, 13 January 2014, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/what-is-serbian-new-year>.
- 511 Ervin Qafmolla, "Serbs Celebrate Vidovdan and the Battle of Kosovo Amid Tight Security," Balkan Transitional Justice, 28 June 2016, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbs-celebrate-vidovdan-and-the-battle-of-kosovo-amid-tight-security-06-28-2016>.
- 512 B92, "What is Vidovdan, and Why Is It So Important to Serbs?" 28 June 2012, [https://www.b92.net/eng/news/society.php?yyyy=2012&mm=06&dd=28&nav\\_id=81009](https://www.b92.net/eng/news/society.php?yyyy=2012&mm=06&dd=28&nav_id=81009).
- 513 Tim Judah, "Chapter 3: It Is Better to Die in Battle than to Live in Shame," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 1252, Kindle.
- 514 Ervin Qafmolla, "Serbs Celebrate Vidovdan and the Battle of Kosovo Amid Tight Security," Balkan Transitional Justice, 28 June 2016, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbs-celebrate-vidovdan-and-the-battle-of-kosovo-amid-tight-security-06-28-2016>.
- 515 Tim Judah, "Chapter 4: Resurrection and Beyond," in *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), loc. 1622-1628, Kindle.
- 516 James M. Lindsay, "TWE Remembers: The Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand," Council on Foreign Relations, 27 June 2014, <https://www.cfr.org/blog/twe-remembers-assassination-archduke-franz-ferdinand>.
- 517 Simon Kuper, "Sarajevo: The Crossroads of History," *Financial Times*, 21 March 2014, <https://www.ft.com/content/293938b2-afcd-11e3-9cd1-00144feab7de>.

# Serbian Cultural Orientation

## Chapter 3 | Traditions

### Assessment

1. *Sarma* are traditional leather sandals.
2. Eye contact is valued in greetings and all social situations.
3. Visitors to Serbia should avoid politically sensitive topics.
4. In Serbian culture, individualism is highly valued.
5. Victory Day is a working holiday in Serbia.

*Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. True; 3. True; 4. False; 5. True*



*Downtown Novi Sad*  
Flickr / Patrick M CC BY-SA NC 2.0

## Chapter 4 | Serbian Cultural Orientation

---

# Urban Life

## Introduction

Serbia's largest cities have a cosmopolitan environment, with continental-style pedestrian areas, cafés and restaurants, galleries, theaters, and museums.<sup>518, 519</sup> Almost any Serbian city offers a variety of entertainment, cultural events, and festivals throughout the year.<sup>520</sup> Among the most well-known are the Belgrade International Theatre Festival, Nišville International Jazz Festival, and the EXIT music festival in Novi Sad.<sup>521</sup>

City dwellers have a wide choice of outdoor venues, from parks and botanical gardens to scenic river walkways.<sup>522, 523</sup> There are usually several fitness clubs and swimming

pools open to the public. Competitive sports are very popular, and cities have at least one stadium (in Belgrade there are three).<sup>524</sup>

Serbs maintain strong social ties and enjoy socializing with relatives and friends. Even in fast-paced urban centers, people take the time to keep in touch with neighbors and family members by visiting or calling frequently. Serbia’s telecommunications network is largely digitized, and people rely primarily on cell phones.<sup>525, 526</sup> Fewer people frequent internet cafés because most residents have home computers and wi-fi is widely available.<sup>527, 528</sup>



A conversation, Pančevo, Vojvodina  
Flickr / Olga Pavlovsky

What is your telephone number?		
Visitor:	koyee ye tvoy bRoy telefona?	What is your telephone number?
Local:	moy bRoy ye noolaa dvaaa yedaan pet pet pet pedeset pet pedeset pet	My phone number is 021 555 5555.

Exchange 17

## History of Urbanization

Serbian cities grew markedly when Serbia was part of Yugoslavia. At the end of World War II, close to 80% of the people in Yugoslavia lived rurally. Migration increased over the next 25 years, when around 4.6 million people moved to urban areas. Much of this population shift stemmed from Yugoslavia’s transformation into a socialist state.<sup>529</sup> By 2018, Serbia’s urban population was an estimated 56% of the country’s total.<sup>530</sup> Because of this intense growth and the need for postwar reconstruction, city planning was minimal, and a housing shortage developed.<sup>531</sup> Unplanned settlements and shantytowns without running water, sewage services, or paved streets appeared around city outskirts.<sup>532</sup>



Sports center, Belgrade  
Wikimedia / Mister No



Serbian Police Day, Makiš, Belgrade  
Wikimedia / Marko Vucicevic

Other problems associated with rapid urban growth included rising drug use and emerging drug trafficking from Middle Eastern sources into Western Europe. This problem has persisted into the 21st century. Although the Serbian government has passed legislation to address this illegal activity, it lacks an effective national strategy to control drug trafficking.<sup>533</sup> Drug production and transit take place in cities and the countryside, much of it in and around Belgrade.<sup>534, 535</sup>

## Urban Economy

Industrial jobs, the mainstay of the nation's economy, are found primarily in and around cities. Serbia's main industries center around machinery, metals, and furniture, as well as food production, chemicals, textiles, and pharmaceuticals. Most machinery and higher-tech industries are in Belgrade, Niš, and Novi Sad, where there is a well-developed infrastructure and a workforce with a high level of education.<sup>536</sup> Modernization efforts in these cities have led to the rapid expansion of industry.<sup>537</sup>



Factory, Novi Sad  
Flickr / Antti T. Nissinen

Belgrade is the economic heart of the country. It is home to most major Serbian and international companies, as well as the National Bank of Serbia and the Belgrade Stock Exchange. Novi Sad is the second-largest city and the most important economic hub after Belgrade. Textile production is prominent there and in towns in Vojvodina.<sup>538, 539</sup>

Other industrial sites are concentrated along the western Morava River between Užice and Niš. Among the principal products of this area are automobiles, trucks, tires, batteries, and radio and television equipment. The FIAT automobile plant is in Kragujevac. Production of motor vehicles and trailers, including cars, still accounts for most of Serbia's exports.<sup>540</sup> Smederevo, east of Belgrade, has a major iron and steel facility.<sup>541</sup>

Serbia’s oil refineries and coal-burning power plants are among the biggest contributors to air pollution. By one estimate, approximately 80% of Serbia’s airborne pollutants come from such power plants. In recent years, the government implemented new legislation conforming to EU environment and climate change standards. Serbia also pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions 9.8% by 2030.<sup>542</sup>

## Health Care

Serbia’s medical infrastructure is improving; life expectancy has reached 76 years and infant mortality is steadily declining (from 14.4% in 1991 to 5.8% in 2017).<sup>543, 544</sup> Still, the system suffers from underfunding, inefficiency, outdated equipment and facilities, and long waiting lists for many procedures—for major surgeries, more than 90 days.<sup>545, 546</sup>

Is Dr. Jovanovich in, sir?		
Visitor:	daa lee ye too doktoR Jovanoveety?	Is Dr. Jovanovich in, sir?
Local:	ne	No.

*Exchange 18*

State and private medical facilities provide health care that is publicly financed and administered through a universal health coverage system.<sup>547</sup> Private insurance is also available for those who can afford it. Employers and employed Serbians must pay into the national insurance fund. The unemployed, retirees, people with long-term illnesses, and those on maternity leave are exempt from payments. This national insurance fund covers most routine medical services, services by specialists, hospitalization, prescriptions, pregnancy, and rehabilitation. The fund is mandated to cover many medical services, but often cannot cover specialist fees.<sup>548, 549</sup>



*Women’s clinic, Novi Sad  
Wikimedia / Micki*

Serbia’s largest hospitals are in Belgrade, Novi Sad, and Niš, and all cities have clinics, public health institutes, and pharmacies.<sup>550</sup> Urgent care clinics and hospitals are generally open 24 hours. Urban pharmacies are open daily and some offer 24-hour services. A fee is charged for medications and for most medical services, with limited

exceptions.<sup>551</sup> Although the level of care in private clinics is relatively high, medications may be difficult to acquire. Visitors who depend on certain medications should bring their own supply.<sup>552, 553, 554</sup>

In 2014, there were about 3 doctors for every 1,000 residents, a little less than the European average.<sup>555</sup> Salaries for health care professionals are generally low, and patients may give doctors small gifts of gratitude.<sup>556, 557</sup> Doctors and medical staff, however, may solicit bribes to schedule specific exams or surgeries.<sup>558</sup> As a result, many Serbians (81% in 2013) view the health care system as corrupt.<sup>559, 560</sup>



Ambulance, Belgrade  
Flickr / Jonathan Davis

Is there a hospital nearby?		
Visitor:	postoyee lee bolneetsa oo bleezeenee?	Is there a hospital nearby?
Local:	daa, oo tsentRoo gRada	Yes, in the center of town.

Exchange 19

Do you know what is wrong?		
Local:	daa lee znate shta neeye oo Redoo?	Do you know what is wrong?
Visitor:	ne, saamo daa me bole stomaak	No, only that my stomach hurts.

Exchange 20

## Education

In Serbia, most primary and secondary schools are public and free of charge. Education begins with preschool, which is available for children beginning at 6 months of age in most urban areas. Part of the preschool program prepares children for 8 years of compulsory primary school.<sup>561, 562</sup> Nationally, nearly all students transition from primary school to secondary school.<sup>563, 564</sup>

Students can choose one of two high school tracks: general education, which prepares them for university, or vocational. The vocational track leads to a 2-year technical

training program in a variety of areas including engineering, agriculture, health, and business.<sup>565</sup> In 2013, 75% of Serbian students attended the vocational track. In cities, students can opt to attend one of numerous music schools, ballet schools, or secondary art schools.<sup>566</sup>

Higher education in Serbia includes associate's, bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. programs. Alternatively, students may attend a theological school, military academy, or art school.<sup>567, 568</sup> In Belgrade, there are several private colleges and two state universities. The University of Belgrade is the oldest and largest university in Serbia.<sup>569, 570</sup>



*Elementary school classroom, Belgrade  
Wikimedia / Vladimir Petrovic*

In 2017, the EU allocated EUR 27.4 million for education reform in Serbia. The money will be used to revamp the system to better meet the needs of the Serbian labor market, improve teacher training, and support the education of vulnerable minority groups, such as Roma.<sup>571</sup> Economic hardship, ethnic discrimination, and language barriers discourage many Roma children from attending school. Girls are especially discouraged from attending school, leading to lower rates of literacy among women. In 2016, the government adopted a National Strategy for Roma Inclusion to increase enrollment of Roma children in preschool.<sup>572, 573</sup>

Is there a school nearby?		
Visitor:	postoyee lee shkola oo bleezeenee?	Is there a school nearby?
Local:	daa	Yes.

*Exchange 21*

## Transportation and Traffic

### *Transportation Networks*

Although Serbia has been a crossroads between Europe and modern-day Turkey for centuries, its transportation infrastructure does not match that of its neighbors. Geography is a determining factor because southern Serbia is quite mountainous. Until recently, this has discouraged expensive road and rail development.<sup>574</sup>

The central transportation corridor in Serbia’s southern regions follows the Morava River Valley and connects the nation with Macedonia and Greece. At Niš, a road and rail corridor branches off from the Morava to the southeast, providing land connections with the Bulgarian capital of Sofia. Roads tend to be more developed in the northern part of the country, and as of mid-2018, approximately 65% of all roads were paved.<sup>575</sup>



Freeway sign outside of Belgrade  
Flickr / Jeff Attaway

Under President Vučić, the government has been investing heavily in infrastructure, taking out international loans to repair and expand existing roads and rail systems. The most ambitious projects are a high-speed rail link between Belgrade and Budapest, and the Pan-European Corridor X, which will run from Serbia’s border with Greece and Bulgaria to the Hungarian border.<sup>576, 577</sup> This transport and trade corridor is part of China’s greater “One Belt, One Road” initiative, which will connect China to Germany through Greek ports and the Balkans.<sup>578, 579</sup>

Most of Serbia’s international air traffic, both passenger and cargo, transits through Belgrade’s Nikola Tesla Airport—the hub of Air Serbia, the national air carrier.<sup>580</sup> Serbia’s other international airport is the much smaller Constantine the Great Airport outside of Niš.<sup>581, 582</sup>

Which road leads to the airport?		
Visitor:	koyee poot voddee do aeRodRoma?	Which road leads to the airport?
Local:	poot pRema eestokoo	The road heading east.

Exchange 22

### Driving in and around Serbian Cities

Many people in Serbia own cars, and the main highways are in reasonably good repair. Roads are poorly marked, however, and driving habits are erratic, leading to accidents. Serbia adopted road and traffic safety legislation in 2009. More recently, the government established new legislation to conform to EU standards, which has reduced the number of traffic accidents and fatalities.<sup>583</sup> Serbian cities lack subway systems (Belgrade will begin construction of its first metro system in 2020), so traffic congestion can be problematic.<sup>584</sup> Belgrade is especially notorious for its congested

streets. Roads are often too narrow for larger vehicles, such as city buses and minivans, to drive within the marked lanes.<sup>585</sup>



Rush hour, Belgrade  
Flickr / Antti T. Nissinen

In Belgrade and Novi Sad, it is easy to find car rental agencies, but driving is a challenging experience in cities. Impatient drivers coupled with high speeds make for a dangerous mix.<sup>586</sup> Many accidents are caused by aggressive driving, driving under the influence, and not respecting a pedestrian's right of way.<sup>587</sup> Roads, including newly built highways, are not designed or engineered with safety in mind, and many intersections, traffic circles, and major highways have few

merge areas. For American drivers, the multiple intersecting roads may be difficult to navigate, and traffic signals may be hard to spot. In winter, snow can paralyze traffic on the bridges crossing the Danube and Sava.<sup>588</sup>

Parking can be difficult because there are few garages or guarded parking lots. Available spaces are often tight, and some drivers park on the sidewalk. But parking laws are strictly enforced and regulated by color-coded parking zones; in all major cities there are three: red (one hour), yellow (two hours), and green (three hours).<sup>589</sup>

Where can I rent a car?		
Visitor:	gde mogoo daa eeznaymeem aoto?	Where can I rent a car?
Local:	oo gRadoo	Downtown.

Exchange 23

Is there a gas station nearby?		
Visitor:	daa lee ye benzeenska poompa tamo oo bleezeenee?	Is there a gas station nearby?
Local:	daa	Yes.

Exchange 24

## Public Transportation

Public transportation in cities and towns is overcrowded and standards are variable, although there have been improvements in major cities.<sup>590</sup> In Belgrade, public transportation includes a city railway that is part of the Serbian railway system. It provides mass transit within the Belgrade metropolitan area. The intercity railway service in Serbia is considered substandard and generally unreliable: trains are often overbooked and run late, service is slow, and the safety record is poor.<sup>591</sup> Intercity trains run regularly but are often extremely crowded. Reservations do not guarantee a seat during holidays or other times when trains are overfilled.



Train, original Belgrade railway station  
Flickr / Antti T. Nissinen

Belgrade runs trolley and tram services alongside its inner-city bus network, and most other major Serbian cities have reliable buses.<sup>592, 593</sup> One of the best-organized public transport systems is in Novi Sad (bus lines only), which also provides suburban and long-distance routes. Fares depend on zones (five zones total).<sup>594</sup>

Is there a train station nearby?

Visitor:	daa lee ye zhelezneechkaa staneetsaa oo bleezeenee?	Is there a train station nearby?
Local:	ne	No.

Exchange 25

Will the bus be here soon?

Visitor:	daa lee tye aootoboos bRzo steetyee?	Will the bus be here soon?
Local:	ne, oovek kaasnee	No, it's always late.

Exchange 26

Metered taxis are readily available in major cities and can be hailed from most street corners. To avoid exorbitant rates, visitors should only use officially marked taxis, which display a municipal registration number in addition to the cab number. Arranging a cab can be cheaper than hailing one on the street; most

operators for the radio taxi phone lines speak English and riders can provide their street location.<sup>595, 596</sup>

Where can I get a cab?		
Visitor:	gde mogoo naRoocheetee taksee?	Where can I get a cab?
Local:	tamo	Over there.

Exchange 27

Can you take me there for this much?		
Visitor:	mozhetee lee me povestee ovoleeko novtsaa?	Can you take me there for this much?
Local:	daa, mogoo	Yes, I can.

Exchange 28

## Restaurants and Marketplace

### Dining Out



Café at night, Pančevo  
Flickr / Aris Gionis

The pace of dining in Serbia is slower, and locals take the opportunity to relax and converse with friends and colleagues, often lingering over the meal. The main daily meal is lunch, which begins at around 2 p.m. and can span the course of 3 or 4 hours. Dinner, which follows in the evening, is much lighter.<sup>597</sup>

In Belgrade, restaurants range from the traditional to the innovative.<sup>598</sup> *Kafanas*—traditional taverns—are an institution.

One of the legacies of the Ottoman occupation, these smoke-filled establishments serve coffee, beer, and *rakija* alongside traditional tavern food. They have a near cult status among the younger generation.<sup>599</sup> International foods, such as Thai, Indian, or Mexican, are typically limited to restaurants in Belgrade and Novi Sad. Italian food, however, is popular throughout Serbia, even in small towns.<sup>600</sup>

What type of meat is this?		
Visitor:	koyaa ye ovo vRstaa mesaa?	What type of meat is this?
Local:	sveenyeteenaa	Pork.

Exchange 29

I'd like soup.		
Visitor:	zhelelaa beeh soopoo	I'd like soup.
Local:	svaakaako	Sure.

Exchange 30

Do you have dessert?		
Visitor:	daa lee eemate deseRt?	Do you have dessert?
Local:	daa eemaamo toRtoo	Yes, we have cake.

Exchange 31

Restaurants offer a variety of drinks, such as Turkish coffee, fruit juices, wine, and several brandies—including *lozovacaorloza* (grape brandy) and *šljivovica* (a strong brandy made from plums). It has been said that “smoking is a hobby and drinking is a way of life” in Serbia, and it is very rare to find a restaurant where smoking is prohibited.<sup>601, 602</sup>

Coffee, please.		
Visitor:	kaafoo, moleem vaas	Coffee, please.
Local:	svaakaako	Sure.

Exchange 32

May I have a mineral water?		
Visitor:	mogoo lee daa dobeeyem meeneRaaloo vode?	May I have a mineral water?
Local:	daa, odmah	Yes, right away.

Exchange 33

When dining in a restaurant with a Serbian host, the host pays. Foreign visitors are usually considered guests and it is inappropriate for them to insist on paying even

part of the bill. Instead, guests can offer to buy a round of drinks. Many restaurants in the cities take international credit cards except for American Express, which is less accepted. It is necessary to have cash on hand (dinars) in case other payment methods do not work. There is no set rule for tipping. In many areas, a few dinars is acceptable, while in larger cities frequented by tourists, a 10% tip is more common.<sup>603</sup>

Put this all in one bill, please.		
Visitor:	staveete sve na yedan Rachoos	Put this all in one bill, please.
Local:	oo Redoo	Okay.

Exchange 34

Bill, please!		
Visitor:	Rachoos, moleem vaas!	Bill, please!
Local:	daa, svaakaako	Yes, of course.

Exchange 35

Serbian cities, particularly Belgrade, have an active nightlife. Serbians dine late, similar to the custom in southern Europe. Many restaurants, cafés, and nightclubs serve food late into the night and early morning hours, serving the cities' many club-goers. Belgrade is known for its *splavs*—floating restaurants and nightclubs that are anchored to the Danube or Sava riverbanks (*splav* and *splavovi* mean “raft” and “barge,” respectively).<sup>604</sup>

Are you still serving breakfast?		
Visitor:	daa lee yosh oovek sloozheete doRoochak?	Are you still serving breakfast?
Local:	daa	Yes.

Exchange 36

## Marketplace

There are a variety of shopping areas in Serbia's larger cities, from shopping malls and designer stores to farmer's markets and flea markets. Knez Mihailova Street is the epicenter for shopping in Belgrade. Lining the well-trafficked pedestrian street are high-end stores and small boutiques offering traditional Serbian handicrafts, such as lace, knitted garments, and leather goods, as well as copperware and Serbian crystal.<sup>605</sup>

Bargain shopping can be found on Bulevar Kralja Aleksandra, which, at 8.2 km (5 mi), is the longest street within the capital's city limits. Snack foods are available to purchase at street stalls or small bakeries, which are numerous in Belgrade. The cost of food is low, and the quality can be high.<sup>606</sup>

Do you sell <i>sirogojno</i> ?		
Local:	daa lee pRodayete seeRogoyno dgempeRe?	Do you sell <i>sirogojno</i> (a hand-made sweater)?
Visitor:	daa	Yes.

Exchange 37

The largest outdoor markets for buying souvenirs and crafts are located in Belgrade. Dotted around the city, these markets offer books, gifts, antiques, and a variety of handicrafts in addition to fresh meat and produce. The most well-known is Kalenić Pijaca, south of Stari Grad in the Vračar district. Shoppers can find everything from fresh peppers, garlic, and seasonal fruit, to cheeses, pastry dough, meat, and fish. In most open-air markets, purchases can only be made in cash and bargaining is expected.<sup>607, 608</sup>



Knez Mihailova Street, Belgrade  
Flickr / Jorge Láscar

Is the market nearby?		
Visitor:	daa lee ye peeyatsa oo bleezeenee?	Is the market nearby?
Local:	daa, taamo na desno	Yes, over there on the right.

Exchange 38

Can I buy an <i>ikone</i> with this much money?		
Local:	mogoo lee daa koopeem eekony saa ovoleeko novtsaa?	Can I buy an <i>ikone</i> (Orthodox Byzantine icon) with this much money?
Visitor:	ne	No.

Exchange 39

Do you accept dollars?		
Visitor:	daa lee pReehvataate dolaaRe?	Do you accept dollars?
Local:	ne, samo deenaRe	No, only dinars.

*Exchange 40*

How much longer will you be here?		
Visitor:	koleeko tyete doogo yosh beetee ovde?	How much longer will you be here?
Local:	tRee sata	Three more hours.

*Exchange 41*

## Money

Customers are expected to pay in either dinars or with a credit card. Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted. Credit cards can be used to withdraw cash at ATM machines located in the shopping areas. International bank cards can be used to make transactions at ATMs. Banks, exchange offices, and change machines are available in Belgrade to change money to Serbian dinars.<sup>609</sup> Exchange rates are similar at all three.<sup>610</sup> Banking services and currency exchanges in Belgrade and other large cities are modern and safe.<sup>611</sup>

Can you give me change?		
Visitor:	mozhetee lee mee ooseetneetee novaats?	Can you give me change?
Local:	ne	No.

*Exchange 42*

## Crime and Safety

In Serbian cities, the rate of street crime is relatively low.<sup>612</sup> Thieves who resort to pickpocketing or stealing purses can be a problem in some areas of Belgrade, especially in crowded markets and shopping areas, such as Knez Mihailova Street, and on public transportation. Criminals often work in well-orchestrated groups, using distraction to steal from unsuspecting victims. Packages left in unattended vehicles are an invitation to thieves, who may break in and steal anything, including the vehicle itself.<sup>613, 614</sup>

Difficult economic conditions have led to a rise in organized crime. While tourists are almost never the targets of violence, Mafia-style reprisals have occurred in places where tourists gather. There have been several violent and fatal attacks late at night near night clubs, bars, and in inner city suburbs.<sup>615</sup> A number of *splavs* are owned by Balkan organized crime and serve as social clubs and bases of operation for gang members. The *splavs* Plastic, Splav Slep, and Mr. Stefan Braun have been marked off-limits to U.S. Embassy personnel.<sup>616, 617</sup>

As in any city, visitors should stay clear of deserted streets and parking lots at night. Avoid political gatherings, protests, demonstrations, and road blocks as they can turn violent. Most protests remain peaceful, but they can turn violent. Some nationalist organizations in Serbia have varying levels of anti-foreigner and anti-American sentiment. Large gatherings such as sporting events have also turned violent.<sup>618, 619</sup>



Outdoor café, Belgrade  
Flickr / Chris Shervey

### *Solicitations*

Beggars, including Roma people, are present in Serbia's cities. They move to cities from poor, rural areas in search of jobs, often ending up begging when they cannot find work. Most are homeless or find shelter in small shanty dwellings. Beggars are usually the elderly, women with children, and disabled adults—among them veterans from the civil war with Bosnia and other conflicts of the 1990s.<sup>620</sup>



Beggar, Novi Sad  
Flickr / Danijel Sivinjski

It is not uncommon to come across unaccompanied children—mostly Roma—washing windshields at streetlights, selling flowers, collecting scrap material, singing to entertain passersby, or begging.<sup>621</sup> Children are often forced into such manual labor or begging by their families who cannot support them. Some fall prey to criminal groups. Begging is well organized; territories are divided and strategic, with well-trafficked locations favored.<sup>622</sup>

Many beggars will attempt to make visitors feel guilty for not giving money. It is generally best to ignore beggars, especially if others are around. If someone insists on making an unwanted advance or sale, you should directly decline the offer. The best interaction may be to apologize, say you have no money, and keep walking.<sup>623, 624</sup>

Give me money to feed my children.		
Visitor:	bog vaam pomogaa! seeRomaashnaa saam daayte mee paaRaa daa nahRaaneem detsoo	God bless you! I'm so poor, give me money to feed my children.
Local:	nemam gaa	I don't have any.

*Exchange 43*

Please, buy something from me.		
Visitor:	moleem vas, koopeete neshto od mene	Please, buy something from me.
Local:	eezveeneete, neeye mee ostalo novtsa	Sorry, I have no money left.

*Exchange 44*

## Endnotes for Chapter 4: Urban Life

- 518 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: Cultural Life: Daily Life and Social Customs," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia/Government-and-society#ref228350>.
- 519 Ginanne Brownell, "Belgrade's Art Scene, Waiting for Its Moment," *New York Times*, 29 June 2012, <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/30/arts/30iht-scbelgrade30.html?mtrref=www.google.com>.
- 520 *Condé Nast*, "14 Emerging Destinations Around the World," 12 April 2017, <https://www.cntraveler.com/gallery/emerging-destinations-around-the-world>.
- 521 Lonely Planet, "Serbia," accessed 6 August 2018, <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/serbia>.
- 522 *Telegraph Travel*, "Why Belgrade Is the Greatest City You'd Never Thought to Visit," 15 February 2017, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/lists/reasons-your-next-city-break-should-be-to-belgrade/>.
- 523 Beograd.rs, "Culture and Art," accessed 6 August 2018, <http://www.beograd.rs/index.php?lang=cir&kat=beoinfo&sub=201038%3f>.
- 524 Beograd.rs, "Culture and Art," accessed 6 August 2018, <http://www.beograd.rs/index.php?lang=cir&kat=beoinfo&sub=201508%3f>.
- 525 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: Economy: Telecommunications," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia#ref228335>.
- 526 Central Intelligence Agency, "Serbia: Communications," in *The World Factbook*, updated 8 June 2018, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ri.html>.
- 527 Laurence Mitchell, "Belgrade: Other Practicalities," in *Serbia* (Bucks, England: Bradt Travel Guides, 2007), 148.
- 528 National Tourism Association of Serbia, "Internet," accessed 6 August 2018, <http://www.serbia.travel/useful-info/communication/internet.2046.html>.
- 529 Glenn E. Curtis, "Chapter 2: The Society and Its Environment: Urbanization and Housing," in *Yugoslavia: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1992).
- 530 Central Intelligence Agency, "Serbia: People," in *The World Factbook*, updated 8 June 2018, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ri.html>.
- 531 Branka Tošić, "System of Centers: The City of Belgrade and Territorial Organization of Serbia" (paper, University of Belgrade, 31 December 2009), [http://www.ff.uni-lj.si/oddelki/geo/publikacije/dela/files/dela\\_31/04\\_tosic.pdf](http://www.ff.uni-lj.si/oddelki/geo/publikacije/dela/files/dela_31/04_tosic.pdf).
- 532 Glenn E. Curtis, "Chapter 2: The Society and Its Environment: Urbanization and Housing: Urban Problems," in *Yugoslavia: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1992).
- 533 Darja Koturovic and Paul Knepe, "Criminal Justice in Serbia: The Effectiveness of Addressing Drug Trafficking," *Ljubljana* 65 (2014): 316, 323, [https://www.policija.si/eng/images/stories/Publications/JCIC/PDF/2014/04/JCIC2014-04\\_DarjaKoturovic\\_CriminalJusticeInSerbia.pdf](https://www.policija.si/eng/images/stories/Publications/JCIC/PDF/2014/04/JCIC2014-04_DarjaKoturovic_CriminalJusticeInSerbia.pdf).
- 534 Overseas Security Advisory Council, U.S. Department of State, "Serbia 2018 Crime and Safety Report," 24 January 2018, <https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=23164>.
- 535 European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, "Serbia: National Drug Report 2017," July 2017, <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/country-overviews/rs#gps>.
- 536 Lara Žmukić, "Serbian Culture," in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 49, Kindle.
- 537 Economy Watch, "Serbia Industry Sectors," 30 March 2010, [http://www.economywatch.com/world\\_economy/serbia/industry-sector-industries.html](http://www.economywatch.com/world_economy/serbia/industry-sector-industries.html).
- 538 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: Government and Society: Health and Welfare," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia#ref42936>.
- 539 Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Department of State, "Serbia: 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report," accessed 7 August 2018, <https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2017/271273.htm>.
- 540 B92, "Strike at Fiat Plant is Serbian Economy's Biggest Problem," 7 July 2017, [https://www.b92.net/eng/news/business.php?yyyy=2017&mm=07&dd=07&nav\\_id=101752](https://www.b92.net/eng/news/business.php?yyyy=2017&mm=07&dd=07&nav_id=101752).
- 541 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: Government and Society: Health and Welfare," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia#ref42936>.
- 542 Reuters, "Serbia's Largest Power Plant to Start Clean-Up to Meet EU Standards," 8 September 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-serbia-energy-cleanup/serbias-largest-power-plant-to-start-clean-up-to-meet-eu-standards-idUSKCN1BJ1Z1>.
- 543 World Health Organization, "Serbia: Data and Statistics," accessed 7 August 2018, <http://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/serbia/data-and-statistics>.
- 544 Central Intelligence Agency, "Serbia: People and Society: Infant Mortality," in *The World Factbook*, updated 8 June 2018, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ri.html>.

### Endnotes for Chapter 4: Urban Life

- 545 Jo Harper, "Serbia Experiencing Health Sector Brain Drain," European Union Financial Observer, 29 February 2016, <https://financialobserver.eu/cse-and-cis/serbia/serbia-experiencing-health-sector-brain-drain/>.
- 546 Natasa Popovic et al., "Predictors of Unmet Health Care Needs in Serbia: Analysis Based on EU-SILC Data," *PLoS ONE* 12, no. 11 (2017), <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0187866>.
- 547 Hospitals Worldwide Guide, "Private Hospitals in Serbia," accessed 7 August 2018, <https://www.hospitalsworldguide.com/private-hospitals-in-serbia/>.
- 548 International Organization for Migration, "Country Fact Sheet: Serbia," August 2014, 7, [http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/MLo-DB/EN/Rueckkehrfoerderung/Laenderinformationen/Informationsblaetter/cfs\\_serbien-dl\\_en.pdf?\\_\\_blob=publicationFile "IV. Medical Care"](http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/MLo-DB/EN/Rueckkehrfoerderung/Laenderinformationen/Informationsblaetter/cfs_serbien-dl_en.pdf?__blob=publicationFile%20IV.%20Medical%20Care).
- 549 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: Government and Society: Health and Welfare," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia/Government-and-society#ref42945>.
- 550 Felicity Nicholson, "Health," Bradt Travel Guides, accessed 7 August 2018, <https://www.bradtguides.com/destinations/europe/serbia/health-and-safety.html>.
- 551 National Tourism Association of Serbia, "Opening Times and Holidays," accessed 6 August 2018, <http://www.serbia.travel/about-serbia/society/opening-times-and-holidays.726.html>.
- 552 National Tourism Association of Serbia, "Health Advisory: Water and Food," accessed 6 August 2018, <http://www.serbia.travel/useful-info/formalities/health-advisory.597.html>.
- 553 Export.gov, "Healthcare Resource Guide: Serbia," updated 28 November 2017, [https://2016.export.gov/industry/health/healthcareresourceguide/eg\\_main\\_108616.asp](https://2016.export.gov/industry/health/healthcareresourceguide/eg_main_108616.asp).
- 554 Gov.uk, "Foreign Travel Advice: Serbia: Health," accessed 4 September 2018, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/serbia/health>.
- 555 World Bank Group, "Serbia: Partnership Program Snapshot," April 2016, 8, <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/965411463032908821/Serbia-Snapshot-April-2016.pdf>.
- 556 Jo Harper, "Serbia Experiencing Health Sector Brain Drain," European Union Financial Observer.eu, 29 February 2016, <https://financialobserver.eu/cse-and-cis/serbia/serbia-experiencing-health-sector-brain-drain/>.
- 557 World Bank Group, "Serbia: Partnership Program Snapshot," April 2016, 8, <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/965411463032908821/Serbia-Snapshot-April-2016.pdf>.
- 558 USAID, "Healing Serbia's Health Care System," updated 30 December 2016, <https://www.usaid.gov/results-data/success-stories/healing-healthcare-system-transparency-and-integrity>.
- 559 Transparency International, "Lives on the Line as Serbia Battles Healthcare Corruption," 22 December 2014, <http://blog.transparency.org/2014/12/22/lives-on-the-line-as-serbia-battles-healthcare-corruption/>.
- 560 Economist Intelligence Unit, "Modernising the Serbian Health System: The Need for a Reliable Decision-Making Compass," 2016, <https://www.eiuperspectives.economist.com/sites/default/files/images/ModernisingSerbianhealthsystem.pdf>.
- 561 Milos Papić, Željko M. Papić, Biljana Đorić, and Veljko Aleksić, "Educational System in Serbia" (paper, International Conference on Education, Science, Economics and Technologies, Burgas, Bulgaria, 2016), 24-25, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/307546627\\_Educational\\_system\\_in\\_Serbia](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/307546627_Educational_system_in_Serbia).
- 562 UNICEF and Centre for Education Policy, "Education in Serbia," accessed 7 August 2018, <http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Lieflet-Sistem-obrazovanja-u-Rep.Srbiji-1.pdf>.
- 563 UNESCO, "Serbia: General Information," accessed 7 August 2018, <http://uis.unesco.org/country/RS>.
- 564 European Roma Rights Centre, "Written Comments of the European Roma Rights Centre Concerning Serbia: For Consideration by the Human Rights Committee of the Concluding Observations of the 119 Session (6-29 March 2017), 3," [http://www.errc.org/uploads/upload\\_en/file/serbia-un-hrc-13-february-2017.pdf](http://www.errc.org/uploads/upload_en/file/serbia-un-hrc-13-february-2017.pdf).
- 565 Ivana Markovic and Zorica Lesevic, eds., "Country Report: Serbia," Erasmus+ Programme of the United Nations, 20 March 2017, 5, [https://supportapprenticeships.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/1.1.4.Country\\_Report\\_Serbia\\_EN.pdf](https://supportapprenticeships.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/1.1.4.Country_Report_Serbia_EN.pdf).
- 566 Milos Papić, Željko M. Papić, Biljana Đorić, and Veljko Aleksić, "Educational System in Serbia" (paper, International Conference on Education, Science, Economics and Technologies, Burgas, Bulgaria, 2016), 25, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/307546627\\_Educational\\_system\\_in\\_Serbia](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/307546627_Educational_system_in_Serbia).
- 567 UNICEF and Centre for Education Policy, "Education in Serbia," accessed 7 August 2018, <http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Lieflet-Sistem-obrazovanja-u-Rep.Srbiji-1.pdf>.
- 568 Foreign Credits, "Education System in Serbia," accessed 7 August 2018, <https://www.classbase.com/countries/Serbia/Education-System>.

### Endnotes for Chapter 4: Urban Life

- 569 Milica Vujičić and Lela Ristić, "Higher Educational System of the Republic of Serbia in Support of Sustainable Development: Challenges of the EU Integration," *Megatrend Review* 12, no. 1 (2015), <https://scindeks-clanci.ceon.rs/data/pdf/1820-3159/2015/1820-31591501139V.pdf>.
- 570 University of Belgrade, "The History of the University," accessed 7 August 2018, <http://bg.ac.rs/en/university/history.php>.
- 571 Ministry of European Integration, Government of the Republic of Serbia, "EU Allocates EUR 27.4 Million for Education Reform in Serbia," 27 September 2017, <http://www.mei.gov.rs/eng/news/492/189/335/details/eu-allocates-eur-27-4-million-for-education-reform-in-serbia/>.
- 572 European Roma Rights Centre, "Written Comments of the European Roma Rights Centre Concerning Serbia: For Consideration by the Human Rights Committee of the Concluding Observations of the 119 Session (6–29 March 2017)," 3, [http://www.errc.org/uploads/upload\\_en/file/serbia-un-hrc-13-february-2017.pdf](http://www.errc.org/uploads/upload_en/file/serbia-un-hrc-13-february-2017.pdf).
- 573 Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U. S. Department of Labor, "Child Labor and Forced Labor Reports: Serbia," 2016, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/serbia>.
- 574 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: Economy: Transportation and Telecommunications: Transportation," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia#ref42940>.
- 575 Central Intelligence Agency, "Serbia: Transportation: Roadways," in *The World Factbook*, updated 8 June 2018, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ri.html>.
- 576 Matthew Karnitschnig, "Beijing's Balkan Backdoor," Politico, updated 18 July 2017, <https://www.politico.eu/article/china-serbia-montenegro-europe-investment-trade-beijing-balkan-backdoor/>.
- 577 Reuters, "Serbia Borrows 134 Million Euros from EIB for Southern Railway," 31 January 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/serbia-investment-eib/serbia-borrows-134-million-euros-from-eib-for-southern-railway-idUSL8N1PQ3LE>.
- 578 Vladimir Krulj, "Serbia Torn between EU Attraction and China Ambitions," *Financial Times*, 2 November 2017, <https://www.ft.com/content/f1570558-bffb-11e7-b8a3-38a6e068f464>.
- 579 World Highways, "Serbia's Pan-European Corridor X Is in the Slow Lane," September 2017, <http://www.worldhighways.com/categories/auctions-equipment-supply-servicing-finance/features/serbias-pan-european-corridor-x-is-in-the-slow-lane/>.
- 580 Airport Technology, "Belgrade Nikola Tesla International Airport," accessed 8 August 2018, <https://www.airport-technology.com/projects/belgrade-nikola-tesla-international-airport/>.
- 581 Export.gov, "Serbia: Infrastructure," 26 February 2018, <https://www.export.gov/article?id=Serbia-Infrastructure>.
- 582 Reuters, "Serbia Expects 400 Mln Euros From Sale of Its Biggest Airport," 5 December 2016, <https://www.reuters.com/article/serbia-airport-privatisation/serbia-expects-400-mln-euros-from-sale-of-its-biggest-airport-idUSL5N1E03PW>.
- 583 Ana Aćimov, "Road Safety in Serbia: A Priority or a Neglected Area?" (Belgrade: Belgrade Centre for Security Policy, September 2016), 4, [http://www.bezbednost.org/upload/document/road\\_safety\\_in\\_serbia\\_-\\_a\\_priority\\_or\\_a\\_neglected\\_.pdf](http://www.bezbednost.org/upload/document/road_safety_in_serbia_-_a_priority_or_a_neglected_.pdf).
- 584 Radomir Ralev, "Serbia's Belgrade to Launch Metro Construction Tender in 2020: Mayor," See News, 5 February 2018, <https://seenews.com/news/serbias-belgrade-to-launch-metro-construction-tender-in-2020-mayor-600684>.
- 585 InterNations, "Living in Belgrade?" accessed 7 August 2018, <https://www.internations.org/belgrade-expats/guide/living-in-belgrade-18539>.
- 586 Paul Sârbescu, Predrag Stanojević, and Dragan Jovanović, "A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Aggressive Driving: Evidence from Serbia and Romania," *Transportation Research Part F Traffic Psychology and Behaviour* (May 2014): 210–217, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/262193428\\_A\\_cross-cultural\\_analysis\\_of\\_aggressive\\_driving\\_Evidence\\_from\\_Serbia\\_and\\_Romania](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/262193428_A_cross-cultural_analysis_of_aggressive_driving_Evidence_from_Serbia_and_Romania).
- 587 World Nomads, "Serbia Transport Tips: Getting Around Safely," 18 January 2018, <https://www.worldnomads.com/travel-safety/europe/serbia/travel-tips-for-serbia>.
- 588 Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State, "Serbia 2018 Crime and Safety Report," 24 January 2018, <https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=23164>.
- 589 Lonely Planet, "Belgrade: Getting Around," accessed 8 August 2018, <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/serbia/belgrade/practical-information/transport/getting-around/a/nar/d14160e3-c90a-45b4-8fe3-4f5af13421ab/360674>.
- 590 Gov.uk, "Foreign Travel Advice: Serbia: Safety and Security," accessed 8 August 2018, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/serbia/safety-and-security>.
- 591 TravelSerbia.Info, "Serbian Railway Network," accessed 8 August 2018, <http://www.travelsrbia.info/railway.php>.
- 592 BelgradeMaps.com, "Belgrade," accessed 8 August 2018, <http://www.belgrademaps.com/en/>.

### Endnotes for Chapter 4: Urban Life

- 593 Move to Belgrade, "Public Transport and Parking," accessed 8 August 2018, <http://movetobelgrade.com/know-the-basics/public-transport-and-parking/>.
- 594 United Nations Human Settlements Programme, "The State of European Cities in Transition 2013" (Nairobi: Institute of Urban Development, 2013), 186, <https://agendastad.nl/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/UN-Habitat-state-of-cities-transitional-EU.pdf>.
- 595 Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State, "Serbia 2018 Crime and Safety Report," 24 January 2018, <https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=23164>.
- 596 Gov.uk, "Foreign Travel Advice: Serbia: Safety and Security," accessed 8 August 2018, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/serbia/safety-and-security>.
- 597 Mary Holland, "Is Belgrade the New Berlin?" *Vogue*, 6 April 2017, <https://www.vogue.com/article/belgrade-travel-guide-the-new-berlin>.
- 598 Seth Sherwood, "36 Hours in Belgrade," *New York Times*, 25 August 2016, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/08/25/travel/what-to-do-36-hours-in-belgrade.html>.
- 599 Jill Pope, "17 Things to Know Before You Go to Belgrade," *Roads and Kingdoms*, 30 March 2015, <http://roadsandkingdoms.com/2015/17-things-to-know-before-you-go-to-belgrade/>.
- 600 iExplore, "Serbia: Food and Restaurants," accessed 8 August 2018, <https://www.iexplore.com/articles/travel-guides/europe/serbia/food-and-restaurants>.
- 601 Mary Holland, "Is Belgrade the New Berlin?" *Vogue*, 6 April 2017, <https://www.vogue.com/article/belgrade-travel-guide-the-new-berlin>.
- 602 *Telegraph Travel*, "Why Belgrade Is the Greatest City You'd Never Thought to Visit," 15 February 2017, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/lists/reasons-your-next-city-break-should-be-to-belgrade/>.
- 603 Lara Žmukić, "Social Customs," in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 93, Kindle.
- 604 *Telegraph Travel*, "Why Belgrade Is the Greatest City You'd Never Thought to Visit," 15 February 2017, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/lists/reasons-your-next-city-break-should-be-to-belgrade/>.
- 605 Seth Sherwood, "36 Hours in Belgrade," *New York Times*, 25 August 2016, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/08/25/travel/what-to-do-36-hours-in-belgrade.html>.
- 606 Nenad Marinkovic, "Serbia Shopping Guide: Where to Shop and What to Buy," Hotels.com, accessed 8 August 2018, <https://uk.hotels.com/articles/ar003422/serbia-shopping-guide-where-to-shop-and-what-to-buy/>.
- 607 ALATKA, "Kalenic Market," accessed 8 August 2018, [http://www.belgrad.com/kalenic\\_e.htm](http://www.belgrad.com/kalenic_e.htm).
- 608 Mary Novakovich, "Belgrade Guide: Where to Stay and What to Do in Serbia's Capital," *Independent*, 20 June 2018, <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/48-hours-in-belgrade-things-to-do-best-bars-clubs-restaurants-hotels-serbia-nightlife-travel-tips-guide-weekend-a8149661.html>.
- 609 Export.gov, "Foreign Travel Guide: Serbia: Money," accessed 8 August 2018, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/serbia/money>.
- 610 Bctwarp, "Serbia Gets the First Bitcoin ATM in the Region," 30 June 2017, <http://www.bctwarp.com/serbia-gets-first-bitcoin-atm-region/>.
- 611 Matt Willis, "Practical Information: Banking and Currency," in *DK Eyewitness Travel Guide Serbia* (New York: Penguin Random House, 2016), 154.
- 612 Laurence Mitchell, "Practical Information: Safety," in *Serbia* (Bucks, England: Bradt Travel Guides, 2007), 72.
- 613 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, "Serbia: Safety and Security," updated 27 February 2018, [http://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/europe/southern/Pages/serbia.aspx#safety\\_and\\_security](http://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/europe/southern/Pages/serbia.aspx#safety_and_security).
- 614 Country Reports Travel Edition, "Crime Information for Tourists in Serbia," accessed 8 August 2018, <http://www.countryreports.org/travel/Serbia/crimes.htm>.
- 615 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, "Serbia: Safety and Security," updated 27 February 2018, [http://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/europe/southern/Pages/serbia.aspx#safety\\_and\\_security](http://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/europe/southern/Pages/serbia.aspx#safety_and_security).
- 616 Country Reports Travel Edition, "Crime Information for Tourists in Serbia," accessed 8 August 2018, <http://www.countryreports.org/travel/Serbia/crimes.htm>.
- 617 Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State, "Serbia 2018 Crime and Safety Report," 24 January 2018, <https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=23164>.
- 618 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, "Serbia: Safety and Security," updated 27 February 2018, [http://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/europe/southern/Pages/serbia.aspx#safety\\_and\\_security](http://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/europe/southern/Pages/serbia.aspx#safety_and_security).
- 619 Gov.uk, "Foreign Travel Advice: Serbia: Safety and Security," accessed 8 August 2018, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/serbia/safety-and-security>.

### Endnotes for Chapter 4: Urban Life

620 Ivona Stojanovic, "The Problem of Begging: Serbia," Roma Transitions, 28 July 2012, <http://www.romatransitions.org/the-problem-of-begging-serbia/>.

621 Federico Sicurella, "Belgrade and Its Street Children," OBC Transeuropa, 10 April 2013, <https://www.balcanicaucaso.org/eng/Areas/Serbia/Belgrade-and-its-street-children-133529>.

622 Bureau of Internal Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Child Labor and Forced Labor Reports: Serbia," accessed 5 September 2018, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/serbia>.

623 Matt Hershberger, "Here's Why I Never Give to Beggars While Traveling," Matador Network, 16 September 2016, <https://matadornetwork.com/change/heres-never-give-beggars-traveling/>.

624 Lori Robertson, "Begging: The Question," *Washington Post*, 14 January 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/12/AR2007011200927.html>.

# Serbian Cultural Orientation

## Chapter 4 | Urban Life

### Assessment

1. Growth in Serbian cities was not significant until Yugoslavia broke apart.
2. Public health care is available for all residents in Serbia.
3. High school in Serbia has two tracks: general or vocational education.
4. Serbia's largest cities provide a broad and rich variety of entertainment and cultural events.
5. Restaurants in Serbia commonly offer a wide variety of vegetarian meals.

*Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. True; 3. True; 4. True; 5. False*



*Kopaonik village, municipality of Raška  
Flickr / Andrijana Vasić*

## Chapter 5 | Serbian Cultural Orientation

---

# Rural Life

## Introduction

Serbia is a predominantly rural country. Approximately 85% of its territory is farmland, forest, and mountains, with most of the population living in villages and relying on agriculture or forestry for their livelihood.<sup>625, 626</sup> The country's richest agricultural land is in the low-lying flatlands of Vojvodina, which accounts for 84% of all cultivable land. In contrast, central Serbia is hilly and mountainous; arable land is scattered and concentrated on low hills and in valleys.<sup>627, 628</sup>

Just over two-thirds of the country's arable land is dedicated to growing grains and corn—most of this in Vojvodina.<sup>629</sup> In hillier regions, livestock production (pigs, cattle,

and chickens) and orchard farming (apples, plums, and cherries) are more prevalent.<sup>630</sup> Forestry and wood processing takes place in the rugged mountainous regions of the east and west.<sup>631</sup>

Compared to urban areas, the general quality of life is lower in rural areas, and unemployment and poverty are higher.<sup>632</sup> Although rural households are not more conservative than their urban counterparts, traditional gender and family roles are stronger. Rural residents have lower levels of educational attainment than people living in cities, especially among women. Most of this difference, however, is concentrated in the older generations. Among younger generations, these differences are far less.<sup>633</sup>



*Corn field, southern Serbia  
Flickr / Bojan Rantaša*

## Village Life

Life on small farms has kept people in Serbian villages closely associated with the land, organizing their work around the cycles of nature. Farmers and farm employees most often make do without modern farm equipment and supplies, still employing methods from the past to care for land and livestock. Often, the vegetables and grains they cultivate are organic. Many rural Serbs follow customs they learned from their ancestors, passing on stories and folklore and preserving traditional crafts. Rural life is also marked by social events, including fairs, competitions, and exhibitions of folk art or cultural displays. Much of the rural population is aging. Young people are leaving farms to move to cities where they can find work and educational opportunities.<sup>634</sup>



*Village of Knjčanin, Vojvodina  
Wikimedia / Mister No*

Did you grow up here?		
Visitor:	daa lee ste odRaslee ovde?	Did you grow up here?
Local:	daa	Yes.

*Exchange 45*



*Kalenički Prnjavor village, Šumadija, western Serbia  
Wikimedia / Origanum*

Lifestyle and the physical layout of villages vary according to region.<sup>635</sup> Around Šumadija, an upland region in central Serbia that was once forested, villages are mostly small. They are situated along roads that trace high ridges surrounded by mountains. The houses are built closely together, made of logs or rough planks of wood that are often plastered on the outside. The roofs are shingled. In the northern plains of Vojvodina, the construction is quite different. Here, a

greater distance separates villages. Villages in Vojvodina were built in the 18th and 19th centuries, much more recently than those of the central upland regions. They follow the construction and layout created by military engineers of the Habsburg forces. These agricultural villages are relatively large, especially compared to villages in central Serbia. Villagers constructed elongated homes joined by walls or fences intended to withstand raids by Ottomans coming from the south. Later, after the danger from raids passed, they built smaller villages and small, scattered farmsteads between the large settlements.<sup>636</sup>

### *Migration to Cities*

The future of many of Serbia's villages is threatened. Before World War II, rural areas were home to more than three-quarters of the country's population; today, 44% of the population lives in the countryside.<sup>637</sup> Migration to richer urban areas with more attractive job prospects and higher living standards began with industrialization in the 1950s and continues today. From 1961 to 2011, Serbia's rural population dropped by 65%.<sup>638</sup> Some village populations shrunk by as much as 90%. Under the Yugoslav communist regime, populations were artificially sustained by offering better salaries in some rural areas. Now, however, rural Serbs have little motivation to stay.<sup>639, 640</sup>

The closure of businesses and state factories over the last 20 years—some of them strategically important for agriculture—has led to higher unemployment in rural areas. Joblessness coupled with poor infrastructure has resulted in higher rates of poverty and substandard living conditions, medical services, and educational opportunities.<sup>641</sup> Of 4,709 villages in Serbia, 700 of them are left with only a small population of the very old.<sup>642</sup> Most of these settlements lack basic public services, such as a library, community center, school, or medical clinic. Houses and shops have been abandoned.<sup>643, 644</sup> Rural depopulation, worsened by the country’s negative birthrate, is one of the largest structural development problems of Serbian society.<sup>645</sup>



*Paune village, western Serbia  
Wikimedia / Vladimir Pecikoza*

### *Asking to Speak to a Person in Charge*

Within 24 hours of arrival in Serbia, foreign visitors must register with the local police department. Failure to do this can result in expulsion from the country. If visitors stay in a hotel, the hotel staff will automatically register them with the appropriate police department.<sup>646</sup>

The police are the principal authorities throughout Serbia. Even in small villages, visitors can ask the police questions or for help. Visitors may also go to a church and call on a priest for assistance. Every town and village in Serbia has a church, and priests are people of authority. As such, they can help with directions and small matters.<sup>647</sup>



*Police officers, Lazarevo, northern Serbia  
Flickr / kgbbristol*

Can you take me to the police chief?		
Visitor:	mozhete lee me odvestee vashem shefoo poleetseeeye?	Can you take me to the police chief?
Local:	daa	Yes.

Exchange 46

Sir, we need your help / advice / opinion.		
Visitor:	gospodeene, tRebaa naam vaashaa pomoty / saavet / meeshlyenye	Sir, we need your help / advice / opinion.
Local:	svaakaako	Sure.

Exchange 47

## Economy

### Development of Agriculture



Farming, central Serbia  
Flickr / Magalie L'Abbé

Serbia has been an agricultural society for centuries. During the period of Ottoman rule, most people lived and worked on small family-owned farms, producing just enough to support themselves. Towns were mainly populated by Turks involved in administrative or military work, or Greeks and other non-Serbians who practiced commerce.<sup>648</sup> Some farmers inherited Turkish estates and worked for the state, renting out land to other farmers and gaining some control over

trade and credit. A middle class eventually developed in the 19th century, but overall, the country remained a peasant society.<sup>649</sup>

During the late 19th century, an influx of migrant farmers from Austria, Germany, and other parts of Serbia transformed Vojvodina. As the population soared, land reclamation projects and railway construction attracted even more settlers, including colonists, officials, and entrepreneurs from Hungary.<sup>650</sup> They commercialized many of the large estates, and the traditional farming occupations were eventually replaced by agricultural wage labor. Vojvodina has retained its agriculturally productive character, becoming known as the “breadbasket of the empire.”<sup>651</sup>

## Farming



Naupare villager, Kruševac, central Serbia  
Wikimedia / Gmihail

Roughly 90% of Serbia's farmland is privately owned and consists of family-run farms of less than 5 hectares (12 acres). These farms produce crops and have a small number of cattle, sheep, or pigs.<sup>652, 653</sup> Because of the small size of their farms, most farmers produce only enough to feed their families, selling just a small portion of their produce. Consequently, many are heavily dependent on off-farm sources of income, including jobs in food processing, trade, construction, and transport.<sup>654</sup>

Serbia's rural infrastructure is undeveloped, with agricultural and transportation equipment in need of repair. Resources are minimal. To help improve these conditions, farmers work through associations, networks, unions, and cooperatives to organize their work and gain information from others. Networking helps them find new links to credit and markets, enabling them to find ways to procure the needed equipment and supplies.<sup>655, 656</sup>

Principal crops include maize, wheat, sugar beets, sunflowers, flax, and hemp.<sup>657</sup> Serbia is also one of the three largest soybean producers in Europe. Agricultural biotechnology is extremely unpopular in Serbia, where the cultivation and trade of genetically modified products is banned.<sup>658</sup> As of 2018, this was an obstacle to World Trade Organization membership.<sup>659</sup>

## Rural Tourism

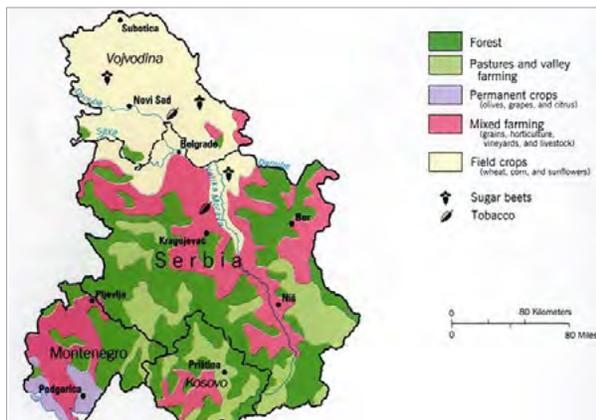
Tourism in Serbia has risen over the last decade, and numerous villages are looking to capitalize on this trend.<sup>660</sup> Drawing on a rich heritage of geographic beauty and traditional customs, foods, and handicrafts, many rural communities have redefined themselves as tourist destinations.<sup>661</sup>

In Vojvodina and central Serbia, large remote farmsteads (*salaši*) have been transformed into "ethno villages" (*etno selo*). These oases of traditional lifestyle preserve the ethnic heritage while offering tourists a place to stay and explore the local culture. Tourist offerings include horseback riding, regional Serbian music, and authentic cooking. Online listings and mobile apps list households in remote villages

where travelers can stay, in a format similar to Airbnb.<sup>662</sup> Other villages draw on local history and folklore to bring tourists from busy cities.<sup>663, 664</sup>

Rural tourism is generating a significant amount of income in Serbia, and the hope is that it will continue to diversify the rural economy. In 2017, there were more than 40 ethno villages and 32,000 homestay beds in rural areas across Serbia. It is estimated that these generate about 5 billion dinars (USD 50 million) annually.<sup>665, 666</sup>

## Land Ownership and Privatization



*Serbia land use map*  
University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin

In Serbia, land is divided into two categories by intended use: agriculture or construction. Individuals and public entities can own agricultural land.<sup>667</sup> Prior to the adoption of successive new land laws after 2006, the state owned most land parcels in accordance with the socialist government policies of the former Yugoslavia. Individual property owners were mainly farmers who owned small parcels of land.<sup>668, 669</sup>

Over the last 20 years, successive measures have reformed land ownership and privatized state property and enterprises. The government has returned property nationalized during the Tito era or compensated former owners.<sup>670</sup> In 2015, the government adopted a law that allows usage rights for state-owned property to be converted into ownership rights. (Until 2003, owners of nationalized land had only rights of use that could not be sold or transferred.)<sup>671, 672</sup>

To complicate matters, rural land transactions were seldom legally registered. Those that were, are often outdated or incomplete.<sup>673</sup> Lack of clear ownership rights complicates efforts at restitution of former property rights.<sup>674</sup> As a result, a substantial amount of land confiscated from former owners remains in state ownership. In 2012, state-owned land still encompassed 900,000 hectares (2.2 million acres).<sup>675</sup>

The Agricultural Land Law of 2006 prohibits foreigners from owning land designated for agricultural purposes. In 2017, a law lifted most restrictions on ownership of agricultural property for EU citizens.<sup>676</sup> Non-EU foreigners may circumvent ownership laws by establishing a local company in Serbia and purchasing land through the firm.<sup>677</sup>

Do you own this land?		
Visitor:	daa lee posedooyete ovoo zemlyoo?	Do you own this land?
Local:	daa	Yes.

Exchange 48

## Transportation and Roads

A driver in rural Serbia may encounter many dangers on the roads. In the countryside, roads are often in disrepair, marked by rocks and potholes, and road signs may be nonexistent or incorrect. Driving can be particularly dangerous at night because of these structural problems, which are generally worse in the southern part of the country. Keep in mind, rural Serbian motorists are known to drive fast and recklessly, ignoring speed limits or warning signs.<sup>678, 679</sup>



*Donji Adrovac village, southern Serbia  
Wikimedia / Bojan Lazarevic. ZivojinMistic slike*

In the winter, fog can significantly reduce visibility; fog is extremely heavy in the Vojvodina region between Belgrade and the Hungarian border.<sup>680</sup> In the mountainous south, snow may not be cleared, or roads are closed entirely.<sup>681</sup>

Traveling by bus is safer and more reliable than traveling by car. Buses connect most distant towns; stations with well-marked timetables are in small towns and large metropolitan

areas. Passengers can buy tickets in the bus station, purchase snacks, and leave luggage in designated areas.<sup>682, 683</sup>

Traveling by rail is cheaper than by bus, but railway service is prone to delays, breakdowns, and overbooking. Railway lines connect Belgrade, Niš, Novi Sad, and Subotica to small towns across the country.<sup>684</sup> Maintenance and investment in the system has been limited; in 2017, work to overhaul the Belgrade- Novi Sad-Subotica line began.<sup>685</sup> Rail can be useful for long, overnight, scenic trips when time is not pressing. Otherwise, it is probably better to take the bus. Local police carry out random ID checks on trains. Thieves operate on trains, so take care that documents and other valuables are safe.<sup>686, 687</sup>

## Health Care

Health services are not widely available in rural areas. Although entitled to a wide range of health care services, many rural clinics and outpatient facilities were closed due to cost-saving reforms during the 2008/2009 economic crisis. Hospitals are found only in major cities, and the few rural clinics are often underequipped and understaffed. Many people are either forced to travel for treatment or go without.<sup>688, 689</sup>

In thinly populated areas, especially those in Vojvodina, Šumadija, and western Serbia, there are a higher number of elderly who suffer from poor health and chronic illness. While they are covered by public health insurance, access to care is a challenge. Nearly half of the elderly suffer from lack of physical mobility. Securing transport to the nearest clinic can be difficult because there is no regular bus service in some areas. Additionally, many people living in rural areas cannot pay for private services, private insurance, or transportation.<sup>690, 691</sup>



*U.S. Air Force flight surgeon exams a local Vrtogoš man, central Serbia U.S. Air National Guard*

Is there a medical clinic nearby?		
Visitor:	daa lee postoyee medeetseenska kleeneeka oo bleezeenee?	Is there a medical clinic nearby?
Local:	daa, tamo	Yes, down that road.

*Exchange 49*

Women in rural areas are impacted disproportionately. Most must travel to cities for specialists or for diagnostic procedures. For many of them, it is an enormous cost in money and time, so women delay treatment. On average, more than 8% of women in southeastern Serbia and rural areas have never visited a gynecologist.<sup>692, 693</sup>

My arm is broken, can you help me?		
Visitor:	slomlyena mee ye Rooka, mozhete lee daa mee pomognete?	My arm is broken, can you help me?
Local:	daa, podyeete saa mnoon	Yes, come with me.

Exchange 50

## Education

Outside of Serbia’s urban centers, many children lack access to quality education.<sup>694</sup> While some of the challenges facing Serbia’s education system are seen in rural and urban schools (infrastructure in need of repair and insufficient resources and equipment), they are felt most acutely in rural areas.<sup>695</sup> The presence of fewer school-age children and budget cuts have led to school closures and schools with multigrade classrooms. Overall, teaching standards in rural elementary schools are lower than in urban ones.<sup>696</sup> Rural children score lower on achievement tests than their urban peers, putting them in a worse position to continue their education.<sup>697, 698</sup>

Fewer schools also means students must travel greater distances. There are no school



Roma family in Vranje, southeast Serbia  
Flickr /United Nations Development Programme in Europe and CIS

buses in the country, and about a quarter of children do not have access to public transportation. Many children walk 4-15 km to school (2.5-9 mi).<sup>699</sup> Primary school enrollment rates are lower in rural areas, and dropout rates are higher; children leave to help at home or on the farm. About 20% of students do not attend high school, either due to a lack of interest or money.<sup>700, 701</sup> While Serbia has a high literacy rate (99%), rural women over 50 years of age tend to be illiterate.

According to the 2011 census, 60% of rural women had only attended elementary school or had no education at all. The most common reasons were the family’s belief that they did not need to attain higher education, were needed to help in the household, or a lack of financial resources.<sup>702, 703</sup>

# Border Crossings and Checkpoints

Serbia is bordered by eight neighboring countries and, consequently, has the largest territory classified as “crossborder area” of any country in the Balkan Peninsula (60,086 sq km/23,199 sq mi, or 68% of the total territory).<sup>704</sup> Visitors can enter Serbia only through official border crossings staffed by customs and police or military officers. The customs officials will stamp passports. Foreigners who try to leave the country without a properly stamped passports are in violation of the law and will incur penalties. It is also illegal for a foreign person to enter Serbia if their original entry point was Kosovo.<sup>705, 706</sup> Many Serbian car rental companies will not allow their vehicles to be driven into neighboring countries because of safety concerns.<sup>707</sup> There have been a few incidents of Serbian-registered cars being targeted in Kosovo.<sup>708</sup>



*Serbia-Macedonia border  
Flickr / William John Gauthier*

More than 25 years since Yugoslavia dissolved, several border disputes remain unresolved, including one concerning Serbia’s border with Bosnia and Herzegovina along the Drina River. Serbia’s border dispute with Kosovo is contentious and security along the border is unpredictable.<sup>709</sup> Clashes between security forces and armed groups, often associated with separatist movements, have occurred in southern Serbia and at border points with Kosovo.<sup>710</sup> In 2018, because of heightened tensions in Mitrovica, a Serb-dominated northern district in Kosovo, Serbian and Kosovo troops were stationed on either side of the border crossing at Jarinje, Kosovo.<sup>711, 712</sup>

Where is the nearest checkpoint?		
Visitor:	gde ye naaybleezha kontRolnaa taachkaa?	Where is the nearest checkpoint?
Local:	dva keelometRaa	It’s two kilometers.

*Exchange 51*

Show us the car registration.

Visitor:	pokazheete nam RegeestRatseeeyoo	Show us the car registration.
Local:	oo Redoo	Okay.

*Exchange 52*

Please get out of the car.

Visitor:	moleem vaas eezadyeete eez kolaa	Please get out of the car.
Local:	oo Redoo	Okay.

*Exchange 53*

Weapons are prohibited when entering or traveling through Serbia, unless they are used for an officially registered hunting trip. If stopped and questioned, hunters carrying weapons must provide documentation that the trip was organized by the Hunting Association of Serbia—the only government-recognized hunting organization.<sup>713</sup>

Are you carrying any guns?

Visitor:	daa lee noseete oRoozhye?	Are you carrying any guns?
Local:	daa	Yes.

*Exchange 54*

Police checkpoints may be located at random points within Serbia. Although the country's security situation has been relatively calm, indiscriminate attacks can occur, some in areas with tourists or foreign visitors.<sup>714</sup>

Is this all the ID you have?

Visitor:	daa lee soo ovo svee dokoomentee koye eemate?	Is this all the ID you have?
Local:	daa	Yes.

*Exchange 55*

## Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War

Two decades after the Balkan wars of the 1990s, the contamination of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) is still widespread. Throughout the region, there are an estimated 150,000 unexploded pieces of ordnance.<sup>715</sup> Since 2007, the United States has invested more than \$15.7 million in a Conventional Weapons Destruction



Sign warning of ERW in Serbian and Albanian, Serbia U.S. Department of State

Efforts program in Serbia, significantly clearing areas contaminated with cluster munitions, landmines, and other ERW.<sup>716, 717</sup> As a result, the number of landmines and unexploded ordnance injuries has steadily declined from 11 in 2011 to 2 in 2016.<sup>718</sup>

In the 1990s, most landmines were placed in northwestern Serbia, along the border with Croatia; this area has since been cleared according to Serbian officials.<sup>719</sup> Some mines and ERW remain in other areas of the country, including some southern districts. The high mountainous area north and east of the Kosovo border, including the Mount Kopaonik ski resort, is known to contain mines and cluster munitions. They may not be marked, heightening the safety risk.<sup>720, 721</sup>

In Belgrade, munitions from both world wars remain along the waterfront at depths of up to 27 m (89 ft).<sup>722, 723</sup>

Do you know this area very well?		
Visitor:	daa lee znate dobRo ovoo oblast?	Do you know this area very well?
Local:	daa	Yes.

Exchange 56

Is this area mined?		
Visitor:	daa lee ye ova zona meeneeRana?	Is this area mined?
Local:	daa	Yes.

Exchange 57

### Endnotes for Chapter 5: Rural Life

- 625 Export.gov. "Serbia: Agriculture," 26 February 2018, <https://www.export.gov/article?id=Serbia-Agribusines>.
- 626 Import-Export Solutions, Groupe Société Générale, "Serbia: Economic Indicators," updated August 2018, <https://import-export.societegenerale.fr/en/country/serbia/growth-indicators>.
- 627 S. van Berkum, Natalija L. Bogdanov, "Agricultural Production, Process and Income," *Serbia on the Road to EU Accession: Consequences for Agricultural Policy and the Agri-food Chain* (2012): 74-76.
- 628 Laurence Mitchell, "Background Information: Geography and Climate," in *Serbia* (Bucks, England: Bradt Travel Guides, 2007), 4.
- 629 Zikica Milosevic, "Serbia Is among the Ten Largest Exporters of Wheat and Corn in the World," *Diplomacy and Commerce*, 16 November 2017, <http://www.diplomacyandcommerce.rs/serbia-is-among-the-ten-largest-exporters-of-wheat-and-corn-in-the-world/>.
- 630 Karen Braun, "Serbia: A Grain Market Worth Watching," *Reuters*, 13 June 2016, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-serbia-grain-braun-idUSKCN0Z0052>.
- 631 Export.gov. "Serbia: Agriculture," 26 February 2018, <https://www.export.gov/article?id=Serbia-Agribusines>.
- 632 Robert Kasumović, "Serbian Countryside Struggling to Survive," *Mašina: Production of Social Critique*, 8 June 2017, <http://www.masina.rs/eng/serbian-countryside-struggling-survive/>.
- 633 Radmila Gujaničić et al., "Situation of Rural Women in Serbia: Report," UN Women, March 2017, 40-43, [http://rs.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/serbia/docs/Publications/Situation%20of%20rural%20women%20in%20Serbia\\_ENG\\_final.pdf](http://rs.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/serbia/docs/Publications/Situation%20of%20rural%20women%20in%20Serbia_ENG_final.pdf).
- 634 Marijana Pantić and Jelena Živanović, "Regional Differences Between Rural Areas of Serbia in Population Aging and Agricultural Activities: Case Studies of the Indija and Knjaževac Municipalities," *Spatium International Review*, no. 22 (July 2010): 29-37, <http://www.doiserbia.nb.rs/img/doi/1450-569X/2010/1450-569X1022029P.pdf>.
- 635 Milica Igić et al., "Spatial and Functional Structure of Rural Settlements in Municipalities of Niš," *Architecture and Civil Engineering* 15, no 1, Special Issue (2017): 88-91, [casopisi.junis.ni.ac.rs/index.php/FUArchCivEng/article/download/2418/1706](http://casopisi.junis.ni.ac.rs/index.php/FUArchCivEng/article/download/2418/1706).
- 636 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: People: Rural Settlement," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia#ref228326>.
- 637 Trading Economics, "Serbia: Rural Population," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://tradingeconomics.com/serbia/rural-population-percent-of-total-population-wb-data.html>.
- 638 Marko Filipović, Vlasta Kokotović Kanazir, and Marija Drobñjaković, "Small Towns in Serbia: The 'Bridge' Between the Urban and the Rural," *European Countryside* 8, no. 4 (2016): 470, <https://doi.org/10.1515/euco-2016-0031>.
- 639 Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and World Bank, "Poverty Map of Serbia 2016," accessed 13 August 2018, 13-16, <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/859541477472336209/Poverty-Map-of-Serbia.pdf>.
- 640 Boško Mijatović, "Poverty in Serbia 2014," ed. Žarko Šunderić, *Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, Government of the Republic of Serbia*, 2015, 8, <http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Poverty-in-Serbia-2014.pdf>.
- 641 Marina Todorović and Marija Drobñjaković, "Peripheral Rural Areas in Serbia: The Result of Unbalanced Regional Development 1," *Geographica Timisiensis* 19, no. 2 (January 2010): 207-209, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/282605498\\_PERIPHERAL\\_RURAL\\_AREAS\\_IN\\_SERBIA\\_-\\_THE\\_RESULT\\_OF\\_UNBALANCED\\_REGIONAL\\_DEVELOPMENT\\_1](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/282605498_PERIPHERAL_RURAL_AREAS_IN_SERBIA_-_THE_RESULT_OF_UNBALANCED_REGIONAL_DEVELOPMENT_1).
- 642 Marko Djurica, "Serbian Villages Turning into Ghost Towns: In Pictures," *Guardian*, 24 August 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2017/aug/24/serbia-villages-ghost-towns-in-pictures>.
- 643 Mila Pavlović, "Demographic Endangerment of the Rural Settlements of Rogozna Mountain and Possibilities for Their Revitalization" (paper, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Geography, 25 November 2017), 331-342, <https://scindeks-clanci.ceon.rs/data/pdf/1450-7552/2017/1450-75521702331P.pdf>.
- 644 Sreten M. Jelić and Vukašin Kolarević, "Subjective Poverty of Youth in Rural Areas of Serbia," *Sociologija i Prostor* 56, no. 201 (2018): 36, <https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/287845>.
- 645 M. Antic, Danica Santic, Milica Kasanin-Grubin, and A. Malic, "Sustainable Rural Development in Serbia: Relationship between Population Dynamics and Environment," *Journal of Environmental Protection and Ecology* 18, no. 1 (January 2017): 323-331, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317743225\\_Sustainable\\_rural\\_development\\_in\\_Serbia\\_-\\_Relationship\\_between\\_population\\_dynamics\\_and\\_environment](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317743225_Sustainable_rural_development_in_Serbia_-_Relationship_between_population_dynamics_and_environment).
- 646 Phil Sylvester, "Serbia's Borders and Customs: Travel Tips," *World Nomads*, 16 January 2018, <https://www.worldnomads.com/travel-safety/europe/serbia/a-guide-to-serbian-laws>.
- 647 Marika McAdam, "A Beginner's Guide to Serbia," *Lonely Planet*, October 2014, <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/serbia/travel-tips-and-articles/a-beginners-guide-to-serbia/40625c8c-8a11-5710-a052-1479d277ee44>.

### Endnotes for Chapter 5: Rural Life

- 648 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: History: Life in the Ottoman Period," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia/Government-and-society#ref43572>.
- 649 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: History: Modern Serbia: Consolidation of the State," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia/Government-and-society#ref43578>.
- 650 John B. Allcock, "Vojvodina," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 13 January 2016, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Vojvodina>.
- 651 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: History: Modern Serbia: The Scramble for the Balkans," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia/Government-and-society#ref43579>.
- 652 Clare J. Phythian et al., "A Pilot Survey of Farm Animal Welfare in Serbia, a Country Preparing for EU Accession," *Veterinary Medicine and Science* 3, no. 4 (2017): 208-226, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5671772/>.
- 653 Bekzod Shamsiev and Marko Bucik, "Securing Serbia's Farming Future," Eurasian Expressions, World Bank, 5 May 2016, <http://blogs.worldbank.org/europeandcentralasia/securing-serbia-s-farming-future>.
- 654 Natalija L. Boganov, "Small Rural Households in Serbia and Rural Non-Farm Income," Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, UNDP and Republic of Serbia, 2007, 95-96, [http://www.undp.org/content/dam/serbia/Publications%20and%20reports/UNDP\\_SRB\\_Small\\_Rural\\_Households\\_in\\_Serbia\\_and\\_Rural\\_Non-farm\\_Economy.pdf](http://www.undp.org/content/dam/serbia/Publications%20and%20reports/UNDP_SRB_Small_Rural_Households_in_Serbia_and_Rural_Non-farm_Economy.pdf).
- 655 Miladin M. Ševarlić, Marija M. Nikolić, and Richard Simmons, "Agricultural Cooperatives and Their Membership in Cooperative Unions in Serbia (paper, Applied Studies in Agribusiness and Commerce, Agroinform Publishing House, Budapest), accessed 13 August 2018, [https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/91127/2/4\\_Sevarlic%20Agricultural\\_Apstract.pdf](https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/91127/2/4_Sevarlic%20Agricultural_Apstract.pdf).
- 656 GTAI Germany Trade and Invest, "IPA II 2014-2020: Rural Development Program," 20 August 2015, <https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=auto&tl=en&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gtai.de%2FGTAI%2FContent%2FDE%2FTrade%2FFachdaten%2FPRO%2F2015%2F08%2FAnlagen%2FPRO201508145002.pdf%3Fv%3D1>.
- 657 Bryan Purcell, "Commodity Intelligence Report: Serbia: Record Wheat and Near-Record Corn Production," USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Serbia, 30 November 2016, <https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/highlights/2016/11/Serbia/Index.htm>.
- 658 Guy Delauney, "Can Serbia's Farming Heritage Survive?" BBC News, 26 February 2016, <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-35631289>.
- 659 B92, "Serbia 'Belongs in WTO': GMO Ban is Obstacle to Membership," 29 November 2017, [https://www.b92.net/eng/news/business.php?yyyy=2017&mm=11&dd=29&nav\\_id=102916](https://www.b92.net/eng/news/business.php?yyyy=2017&mm=11&dd=29&nav_id=102916).
- 660 SeeNews, "Tourism Contribution to Serbia's GDP to Rise 2.3% in 2018: WTTTC," 4 April 2018, <https://seenews.com/news/tourism-contribution-to-serbias-gdp-to-rise-23-in-2018-wtttc-607704>.
- 661 Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Government of the Republic of Serbia, "Tourism Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the Period from 2016 to 2025," 28 November 2016, <http://mtt.gov.rs/download/3/TOURISM%20DEVELOPMENT%20STRATEGY%20OF%20RS%202016-2025.pdf>.
- 662 Nevena Paunovic, "Why Serbian Agricultural Homesteads are Breathing Life into Tourism in the Country," Lonely Planet, 5 July 2017, <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/news/2017/07/05/village-tourism-serbia-experiencing-boom/>.
- 663 Reuters, "Serbian Village Hopes its Vampire Will Rival Dracula as Tourist Draw," 14 May 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-serbia-vampire/serbian-village-hopes-its-vampire-will-rival-dracula-as-tourist-draw-idUSKCN1IF28V>.
- 664 D. Demirović, K. Košić, and S. Stjepanović, "Competitiveness in Rural Tourism between Serbia and Hungary," *R-Economy* 4, no. 2, 2018, [http://r-economy.ru/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/r-economy\\_2018\\_v4\\_2\\_04.pdf](http://r-economy.ru/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/r-economy_2018_v4_2_04.pdf).
- 665 Irma Erdeji et al. "Development of Rural Tourism in Serbia," *Journal of Settlements and Spatial Planning*, Special Issue, no. 2 (Centre for Research on Settlements and Urbanism, 2013): 315, [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Snezana\\_Gagic/publication/278019357\\_Development\\_of\\_rural\\_tourism\\_in\\_Serbia/links/5578943508ae752158703979.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Snezana_Gagic/publication/278019357_Development_of_rural_tourism_in_Serbia/links/5578943508ae752158703979.pdf).
- 666 Ivana Nikolic, "Ethno Tourism Offers a Window into Traditional Serbia," Balkan Insight, 26 June 2016, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/ethno-tourism-offers-a-window-into-traditional-serbia-06-13-2016>.
- 667 Đorđe Nikolić, "Ownership and Status of Land in Republic of Serbia," Ekapija, accessed 2 August 2018, <https://www.ekapija.com/en/real-estate/179713/KZIN-AI/ownership-and-status-of-land-in-republic-of-serbia>.
- 668 *Financial Times*, "Restitution Poses Problems for Property Ownership in Serbia," 25 February 2011, <https://www.ft.com/content/55960e88-401f-11e0-811f-00144feabdc0>.

### Endnotes for Chapter 5: Rural Life

- 669 ARCOTRASS Consortium, "Country Report: Serbia," *Study on the State of Agriculture in Five Applicant Countries* (December 2006): 8, [https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/external-studies/2006/applicant/serbia\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/external-studies/2006/applicant/serbia_en.pdf).
- 670 Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "2012 Investment Climate Statement," June 2012, <https://www.state.gov/e/eb/rfs/othr/ics/2012/191231.htm>.
- 671 Export.gov, "Serbia-5-Protection of Property Rights," 26 February 2018, <https://www.export.gov/article?id=Serbia-Protection-of-Property-Rights>.
- 672 Selma Mujezinovic and Srdan Vlatkovic, "Serbia Adopts Law on the Conversion of Usage to Ownership Rights for Publicly Owned Land," *Lexology*, accessed 13 August 2018, <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=9aac0aa8-f9e2-4d81-85d5-80d3fe87eec7>.
- 673 World Bank, "Moderate Reformers: Countries with a Ranking Score of 6.0 to 7.9," accessed 13 August 2018, 100, [http://web.worldbank.org/archive/website00983A/WEB/PDF/03\\_\\_MED.PDF](http://web.worldbank.org/archive/website00983A/WEB/PDF/03__MED.PDF).
- 674 Milan Radonjic, "Serbia: Long Wait for Return of Confiscated Property," *Balkan Transitional Justice*, 19 February 2018, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbia-long-wait-for-return-of-confiscated-property-02-18-2018>.
- 675 Siemen van Berkum and Natalija Bogdanov, "Chapter 4: Agricultural Production, Prices and Income: Crop Production," in *Serbia on the Road to EU Accession: Consequences for Agricultural Policy and the Agri-Food Chain* (Oxfordshire, UK: CABI, 2012), 76.
- 676 Bertelsmann Stiftung, "BTI 2018 Country Report: Serbia," 2018, <https://www.bti-project.org/en/reports/country-reports/detail/itc/SRB/>.
- 677 Karanović Partners, "News: Real Estate Legal Framework Update," 17 November 2016, <https://www.karanovic-nikolic.com/knnews/Pages/2016/11/17/Real-Estate-Legal-Framework-Update.aspx>.
- 678 Laurence Mitchell, "Practical Information: Getting Around," in *Serbia* (Bucks, England: Bradt Travel Guides, 2017), 77-78.
- 679 Overseas Security Advisory Council, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State, "Serbia 2018 Crime and Safety Report," 24 January 2018, <https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=23164>.
- 680 Country Reports: Travel Edition, "Traffic and Road Conditions in Serbia," accessed 13 August 2018, <http://www.countryreports.org/travel/Serbia/traffic.htm>.
- 681 Travel.State.Gov, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Country Information: Serbia," updated 26 April 2018, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Serbia.html>.
- 682 Get by Bus, "Serbia by Bus," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://getbybus.com/cs/srbsko-autobusem>.
- 683 TravelSerbia.Info, "Getting around Serbia by Bus," accessed 13 August 2018, <http://www.travels Serbia.info/travelbybus.php>.
- 684 TravelSerbia.Info: "Serbian Railway Network," accessed 13 August 2018, <http://www.travels Serbia.info/railway.php>.
- 685 SeeNews, "Serbia to Spend 16 Mln Euro on Railway Infrastructure Maintenance in 2018," 5 January 2018, <https://seenews.com/news/serbia-to-spend-16-mln-euro-on-railway-infrastructure-maintenance-in-2018-596689>.
- 686 Gov.UK, "Foreign Travel Advice: Serbia: Safety and Security," accessed 2 August 2018, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/serbia/safety-and-security>.
- 687 Eurail, "Serbia By Train," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://www.eurail.com/en/get-inspired/top-destinations/serbia-train>.
- 688 N. Popovic, Z. Terzic-Supic, S. Simic, and B. Mladenovic, "Predictors of Unmet Health Care Needs in Serbia: Analysis Based on EU-SILC Data," *PLoS ONE* 12, no. 11 (8 November 2017), <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0187866>.
- 689 Natalija Bogdanov et al., "Access for Women and Children to Services in the Rural Areas of Serbia and Proposed Measures to Improve the Situation," UNICEF Serbia, April 2011, <https://secons.net/files/publications/46-publication.pdf>.
- 690 N. Popovic, Z. Terzic-Supic, S. Simic, and B. Mladenovic, "Predictors of Unmet Health Care Needs in Serbia: Analysis Based on EU-SILC Data," *PLoS ONE* 12, no. 11 (8 November 2017), <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0187866>.
- 691 Natasa Todorovic, "As Rural Serbia Depopulates, What Is the Impact on the Older People Left Behind?" *Help Age International*, 20 January 2017, <http://www.helpage.org/blogs/natasa-todorovic-15078/as-rural-serbia-depopulates-what-is-the-impact-on-the-older-people-left-behind-1031/>.
- 692 Radmila Gujaničić et al., "Situation of Rural Women in Serbia: Report," UN Women, March 2017, 40-43, [http://rs.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/serbia/docs/Publications/Situation%20of%20rural%20women%20in%20Serbia\\_ENG\\_final.pdf](http://rs.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/serbia/docs/Publications/Situation%20of%20rural%20women%20in%20Serbia_ENG_final.pdf).

### Endnotes for Chapter 5: Rural Life

- 693 Natalija Bogdanov et al., "Access for Women and Children to Services in the Rural Areas of Serbia and Proposed Measures to Improve the Situation," UNICEF Serbia, April 2011, <https://secons.net/files/publications/46-publication.pdf>.
- 694 World Bank, "Poverty Map of Serbia: Understanding Welfare at the Local Level to Make Better Policies," 2016, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/serbia/publication/poverty-map-of-serbia>.
- 695 Boško Mijatović, "Poverty in Serbia 2014," ed. Žarko Šunderić, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, Government of the Republic of Serbia, 2015, 8, <http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Poverty-in-Serbia-2014.pdf>.
- 696 Ana Pesikan and Slobodanka Antic, "Rural Education in Serbia: Conflict Between Declaration and Reality," *European Educational Research Association*, 2016, <http://www.eera-ecer.de/ecer-programmes/conference/21/contribution/39414/>.
- 697 Ana Pešikan and Ivan Ivić, "The Sources of Inequity in the Education System of Serbia and How to Combat Them," *Center for Educational Policy Studies Journal* 6, no. 2 (June 2016): 105, <https://ojs.cepsj.si/index.php/cepsj/article/view/90>.
- 698 Ana Peškin, "Serbia: An Overview," in *Education in Non-EU Countries in Western and Southern Europe* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016).
- 699 Ana Pešikan and Ivan Ivić, "The Sources of Inequity in the Education System of Serbia and How to Combat Them," *Center for Educational Policy Studies Journal* 6, no. 2 (June 2016): 105, <https://ojs.cepsj.si/index.php/cepsj/article/view/90>.
- 700 Natalija Bogdanov et al., "Access for Women and Children to Services in the Rural Areas of Serbia and Proposed Measures to Improve the Situation," UNICEF Serbia, April 2011, 13, <https://secons.net/files/publications/46-publication.pdf>.
- 701 Ana Pesikan and Slobodanka Antic, "Rural Education in Serbia: Conflict Between Declaration and Reality" (paper, *European Educational Research Association*, ECER 2018, Bolzano, Italy, 25 August 2016), <http://www.eera-ecer.de/ecer-programmes/conference/21/contribution/39414/>.
- 702 Natalija Bogdanov et al., "Access for Women and Children to Services in the Rural Areas of Serbia and Proposed Measures to Improve the Situation," UNICEF Serbia, April 2011, 13, <https://secons.net/files/publications/46-publication.pdf>.
- 703 Radmila Gujaničić et al., "Situation of Rural Women in Serbia: Report," UN Women, March 2017, 40–43, [http://rs.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/serbia/docs/Publications/Situation%20of%20rural%20women%20in%20Serbia\\_ENG\\_final.pdf](http://rs.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/serbia/docs/Publications/Situation%20of%20rural%20women%20in%20Serbia_ENG_final.pdf).
- 704 Osihimaya Sen Nag, "Countries Bordering the Most Other Countries," *World Atlas*, updated 25 April 2017, <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/countries-bordering-the-most-other-countries.html>.
- 705 Travel.State.Gov, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Country Information: Serbia," updated 26 April 2018, [https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Serbia.html#](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Serbia.html#/).
- 706 Overseas Security Advisory Council, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State, "Serbia 2018 Crime and Safety Report," 24 January 2018, <https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=23164>.
- 707 Auto Europe, "Driving in Serbia: Car Rental Information and Tips: Rental Restrictions," accessed 2 August 2018, <https://www.autoeurope.com/driving-information/serbia/>.
- 708 Gov.UK, "Foreign Travel Advice: Serbia: Safety and Security," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/serbia/safety-and-security>.
- 709 Katarina Anđelković, "Serbia-BiH Border Demarcation: A Contentious Matter?" *European Western Balkans*, 11 March 2017, <https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2017/11/03/serbia-bosnia-border-demarcation-contentious-matter/>.
- 710 Smart Traveller, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, "Serbia: Safety and Security," updated 27 February 2018, [https://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/europe/southern/Pages/serbia.aspx#safety\\_and\\_security](https://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/europe/southern/Pages/serbia.aspx#safety_and_security).
- 711 Gov.UK, "Foreign Travel Advice: Serbia: Safety and Security," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/serbia/safety-and-security>.
- 712 Focus Information Agency, "Gazeta Express: Serbia Sends Armed Troops to Kosovo Border," 4 June 2018, <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2018/06/04/431134/gazeta-express-serbia-sends-armed-troops-to-kosovo-border.html>.
- 713 TravelSerbia.Info, "Border Customs," accessed 13 August 2018, <http://www.travelsrbia.info/customs.php>.
- 714 Gov.UK, "Foreign Travel Advice: Serbia: Safety and Security," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/serbia/safety-and-security>.
- 715 Evelyn Nieves, "The 'Endless War' of Land Mines in the Balkans," *New York Times*, 4 April 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/04/lens/the-endless-war-of-land-mines-in-the-balkans.html>.
- 716 Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "2014 to Walk the Earth in Safety: Europe: Serbia," 30 September 2014, <https://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rpt/walkearth/2014/232281.htm>.

### Endnotes for Chapter 5: Rural Life

717 Norwegian People's Aid, "Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2017: Report for the Seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions," 22 August 2017, [http://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/Clearing\\_Cluster\\_Munition\\_Remnants\\_2017\\_Serbia.pdf](http://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/Clearing_Cluster_Munition_Remnants_2017_Serbia.pdf).

718 Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, "Serbia: Mine Action," updated 22 November 2016, <http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/reports/2016/serbia/mine-action.aspx>.

719 Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia, "Mine Situation," August 2018, <http://www.czrs.gov.rs/eng/minska-situacija.php>.

720 Gov.UK, "Foreign Travel Advice: Serbia: Safety and Security," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/serbia/safety-and-security>.

721 Overseas Security Advisory Council, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State, "Serbia 2018 Crime and Safety Report," 24 January 2018, <https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=23164>.

722 Smart Traveller, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, "Serbia: Safety and Security," accessed 13 August 2018, [https://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/europe/southern/Pages/serbia.aspx#safety\\_and\\_security](https://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/europe/southern/Pages/serbia.aspx#safety_and_security).

723 Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, "Serbia: Mine Action," updated 22 November 2016, <http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/reports/2016/serbia/mine-action.aspx>.

# Serbian Cultural Orientation

## Chapter 5 | Rural Life

### Assessment

1. Corn, cotton, and alfalfa are the main agricultural crops in Serbia.
2. Most parcels of land in Serbia were individually owned by small farmers before 2006.
3. Unexploded land mines, cluster munitions, and other explosive remnants of war still exist in parts of Serbia.
4. In rural areas, driving at night can be hazardous.
5. When foreign visitors travel to Serbia, they must register with the government of the Republic of Serbia.

*Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. False; 3. False; 4. True; 5. False*



Family, Pančevo, near Belgrade  
Flickr / Olga Pavlovsky

## Chapter 6 | Serbian Cultural Orientation

---

# Family Life

## Introduction

The Serbs are a family-oriented peoples who value the mutual support provided by members of the nuclear family (*pòrodica*) and the extended family (*familija*).<sup>724</sup> It is not unusual to find three generations living under the same roof in Serbia. Grandparents often look after grandchildren while adult children look after their parents as they age. The Serbian proverb, “far from the eyes, far from the heart,” reflects a tendency among Serbian families to live near each other and maintain emotional bonds.<sup>725</sup> Even distant relatives try to remain in contact with one another, hosting events or frequently visiting their extended family members.<sup>726</sup>

The richness and inclusiveness of Serbian kinship terms echo the importance of family. The Serbian word *rođak* (cousin), for example, is commonly used to differentiate relatives from friends and can also be used for a very distant relative. Serbians may refer to a cousin as a “brother” or “sister”—*brat od tetke* (brother on the aunt’s side) and *sestra od ujaka* (sister on the uncle’s side).<sup>727</sup>

## Typical Household and Family Structure

Historically, Serbia has been a nation with communal and patriarchal values. In villages, extended families often lived in collective households known as *zadruga*. Property was owned by the group, and men in the family were the heads of household.<sup>728, 729</sup> These living arrangements meant self-sufficient households that had to produce everything to cover their personal material needs. Providing for the household often involved long work hours, crowded living conditions, and hardship. Not all rural Serbian families, however, followed the *zadruga* model. A wide variety of lifestyles existed, and many families lived in smaller household units.<sup>730, 731</sup>



Family gathers for Slava, Niš  
Flickr / Patrick M

*Zadrugas* started to break up after the 1880s, but the cultural dynamic they created has remained part of Serbian family life. The *zadruga* evolved into household units where two generations of families lived together. Later, urban family structure became even smaller. Following World War II, more people migrated to the cities and began living in apartments. Government-constructed and utilitarian, the apartments differed markedly from the sprawling family households of the past.<sup>732</sup> In rural areas, family members built houses next to each other. Regardless of societal changes and shifting family size, the Serbian family has retained its patriarchal and communal organization through the years.<sup>733, 734, 735</sup>

Does your family live here?		
Visitor:	daa lee vasha poRodeetsa zheevvee ovde?	Does your family live here?
Local:	daa	Yes.

Exchange 58

Is this your entire family?		
Visitor:	daa lee ye ovo vasha tsela poRodeetsa?	Is this your entire family?
Local:	daa	Yes.

Exchange 59

## Family Roles for Men and Women

In *zadruga* households, the agricultural labor was divided by age and gender. Women did some of the field work, though not as much as men. According to tradition, women were responsible for the domestic work—cooking and cleaning, and caring for children. They managed gardens, practiced beekeeping, and raised and cared for animals. They also produced clothing for their families by spinning and weaving from raw material and then sewing garments from the fabric they produced. Men tended the larger livestock and worked intensively in the fields and orchards.<sup>736</sup>



Tending sheep  
Flickr / EIFLt

Many of these household patterns and divisions of labor exist today in rural Serbia. The father represents the head of the household and makes all important decisions concerning the family. Serbian women are hardworking pillars of the family; many hold wage-paying jobs and are additionally responsible for rearing children and household work.<sup>737, 738</sup> This cultural shift toward women working outside the home was established during the centuries of conflict, when women took on traditional male work while men were away fighting. After World War II, women gained some advancements concerning equality in the workplace, education, family law, and maternity leave policies.<sup>739</sup> Today, women may forgo employment to raise children or care for sick relatives, while men work. Mothers expect that their daughters will carry on family traditions, such as cooking traditional Serbian food.<sup>740</sup>



Beehives, Belgrade  
Flickr / Jeff Attaway

Are you the only person who has a job?		
Visitor:	daa lee ste vee yedeena osoba oo vashoy poRodeetsee koya eema posao?	Are you the only person who has a job?
Local:	ne, moyaa moozh Raadee taakodye	No, my husband works too.

Exchange 60

## Status of Children and the Elderly

### Children

In Serbia, children are not encouraged to leave home as they grow into young adulthood. Parents often provide support until their children achieve financial independence—often well into their 20s—or until they marry. Even then, a son who marries may bring his wife to live in his family’s home. Parents may also help the new couple buy or build a home.<sup>741, 742</sup>

How many people live in this house?		
Visitor:	koleeko lyoodee zheevvee oo ovoy kootyee?	How many people live in this house?
Local:	chetvoRo	Four.

Exchange 61

Together with the parents, relatives have a strong influence over a child’s education and upbringing. Children in Serbia are taught to help with housework at an early age. Daughters traditionally sew, cook, clean, and help care for babies and household animals. Sons traditionally learn to work in the fields, care for farm animals, and do mechanical work. Children also learn collective values under the care of extended family members. If a parent is absent, the child may live in the home of an uncle or another relative.<sup>743</sup> A child of at least 15 years of age may legally change his or her name, decide which school to attend, and maintain personal contact with an absent parent.<sup>744</sup>



Guča Trumpet Festival, Lučani, central Serbia  
Wikimdia / Petar Milošević

Are these your children?		
Visitor:	daa lee soo ovo vasha detsa?	Are these your children?
Local:	daa	Yes.

Exchange 62

Do your children go to school?		
Visitor:	daa lee vasha detsaa eedoo oo shkooloo?	Do your children go to school?
Local:	daa	Yes.

Exchange 63

## Elders

Serbia has a large population of people over age 65.<sup>745</sup> Through the years, the elderly have played an essential role within the household. Children and grandchildren have benefitted from close social interactions. Elders pass on traditions of Serbian culture by telling stories about Serbian life and sharing folk tales and histories. Grandparents also help educate grandchildren about family roles and responsibilities.<sup>746</sup>

The years of conflict and war changed the family structure and the role of the elderly. As many young people migrated to the cities in search of jobs and opportunities, the elderly often remained in the countryside to tend small farms or a plot of land.<sup>747</sup> Consequently, many older people live alone without access to transportation or health care. They may have to walk long distances to obtain supplies or medicine. Some may have a small pension and supplement their diet with food from their gardens.<sup>748, 749</sup>



Market vendor, Novi Sad  
Flickr / Magalie L'Abbé

The Western practice of removing elders from the family and placing them in facilities for the aged is uncommon in Serbia. When younger family members are present, and their finances and lifestyle allow, they usually follow the custom of caring for elderly relatives.<sup>750, 751</sup>

Where do you work, sir?

Visitor:	gde Radeete, gospodeene?	Where do you work, sir?
Local:	nee raadeem neegde, ya saam zemlyoraadneek	I am not employed, I am a farmer.

Exchange 64

## Marriage and Divorce

### Marriage



Church wedding, Belgrade  
Flickr / Tamara Polajnar

Serbians increasingly have modern attitudes about relationships and marriage. Young couples are marrying less frequently and later in life, having fewer children, and are divorcing more often. In urban areas, young couples may delay marriage until they reach their late 20s to early 30s.<sup>752, 753</sup> Some couples choose to cohabit rather than marry. Others have children without marrying, though this is taboo in more conservative parts of the country.<sup>754</sup> Outside of cities where

ideas are more traditional, marriage and childbearing are the primary symbols of adulthood. Couples marry younger, typically in their early 20s, and immediately start a family. Serbian law does not permit marriage between persons of the same sex.<sup>755</sup>

According to Serbia's family code, men and women cannot legally marry until age 18. After marriage, the husband and wife individually own any property they held before their marriage. If they acquire property during the marriage, it is jointly owned and both spouses must agree before they can sell it.<sup>756</sup>

After marrying, couples may live with their parents. This is partly because young people's income may be low and finding affordable housing can be a challenge.<sup>757</sup>

Are you married?		
Visitor:	daa lee ste ozhenyenee?	Are you married?
Local:	ne	No.

*Exchange 65*

Is this your wife?		
Visitor:	daa lee ovo vasha zhena?	Is this your wife?
Local:	daa	Yes.

*Exchange 66*

## Divorce

There is very little stigma associated with divorce in Serbia, due in part to its acceptance by the Serbian Orthodox Church.<sup>758</sup> Rates of divorce have fluctuated over the years. Between 1900 and 1950, divorce was relatively rare because marriages were stabilized by family connections and a strong patriarchal structure. During the years of the socialist state, divorce laws liberalized, women gained more freedom, and divorce became more common. The rate of divorce fell during the 1990s, the decade of war and instability, when families were forced to rely more on each other for survival.<sup>759, 760</sup>



*Courthouse in Pirot, southeastern Serbia  
Wikimedia / MrPanyGoff*

While divorce is on the rise again, it remains low by Western standards.<sup>761</sup> Statistically, one in five marriages ends in divorce, and most divorces occur during the first 3 years of marriage.<sup>762</sup> The divorce rate is higher in cities than in the countryside.<sup>763</sup>

If a woman is granted financial support after divorce, she may receive a family pension from the state after age 53.<sup>764</sup> If a couple acquires property during marriage and later divorces, the court will divide the joint property according to each party's contribution of assets during the marriage. Children 15 years of age or older have the right to decide which parent to live with.<sup>765, 766</sup>

## Family Events and Rites of Passage

### *Weddings*

All couples, regardless of faith, must first be legally married in a civil ceremony at a local courthouse. Any religious ceremony occurs afterward. Serbian Orthodox wedding traditions vary, depending on the region and the degree to which contemporary customs have replaced traditional ones. Wedding customs in Serbia today are like those practiced in Western Europe.<sup>767</sup>

One traditional custom begins on the eve of the wedding. Members of the bridal party create corsages of rosemary. The next day the corsages are sold to wedding guests. The money from the sale is given to the bride and groom as a wedding gift.<sup>768</sup>

Traditionally, the bride was not allowed to leave home until her “bride price” was successfully negotiated between the groom’s brother and the bride’s father or brother. Today, this custom is recognized only as a ceremonial act meant to honor tradition. Drinking a toast to the bride and groom is customary.<sup>769</sup>

An Orthodox ceremony will include choir music, often sung by members of the wedding party. The couple exchanges vows before a priest, who gives a short sermon and questions both parties about whether they are entering the marriage of their own free will. Additional ceremonial rites include the priest placing crowns on the couple, offering them a sip of ceremonial wine, and leading them around an altar table three times.<sup>770</sup>



*Wedding ceremony, Belgrade  
Flickr / Tamara Polajnar*

Guests receive and congratulate the newlyweds as they depart the church, and all may join in a circle dance, called the *kolo*.<sup>771</sup> The family holds a reception following the wedding, and family members, friends, and guests celebrate with food and drink. Attendees offer toasts to the newlyweds and dance to live music. Money is often the preferred gift, which helps the married couple begin their new life together.<sup>772</sup>

Congratulations on your wedding!		
Visitor:	chesteetam vam na venchanyoo!	Congratulations on your wedding!
Local:	hvaalaa shto ste doshlee	Thank you for coming.

Exchange 67

I wish you both happiness.		
Visitor:	zheleem vam oboma sRetyoo	I wish you both happiness.
Local:	hvaalaa	Thank you.

Exchange 68

## Birth



Mother and infant  
Flickr / ian\_peric

The christening, a traditional ceremony for Orthodox families, is presided over by a priest. Parents may hold the service in a church or at home. The godparents (*kumovi*) provide the baby's baptism clothing, a candle, and a gift for the baby, sometimes a symbolic gold or silver coin. From the time of the baptism, the godfather (*kum*) and godmother (*kuma*) become part of the family and assume a permanent role as mentor to the child, encouraging the child's adherence to religious faith.<sup>773</sup> The terms *kum* and *kuma* also define the best man and maid of honor at a wedding. These are one and the same, as traditionally the best man also becomes the godfather of the couple's first child.<sup>774, 775</sup>

The average couple has 1-2 children, a rate far below the replacement rate needed to keep the population from dropping. This has been a subject of concern for many years.<sup>776, 777</sup> In 2018, the Serbian government developed an ad campaign aimed at boosting the birthrate ("Give birth, don't delay!"); it is currently considering other measures, such as providing families a stipend for each child born.<sup>778, 779</sup> Government officials in Vojvodina, where some of the sharpest declines in births have occurred, instituted a financial incentive package for mothers, guaranteeing a monthly income for mothers having three or more children until their youngest child turns one year old.<sup>780</sup>

Do you have any brothers?		
Visitor:	daa lee eemate bRaatyē?	Do you have any brothers?
Local:	daa	Yes.

Exchange 69

Practices affecting childbearing and maternity in Serbia have improved over the last two decades. Although the nation's health care system is inadequate in many parts of the country, Serbian women have some level of legal protections during pregnancy and childbirth. According to the nation's Labor Law of 2006, after the child is born, working women are entitled to take paid maternity leave and a 2-year leave of absence to care for the child.<sup>781, 782, 783</sup>

## Funerals

In Serbia, the family typically arranges the funeral within 2 to 3 days of a person's death. Cremation is available only in large cities such as Belgrade and Novi Sad. More common among Serbs is an Orthodox Christian burial. A funeral service takes place either at the home of a family member or friend, or at a mortuary. The body rests in a casket, which is covered with a cross or another religious icon.<sup>784</sup>

At an Orthodox church, priests or laypeople sing the Orthodox liturgies. Family members and friends come to the cemetery, where the priest delivers the final liturgy.<sup>785</sup> At the gravesite, men may circulate through the crowd offering a shot of *rakija* "for the ache" and a spoonful of honey as a "reminder that life is sweet." Before they leave the cemetery attendees wish the family well.<sup>786</sup>



Zemun Cemetery, Gardoš neighborhood, Belgrade  
Wikimedia / Nicolo

Funerals in Serbia may be celebrated differently depending on the family's religious preferences and financial means. Some people, for instance, can afford an elaborate casket and flowers for the funeral service. Regional and ethnic differences also determine the actual funeral rites and how they are organized. Some families may post death notices in public places that were related to the life of the deceased. These street obituaries typically feature a religious symbol, basic information about the deceased, and a photograph.<sup>787, 788</sup>

On commemorative days, or Zadušnice (Day for Souls), families may attend church services and gather at gravesites, decorating them with flowers and candles.<sup>789, 790</sup>

I would like to give my condolences.		
Visitor:	zheleem daa eezRaazeem saoocheshtye vaamaa ee vaashoy poRodeetsee	I would like to give my condolences.
Local:	hvaalaa	Thank you.

*Exchange 70*

Be strong.		
Visitor:	boodee yaak	Be strong.
Local:	pokooshaatyoo	I'll try.

*Exchange 71*

Are these people part of your family?		
Visitor:	daa lee soo ovej lyoodee deo vaashe poRodeetse?	Are these people part of your family?
Local:	ne	No.

*Exchange 72*

## Naming Conventions

The naming of a child in Serbia is similar to naming practices in the West. The parents choose a first (given) name; the child's last name (surname) is that of the family, usually from the paternal side. Parents may ask the child's godparents to approve the first name, depending on the level of religious formality and whether godparents are involved. In general, the name is the parents' choice.<sup>791</sup>



*Father and daughter, Pirot, southeastern Serbia  
Flickr / mladjan nasic*

Serbian last names typically end with “ić” (Pavlović).<sup>792</sup> The -ić suffix, a Slavic diminutive, creates a name derived from the father or a paternal ancestor. For example, Pavlović means “the little son of Pavle.” Some women take their husband's last name after marriage, while others add it to

their own (e.g., Katarina Nikolić-Pavlović).<sup>793</sup> For formal purposes, or in a list, the last name may be written before the first name. Informally and in modern usage, the first name precedes the last name. Family members and close friends use first names. In more distant or formal situations, acquaintances or business associates address each other by using the last name with a title. In Vojvodina, which was heavily influenced by Hungary, names may follow the Eastern order, with last name followed by the first name.<sup>794, 795</sup>

### Endnotes for Chapter 6: Family Life

- 724 Karl Kaser, "Patriarchy in the Balkans: Temporal and Cross-Cultural Approaches," in *Household and Family in the Balkans: Two Decades of Historical Family Research at University of Graz* (Berlin: LIT Verlag Münster, 2012), 57.
- 725 Cultural Atlas, "Serbian Culture: Family," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/serbian-culture/family-bb2e643d-4a81-4a13-b478-a1088b2d0d1d#family-bb2e643d-4a81-4a13-b478-a1088b2d0d1d>.
- 726 Lara Žmukić, *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 56, Kindle.
- 727 Petar Živić, "Serbian Family: Who's Who?" *Serbia Incoming by Fly Orient*, 8 December 2015, <https://www.serbiaincoming.com/magazine/serbian-family-whos-who/>.
- 728 John B. Allcock, John R. Lampe, and Thomas M. Poulsen, "Serbia: Cultural Life: Daily Life and Social Customs," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 27 June 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia/Government-and-society#ref477189>.
- 729 Countries and Their Cultures, "Serbs: Marriage and Family," accessed 13 August 2018, <http://www.everyculture.com/Europe/Serbs-Marriage-and-Family.html#ixzz5N8kbUir6>.
- 730 Dušan Djordjević, "Sex and the City: Between the Archives and the Field: A Dialogue on Historical Anthropology of the Balkans," *Central Europe Review* 2, no. 33 (2 October 2000), [http://www.ce-review.org/00/33/books33\\_djordjević.html](http://www.ce-review.org/00/33/books33_djordjević.html).
- 731 Judith A. Rasson, Mirjana Stevanović, and Vladimir Ilić, "Chapter 7: Living Spaces in Transition: From Rural to Urban Family Life in Serbia," in *House Life: Space, Place and Family in Europe*, eds. Donna Birdwell-Pheasant and Denise Lawrence-Zúñiga (New York: Berg Publishers, 1999), 179-180, 185-187, <https://www.questia.com/read/102290481/house-life-space-place-and-family-in-europe>.
- 732 Jovana Čikić and Marica Petrović, "Rural Families and Households in Post-Socialist Transition: Serbian Experience," *Eastern European Countryside* 21, no. 1 (22 December 2015): 38, <https://doi.org/10.1515/eec-2015-0003>.
- 733 Marat Terterov, "1.3: Serbian Business Culture," in *Doing Business with Serbia* (London: GMB Publishing Ltd., 2006), 30-31.
- 734 Dušan Djordjević, "Sex and the City: Between the Archives and the Field: A Dialogue on Historical Anthropology of the Balkans," *Central Europe Review* 2, no. 33 (2 October 2000), [http://www.ce-review.org/00/33/books33\\_djordjević.html](http://www.ce-review.org/00/33/books33_djordjević.html).
- 735 Judith A. Rasson, Mirjana Stevanović, and Vladimir Ilić, "Chapter 7: Living Spaces in Transition: From Rural to Urban Family Life in Serbia," in *House Life: Space, Place and Family in Europe*, eds. Donna Birdwell-Pheasant and Denise Lawrence-Zúñiga (New York: Berg Publishers, 1999), 179-180, 185-187, <https://www.questia.com/read/102290481/house-life-space-place-and-family-in-europe>.
- 736 Judith A. Rasson, Mirjana Stevanović, and Vladimir Ilić, "Chapter 7: Living Spaces in Transition: From Rural to Urban Family Life in Serbia," in *House Life: Space, Place and Family in Europe*, eds. Donna Birdwell-Pheasant and Denise Lawrence-Zúñiga (New York: Berg Publishers, 1999), 179-180, 185-187, <https://www.questia.com/read/102290481/house-life-space-place-and-family-in-europe>.
- 737 Sunčica Stanković, "The Transformation of The Serbian Labour Market from a Gender Perspective," *Economic Themes* 54, no. 1 (16 March 2017): <https://doi.org/10.1515/ethemes-2016-0030>.
- 738 Cultural Atlas, "Serbian Culture: Family," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/serbian-culture/family-bb2e643d-4a81-4a13-b478-a1088b2d0d1d>.
- 739 Chiara Bonfiglioli, "Becoming Citizens: The Politics of Women's Emancipation in Socialist Yugoslavia," *Citizenship in Southeast Europe*, updated 24 October 2012, <http://www.citsee.eu/citsee-story/becoming-citizens-politics-women%E2%80%99s-emancipation-socialist-yugoslavia>.
- 740 Lara Žmukić, "Serbian Culture," in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 58, Kindle.
- 741 Lara Žmukić, "Serbian Culture," in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 56-57, Kindle.
- 742 Cultural Atlas, "Serbian Culture: Family," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/serbian-culture/family-bb2e643d-4a81-4a13-b478-a1088b2d0d1d>.
- 743 Lara Žmukić, "Social Customs," in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 104-105, Kindle.
- 744 Marija Jovanovic, "Balkan Divorce: How Marriages End in Serbia," *Stow Family Law*, 16 June 2016, <http://www.marilystowe.co.uk/2015/06/16/balkan-divorce-how-marriages-end-in-serbia-by-marija-n-jovanovic/>.
- 745 Terra Sprague, "Chapter 11 Serbia: An Overview: Structure, Organization and General Characteristics of the Education System in Serbia," in *Education in Non-EU Countries in Western and Southern Europe* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016).
- 746 Cultural Atlas, "Serbian Culture: Family," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/serbian-culture/family-bb2e643d-4a81-4a13-b478-a1088b2d0d1d>.

### Endnotes for Chapter 6: Family Life

- 747 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, "Older Persons in Rural and Remote Areas," *UNECE Policy Brief on Ageing*, no. 18 (March 2017), 2, [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Policy\\_briefs/ECE-WG1-25.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Policy_briefs/ECE-WG1-25.pdf).
- 748 Boško Mijatović, "Poverty in Serbia 2014," Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, Government of the Republic of Serbia 2015, 11, <http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Poverty-in-Serbia-2014..pdf>.
- 749 Jadranka Urošević et al., "Quality of Life of the Elderly in Urban and Rural Areas in Serbia," *Vojnosanitetski Pregled* 72, no. 11 (2015), 968-974, <http://www.doiserbia.nb.rs/img/doi/0042-8450/2015/0042-84501500107U.pdf>.
- 750 Jovana Čikić and Marica Petrović, "Rural Families and Households in Post-Socialist Transition: Serbian Experience," *Eastern European Countryside* 21, no.1 (22 December 2015): 37, <https://doi.org/10.1515/eec-2015-0003>.
- 751 Natasa Todorovic, "As Rural Serbia Depopulates, What Is the Impact on the Older People Left Behind?" Help Age International, 20 January 2017, <http://www.helpage.org/blogs/natasa-todorovic-15078/as-rural-serbia-depopulates-what-is-the-impact-on-the-older-people-left-behind-1031/>.
- 752 Countries and Their Cultures, "Serbs: Marriage and Family," accessed 13 August 2018, <http://www.everyculture.com/Europe/Serbs-Marriage-and-Family.html#ixzz5N8kKhWCL>.
- 753 Cultural Atlas, "Serbian Culture: Family," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/serbian-culture/family-bb2e643d-4a81-4a13-b478-a1088b2d0d1d>.
- 754 Lara Žmukić, "Serbian Culture," in *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (London: Kuperard, 2012), loc. 57-58, Kindle.
- 755 Marija Jovanovic, "Balkan Divorce: How Marriages End in Serbia," Stow Family Law, 16 June 2016, <http://www.marilynstowe.co.uk/2015/06/16/balkan-divorce-how-marriages-end-in-serbia-by-marija-n-jovanovic/>.
- 756 Marija Jovanovic, "Property, Marriage, and Serbian Law," Stow Family Law, 15 June 2016, <http://www.marilynstowe.co.uk/2016/06/15/property-marriage-and-serbian-law/>.
- 757 Countries and Their Cultures, "Serbs: Marriage and Family," accessed 13 August 2018, <http://www.everyculture.com/Europe/Serbs-Marriage-and-Family.html#ixzz5N8kKhWCL>.
- 758 Cultural Atlas, "Serbian Culture: Family," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/serbian-culture/family-bb2e643d-4a81-4a13-b478-a1088b2d0d1d>.
- 759 Jürgen Nautz, Paul Ginsborg, and Ton Nijhuis, eds., "Chapter 12: Family Structures and Civil Society Perspectives in Present-Day Serbia Dragica Vujadinovic," in *The Golden Chain: Family, Civil Society and the State* (Berghahn Books, 1 March 2013), 262-263.
- 760 F. Rothenbacher, "Part II: Country Chapters: Serbia with Central Serbia, Kosovo/Metohija," in *The Central and East European Population since 1850* (New York: Springer, 2016), 944.
- 761 Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, "Marriages and Divorces," accessed 13 August 2018, <http://www.stat.gov.rs/en-us/oblasti/stanovnistvo/zakljuzeni-irazvedeni-brakovi/>.
- 762 EuroStat, "Crude Divorce Rate, Selected Years, 1960-2016 (Per 1,000 Persons)," accessed 13 August 2018, [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=File:Crude\\_divorce\\_rate\\_selected\\_years\\_1960-2016\\_per\\_1\\_000\\_persons.png](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=File:Crude_divorce_rate_selected_years_1960-2016_per_1_000_persons.png).
- 763 Telegraf.rs, "Nemanja's Marriage Lasted for 6 Hours: Serbs Are Getting Divorced Faster and Faster, but This Boy's Story Will Blow You Away," 30 November 2016, <http://www.telegraf.rs/english/2487688-nemanjas-marriage-lasting-for-6-hours-serbs-are-getting-divorced-faster-and-faster-but-this-boys-story-will-blow-you-away>.
- 764 Olivera Milovanovic, Svetlana Radevic, and Mirjana Jovanovic, "Legal Framework and Retirement Policies in Serbia from 1990 to 2016: Gendered Perspective," *Front Public Health* 4, no. 208 (27 September 2016), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5037577/>.
- 765 Marija Jovanovic, "Balkan Divorce: How Marriages End in Serbia," Stow Family Law, 16 June 2016, <http://www.marilynstowe.co.uk/2015/06/16/balkan-divorce-how-marriages-end-in-serbia-by-marija-n-jovanovic/>.
- 766 Republic of Serbia, "Family Act: Part 1: Basic Provisions," *Official Herald of the Republic of Serbia*, no. 18 (24 February, 2005), 16, <http://jafbase.fr/docEstEurope/Serbie/Draft%20Family%20Law%20-%20english.pdf>.
- 767 Embassy in Serbia, U.S. Department of State, "Marriage," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://rs.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/local-resources-of-u-s-citizens/marriage/>.
- 768 Serbia.com, "My Big Fat Serbian Wedding!" 9 April 2016, <https://www.serbia.com/big-fat-serbian-wedding/>.
- 769 Serbia.com, "My Big Fat Serbian Wedding!" 9 April 2016, <https://www.serbia.com/big-fat-serbian-wedding/>.
- 770 Sveti Sava, "Marriage," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://stsavanc.org/marriage/>.

### Endnotes for Chapter 6: Family Life

- 771 Mary E. Maravic, "Can You Kolo? Songs and Dances from Old Yugoslavia," Smithsonian Folk Ways Recordings, accessed 13 August 2018, <https://folkways.si.edu/can-you-kolo-songs-and-dances-from-old-yugoslavia/music/tools-for-teaching/smithsonian>.
- 772 Serbia.com, "My Big Fat Serbian Wedding!" 9 April 2016, <https://www.serbia.com/big-fat-serbian-wedding/>.
- 773 Archimandrite Andrew, "Kumstvo: The Godfather-Godchild Relationship," *Orthodox Christianity*, accessed 13 August 2018, <http://orthochristian.com/90933.html>.
- 774 Petar Živić, "Serbian Family: Who's Who?" *Serbia Incoming by Fly Orient*, 8 December 2015, <https://www.serbiaincoming.com/magazine/serbian-family-whos-who/>.
- 775 Church of the Western American Diocese, "Wedding," accessed 13 August 2018, <http://sacserbchurch.org/sac/parish-information-2/wedding/>.
- 776 World Bank, "Fertility Rate, Total (Births Per Woman)," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.TFRT.IN?locations=RS>.
- 777 Jovana Čikić and Marica Petrović, "Rural Families and Households in Post-Socialist Transition: Serbian Experience," *Eastern European Countryside* 21, no.1 (22 December 2015): 37, <https://doi.org/10.1515/eec-2015-0003>.
- 778 Cristina Maza, "The Military Will Participate in Raising the Birth Rate, Serbia's Defense Minister Says: Here's What That Means," *Newsweek*, 21 March 2018, <https://www.newsweek.com/military-will-participate-raising-birth-rate-serbias-defense-minister-says-856016>.
- 779 TheJournal.ie, "Serbs Perturbed by Dwindling Numbers of Babies Being Born in Balkan Nation," 14 February 2018, <http://www.thejournal.ie/serbia-sex-appeal-3852395-Feb2018/>.
- 780 Jelena Živković et al. "Policy Responses to Low Fertility in Serbia: The Case of the Municipality of Bela Palanka," *Transylvanian Review of Administrative Sciences*, no. 51 (2017): 158, [tras.ro/tras/index.php/tras/article/download/530/519](https://tras.ro/tras/index.php/tras/article/download/530/519).
- 781 Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, Government of the Republic of Serbia, "Gender Equality Index for Serbia: Measuring Gender Equality in 2014," 2016, 52, [http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Izvestaj\\_Indeks\\_rodne\\_ravnopravnosti\\_2016\\_EN.pdf](http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Izvestaj_Indeks_rodne_ravnopravnosti_2016_EN.pdf).
- 782 Chris Weller, "These 10 Countries Have the Best Parental Leave Policies in the World," *Business Insider*, 22 August 2016, <https://www.businessinsider.com/countries-with-best-parental-leave-2016-8#serbia-6>.
- 783 Republic of Serbia, "The Law on Financial Support to Families with Children," *Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, no 107/09, accessed 13 August 2018, <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/89458/102782/F661218445/Law%20on%20Financial%20Support%20to%20Families%20with%20Childre.pdf>.
- 784 Basic Funerals, "Cultural Funerals: Serbian Orthodox Funeral Services," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://basicfunerals.ca/cultural-funerals/orthodox-funerals/serbian-orthodox-funerals/>.
- 785 Funeral Zone, "Orthodox Funerals: Information on Orthodox Funeral Services and Traditions," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://www.funeralzone.co.uk/help-resources/arranging-a-funeral/religious-funerals/orthodox-funerals>.
- 786 Aleksandra Pavićević, "Is Death 'Ethnic' Enough? Dying in Emigration," in *From Mystery to Spectacle: Essays on Death in Serbia from the 19th-21st Century*, vol. 83 (Belgrade: Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Institute of Ethnography, 2015), 78, <http://www.etno-institut.co.rs/files/monografije/83.pdf>.
- 787 Marko Djurica, "Serbian Villages Turning into Ghost Towns: In Pictures," *Guardian*, 24 August 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2017/aug/24/serbia-villages-ghost-towns-in-pictures>.
- 788 Emiliya Karaboeva, "Death and Memory in the Context of the Contemporary Bulgarian Street Posted Obituary," in *Dying and Death in 18th-21st Century Europe*, eds. Marius Rotar and Adriana Teodorescu (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011), 303.
- 789 Snezana Stankovic, "Death and Memorial Landscapes: A Photographic Journey," *History to the Public*, updated 7 October 2016, <http://historytothepublic.org/death-memorial-landscapes-photographic-journey/>.
- 790 Talking Soup, "Zadusnice: The Serbian All Souls' Day," 24 April 2018, <http://talkingsoup.com/soup-bowl/zadusnice-serbian-all-souls-day>.
- 791 Countries and Their Cultures, "Serbia and Montenegro: Socialization," accessed 13 August 2018, <http://www.everyculture.com/Sa-Th/Serbia-and-Montenegro.html>.
- 792 Behind the Name, the Etymology and History of Surnames, "Serbian and Croatian Names," accessed 13 August 2018, <http://surnames.behindthename.com/nmc/ser.php>.
- 793 Cultural Atlas, "Serbian Culture: Naming," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/serbian-culture/naming-f186ebc9-3d5c-48c8-a1d8-fcbe611c95aa#naming-f186ebc9-3d5c-48c8-a1d8-fcbe611c95aa>.
- 794 Financial and Banking Information Infrastructure Committee, "A Guide to Names and Naming Practices: Hungarian," March 2006, 15, [http://www.fbiic.gov/public/2008/nov/Naming\\_practice\\_guide\\_UK\\_2006.pdf](http://www.fbiic.gov/public/2008/nov/Naming_practice_guide_UK_2006.pdf).

### Endnotes for Chapter 6: Family Life

795 Rodoslovlje Serbian Genealogy Society, "Magyarization of Serbian and Other Ethnic Surnames in Hungary," accessed 13 August 2018, <https://www.rodoslovlje.com/books/magyarization-of-serbian-and-other-ethnic-surnames-in-hungary/>.

# Serbian Cultural Orientation

## Chapter 6 | Family Life

### Assessment

1. Traditionally, Serbian men and women share household responsibilities.
2. The *zadruga* (communal household) of the past influences the collective family living style in Serbia today.
3. Godparents play a vital role in the lives of Serbian families.
4. The elderly in Serbia have been marginalized and neglected.
5. Women are entitled to receive a family pension if widowed and sometimes when divorced.

*Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. True; 3. True; 4. False; 5. True*

# Further Reading and Resources

Bekaj, Armend R. *The KLA and the Kosovo War: From Intra-State Conflict to Independent Country*. Berlin: Berghof Conflict Research, 2010. [https://www.berghof-foundation.org/fileadmin/redaktion/Publications/Papers/Transitions\\_Series/transitions8\\_kosovo.pdf](https://www.berghof-foundation.org/fileadmin/redaktion/Publications/Papers/Transitions_Series/transitions8_kosovo.pdf).

Bruce R. Nardulli, Walter L. Perry, Bruce Pirnie, John Gordon, and John G. McGinn. *Disjointed War: Military Operations in Kosovo, 1999*. Santa Monica: Prepared for the United States Army by RAND, 2002. [https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monograph\\_reports/2007/MR1406.pdf](https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monograph_reports/2007/MR1406.pdf).

Center for Law and Military Operations. *Law and Military Operations in Kosovo: 1999-2001*. Charlottesville, VA: Judge Advocate General's School, United States Army, December 2001. [http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military\\_Law/pdf/Lessons-Learned\\_Kosovo.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/pdf/Lessons-Learned_Kosovo.pdf).

Djokič, Dejan. *Yugoslavism: Histories of a Failed Idea, 1918-1992*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2003.

Economides, Spyros. *United Nations Interventionism, 1991-2004*. Series: LSE Monographs in International Studies. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Geisler, Michael E., ed. *National Symbols, Fractured Identities: Contesting the National Narrative*. Lebanon, NH: University Press of New England, 2005.

Gerolymatos, André. *The Balkan Wars: Conquest, Revolution, and Retributions from the Ottoman Era to the Twentieth Century and Beyond*. Cambridge, MA: Perseus Publishing, 1994.

Glenny, Misha. *The Balkans: Nationalism, War and the Great Powers, 1804-1999*. New York: Penguin, 2003.

Helms, Elissa. *The New Bosnian Mosaic: Identities, Memories and Moral Claims in a Post-War Society*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2007.

Judah, Tim. *The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia*. 3rd ed. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2009.

Manzower, Mark. *The Balkans: A Short History*. New York: The Modern Library, 2002.

Morrison, Kenneth. *The Sandzak: A History*. 1st ed. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Pavlović, Momčilo. *Kosovo under Autonomy 1974-1990*. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue College of Liberal Arts, January 2009. <https://www.cla.purdue.edu/si/Team1Reporte.pdf>.

Petrovitch, Woislav M. *Hero Tales and Legends of the Serbians*. London: Forgotten Books, 2016.

Ramet, Sabrina P. *The Three Yugoslavias: State Building and Legitimation, 1918-2005*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2006.

Sheward, Tamara. "Serbia," in *Eastern Europe*, by Mark Baker. 14th ed. Victoria, Australia: Lonely Planet Publications, 2017.

Vine, John V. A. *The Late Medieval Balkans: A Critical Survey from the Late Twelfth Century to the Ottoman Conquest*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1994.

Žmukić, Lara. *Serbia: Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture*. London: Kuperard, 2012. Kindle edition.

## Serbian Cultural Orientation

# Final Assessment

1. In conversation, Serbs tend to be very direct and open.
2. The Danube River is Serbia's longest river.
3. The Serbs first revolted against Turkish rule in the city of Kragujevac.
4. Northern Serbia is more ethnically diverse than central Serbia.
5. After World War II ended, Yugoslavia was reconstituted as a democratic nation.
6. Stefan II became the Serbian Orthodox Church's first archbishop.
7. Religious identification and nationalism have been closely intertwined in Serbian history.
8. Patron Saint Day (Krsna Slava) marks the date on which family members received baptism centuries ago.
9. Migration and a low birth rate have resulted in depopulation of rural areas in Serbia.
10. Religious law in Serbia recognizes only one "traditional" religion.
11. The Studenica Monastery in Serbia is a UNESCO World Heritage site.
12. The Serbian Orthodox Church is part of Serbia's national identity.
13. The *šljivovica* is a special candle families light on Patron Saint Day (Krsna Slava).

14. Visitors to Serbia are welcome to discuss controversial topics.
15. Serbia's president is the head of government and its prime minister represents the country in international contexts.
16. Saint Vitus Day (Vidovdan) celebrates the anniversary of the Battle of Kosovo.
17. In the decades following World War II, a housing shortage developed in Serbian cities.
18. In 2012, the Republic of Serbia became an official candidate for European Union membership.
19. Serbs are not likely to feel slighted at the refusal of an invitation.
20. Croats are the second-largest ethnic group in Serbia.
21. MasterCard and Visa are commonly accepted.
22. It is common for guests to pool finances to help the host pay for a restaurant meal.
23. In the past, all rural land transactions were legally registered.
24. Recent efforts have eliminated the ethnic discrimination that once kept Roma children from receiving an education.
25. Bosniak is the official name for "Slav Muslim."
26. Foreigners may legally enter Serbia from any border location.
27. Serbian women have inheritance rights equal to those of men.
28. Women in Serbia have equality in both status and position.

29. Many older people live alone without access to transportation or health care.
30. Flooding is uncommon in Serbia.

Assessment Answers: 1. True; 2. True; 3. True; 4. True; 5. False; 6. False; 7. True; 8. True; 9. True; 10. False; 11. True; 12. True; 13. False; 14. False; 15. False; 16. True; 17. True; 18. True; 19. False; 20. False; 21. True; 22. False; 23. False; 24. False; 25. True; 26. False; 27. True; 28. False; 29. True; 30. False