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# A TRAVELER GUIDE TO UNDERSTAND THE EX-YUGOSLAVIAN AREA

## Intro.

# THE CURRENT EX-YUGOSLAVIA



Life in the brutalist neighborhood  
of Novi Beograd  
Belgrade, Serbia, 2019

# CONTENTS

## **INTRO.**

### **THE CURRENT EX-YUGOSLAVIA**

Why this guidebook?

The choices made to elaborate this guidebook

The current countries of ex-Yugoslavia



## **CHAPTER 1.**

### **THE BIRTH OF YUGOSLAVIA**

The «nations» in Europe

The Balkans and the Empires

World war 1 and the new borders

# WHY THIS GUIDEBOOK?

Yugoslavia or not, you are in countries or you're going to countries with their own singularities and identities, but which have also shared the same flag for almost one century. They also used to belong to Empires (Ottoman or Austro-Hungarian) from which they've kept numerous traditions. That's why Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia are each very unique and surprising countries, although sharing some strong bonds such as the language. After a few days in Skopje for example, you wouldn't be surprised anymore to pass by an old Orthodox church or a socialist brutalist building on your way to the Turkish bazar for some groceries!...

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I've written this guidebook to explain what I would have liked to know as a traveler when I first arrived in Belgrade and when I explored all these countries. Although youngsters now focus on the future - with more or less hopes -, discussions about socialism, Tito and the independence wars in the 1990's are unavoidable as these events are very recent.

# THE CHOICES MADE TO ELABORATE THIS GUIDEBOOK

These six pictograms are going to be your common threads in this guidebook. They refer to the major current tensions that rised and were instrumentalized during the history of Yugoslavia:



Frustration of Serbia regarding their territory



Hostility from Croats toward Serbia



Rivalry between Serbs, Croats and Muslims for Bosnia&Herzegovina



Rivalry between Serbs and Albanian Kosovars for the independance of Kosovo



Rivalry between Serbs and Bulgarians (and Greeks and Albanians) for Macedonia



Tensions around the Albanian minorities in Macedonia

The colored lines along the text in the coming chapters match with the circles' colors. They appear to connect the historical events described to the evolution of these six tensions. I chose to not dedicate one chapter per pictogram and to stick to a chronological narration in order to not read the history of Yugoslavia only through these six elements.

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I also try to be as neutral as possible when it comes to diplomatic conflicts. About Kosovo, I represent the territory as an independant country in order to have a better understanding of the situation, although I do specify here that Serbia, Bosnia&Herzegovina and half of the UN countries identify Kosovo as a province of Serbia.

# THE CURRENT COUNTRIES OF EX-YUGOSLAVIA







Yugoslavia was a country reuniting the six current States of: **Bosnia & Herzegovina** («BiH» for *Bosna i Hercegovina*), **Croatia**, **Northern Macedonia**, **Montenegro**, **Serbia**, **Slovenia**. It also counted two autonomous provinces in Serbia: **Vojvodina** and **Kosovo**. Its capital city was **Belgrade** and its currency was the **Yugoslav dinar**.

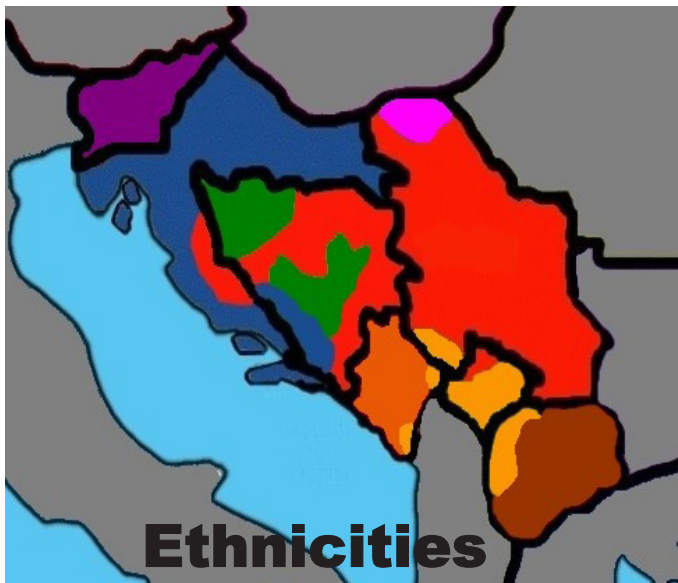
It has existed under three different aspects:

- **1918–1941**: Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes / Kingdom of Yugoslavia.
- **1945–1991**: Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia / Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.
- **1992–2003**: Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.




It has ended in violent wars **from 1991 to 1999** in order for each nation to become independant. The term «Federal Republic of Yugoslavia» was used until 2003, when it was named «State Union of Serbia and Montenegro». **Kosovo** isn't acknowledged as an independant country by Serbia and BiH and by half of the UN countries, who consider Kosovo as a province from Serbia.

Country	Capital city	Independence	Currency	Flag
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	Sarajevo	1992	Convertible mark	
<b>Croatia</b>	Zagreb	1990	Kuna	
<b>Kosovo</b>	Pristina	2008	Euro unofficial Serbian dinar	
<b>Montenegro</b>	Podgorica	2006	Euro	
<b>Northern Macedonia</b>	Skopje	1991	Macedonian denar	
<b>Serbia</b>	Belgrade	2006	Serbian dinar	
<b>Slovenia</b>	Ljubljana	1990	Euro	

## THE MAIN ETHNICITIES, RELIGIONS AND LANGUAGES WHICH IMPACTED YUGOSLAVIA










-  Albanians
-  Croats
-  Hungarians
-  Macedonians
-  Montenegrins
-  Muslims from BiH
-  Serbs
-  Slovenes

- Orthodox Christians 
- Catholic Christians 
- Muslims (Sunnis and Shiites) 







- |   |  |   |            |
|---|--|---|------------|
|    | Albanian   |  | Hungarian  |
|    | Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian,<br>in Latin              |  | Macedonian |
|   | Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian,<br>in Cyrillic           |  | Slovenian  |
|  | Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian,<br>in Latin and Cyrillic |   |            |

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## **THE BOSNIAN-CROATIAN-MONTENEGRIN-SERBIAN LANGUAGE**

The Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian language is a good illustration of the complexity of the identities in the Balkans. It has been created in the 19th century to unify the South Slavs and is still used as the main language in BiH, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia today.

Each of these four countries has their own lexical variations, although they understand each other perfectly. Moreover, this language can be written with the two alphabets that exist in the Balkan area: Latin and Cyrillic. Serbs including the Serbs of BiH historically use Cyrillic, whereas Croats including the Croats of BiH historically use Latin. Montenegro now accepts both alphabets.