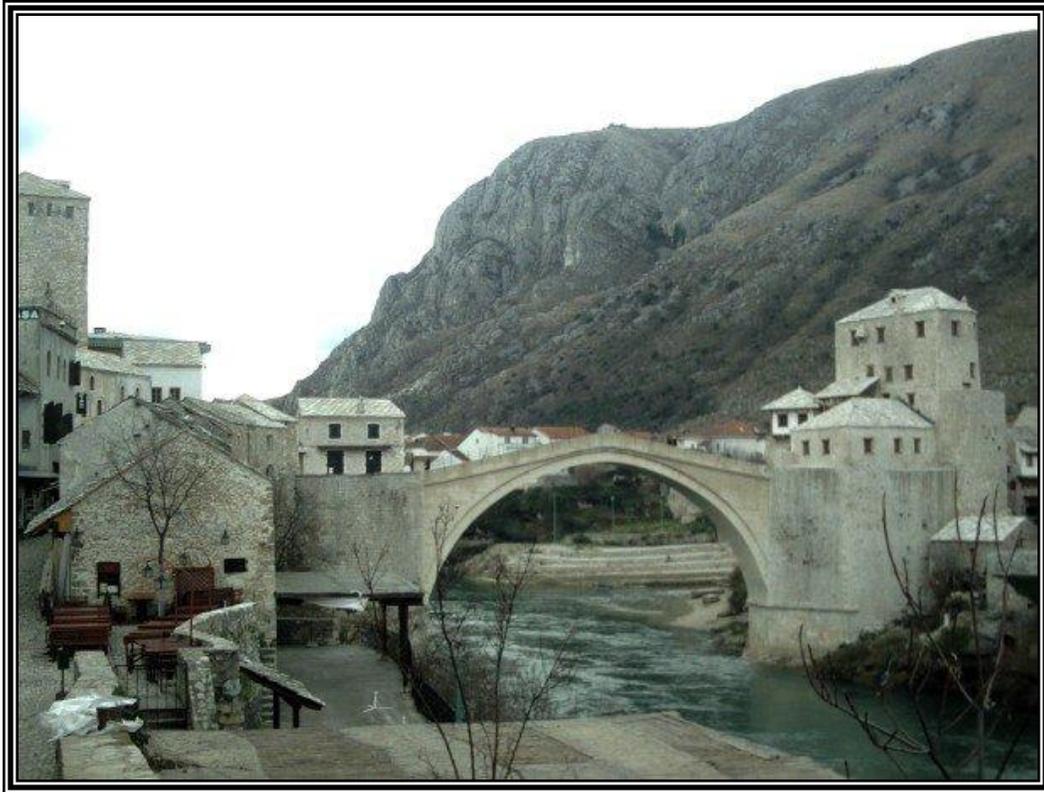


# **Bosnia and Herzegovina: A Curriculum Guide for Secondary School Teachers**



Created by the **Center for Russian and East European Studies**  
University Center for International Studies  
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**Cover Photo:**

Stari Most, Mostar, Bosnia

[www.stlawu.edu/history/sen\\_page.html](http://www.stlawu.edu/history/sen_page.html)

Courtesy of: Somdeep Sen, Northeastern University

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## **INTRODUCTION**

*Bosnia and Herzegovina: A Curriculum Guide for Secondary School Teachers* was created to provide information on the historical and contemporary development of the Bosnian nation, and in so doing, to assist teachers in meeting some of the criteria indicated in the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Academic Standard Guidelines ([http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state\\_board\\_of\\_education/8830/state\\_academic\\_standards/529102](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state_board_of_education/8830/state_academic_standards/529102)). To fulfill the fundamental themes for many of the disciplines prescribed by the state guidelines, this curriculum guide provides the following information:

- A description of the unique traits of Bosnian culture.
- A description of the effects of political, economic and cultural changes and how these changes shaped the present Bosnian nation.
- Identification and explanation of the contributions of key historical individuals and groups in politics, the arts, and religion in Bosnia.
- Examination of the changing economic and political system of Bosnia, and how these changes have affected Bosnian society.
- Examination of Bosnia's development as a post-conflict society.

These and other areas of Bosnian society and culture are explored in an attempt to assist the secondary school teacher in fulfilling the Academic Standard Guidelines. As the unique transitions in Bosnia provide a laboratory for studying political, economic and cultural change, this guide may be additionally useful as a means for comparison with our own country's development. Whether as a tool for meeting the Academic Standard Guidelines, or as a means to explore issues affecting a society in transition, we expect that this guide will be useful in your classroom preparation.

Each section of this guide is designed to be suitable for classroom use either independently, or as part of a comprehensive study of Bosnia covering the entire guide. Therefore, you may tailor your use of the guide to fit the amount of time that you have available and the specific topics that are most relevant to your subject area. The guide also contains references to sources of additional information.

This guide was prepared by the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, with funding from the U.S. Department of Education. It is part of a series of curriculum guides on post-communist countries in East Central Europe that entered the European Union in 2004, as well as those, such as Bosnia, that may become candidates for EU membership in upcoming years.

## About the Center for Russian and East European Studies

Founded in 1965, the Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) at the University of Pittsburgh is designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Resource Center. This distinguishes REES as one of the nation's strongest language and area studies centers. The Center is responsible for coordinating the efforts of the University of Pittsburgh in teaching, research, and public service related to the former Soviet and Central/East European world region. The 65 faculty members affiliated with REES are based in 14 arts and sciences departments and six professional schools at the University of Pittsburgh.

REES offers undergraduate and graduate certificates to students who complete a multi-disciplinary study of the area and attain proficiency in a language of the region. The Center coordinates the collection of materials on its world region in the University of Pittsburgh's library system, publishes the *Carl Beck Papers in Russian and East European Studies*, maintains academic exchanges with 26 overseas partner institutions, and sponsors lectures and special events on a weekly basis. REES also sponsors study abroad programs and, since 1986, a Summer Language Institute for students throughout the U.S., offering intensive courses in nine Slavic and East European languages.

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## Table of Contents:

Basic Facts (Bosnia: In a Nutshell)	1
History	5
Religions	12
Famous Bosnians	15
Language	21
Economy	25
Government & Politics	27
Bosnia and the European Union	29
Welfare	31
Education	33
Bosnian Artists	35
Bosnian Architecture	36
Bosnian Literature	38
Customs	39
Bosnian Fairytales	41
Food	50
Additional Resources	56

## Bosnia: In a Nutshell



**Flag:**

**Official Name:**

Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Location:**

Southeastern Europe

**Size:**

51,129 sq km; slightly smaller than West Virginia

**Border Countries:**

Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia

**Climate:**

Hot summers and cold winters; areas of high elevation have short, cool summers and long, severe winters; mild, rainy winters in areas near the Adriatic Sea

**Terrain:**

Mountains and valleys

**Population:**

4,498,976 (1991)  
4,552,198 (2007 estimate)

**Birth Rate:**

8.77 births/1,000 population

**Life Expectancy at Birth:**

Male - 70 years; female - 77 years

**Nationality:**

Bosnian, Herzegovinian

<b>Ethnic Groups:</b>	Bosniak 48%, Serb 37.1%, Croat 14.3%, other 0.6% (1991 percentages which do not reflect the changes during and after the war) <i>Note:</i> Bosniak has replaced Muslim as an ethnic term in part to avoid confusion with the religious term Muslim, referring to an adherent of Islam.
<b>Religion:</b>	Muslim 40%, Orthodox 31%, Roman Catholic 15%, other 14% (1991)
<b>Languages:</b>	Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian
<b>Literacy:</b>	94.6%
<b>Government Type:</b>	Emerging federal democratic republic
<b>Capital:</b>	Sarajevo
<b>Constitution:</b>	The Dayton Agreement, signed 14 December 1995, included a new constitution now in force.
<b>Governance:</b>	The Dayton Peace Accords kept Bosnia's international boundaries and established a joint multi-ethnic and democratic government for conducting foreign, diplomatic, and fiscal policy. They also created a second level of government made up of two approximately equal-sized entities: the Bosniak/Croat Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Bosnian Serb-led Republika Srpska (RS). These two entities are responsible for overseeing most other government functions.
<b>Suffrage:</b>	18 years of age, universal
<b>Executive Branch:</b>	Members of the three-member presidency rotating (every eight months): Haris SILAJDZIC (member since October 2006 - Bosniak); Nebojsa RADMANOVIC (since October 2006 - Serb); and Zeljko KOSMIC (since October 2006 - Croat) <i>Head of government:</i> Chairman of the Council of Ministers
<b>Legislative Branch:</b>	Bicameral Parliamentary Assembly or Skupstina consists of the national House of Representatives or Predstavnicki Dom (42 seats elected by proportional

representation - 28 seats allocated from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and 14 seats from the Republika Srpska; members elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms); and the House of Peoples or Dom Naroda (15 seats - 5 each; members elected by the Bosniak/Croat Federation's House of Representatives and the Republika Srpska's National Assembly to serve four-year terms).

**Judicial Branch:**

BH Constitutional Court (consists of nine members: four members are selected by the Bosniak/Croat Federation's House of Representatives, two members by the Republika Srpska's National Assembly, and three non-Bosnian members by the president of the European Court of Human Rights); BH State Court (consists of nine judges and three divisions - Administrative, Appellate and Criminal - having jurisdiction over cases related to state-level law and appellate jurisdiction over cases initiated in the entities). In March 2005, a War Crimes Chamber was established in the Criminal Division of Bosnia's State Court.

*Note:* The entities each have a Supreme Court; each entity also has a number of lower courts; there are 10 cantonal courts in the Federation, plus a number of municipal courts; the Republika Srpska has five municipal courts.

**GDP:**

\$22.89 billion

*Note:* Bosnia has a large informal (or "gray") sector that could be as much as 50% of official GDP.

**GDP - Real Growth Rate:**

5.3%

**GDP by Composition:**

Agriculture 14.2%, industry 30.8%, services 55%

**Labor Force:**

1.026 million

**Unemployment Rate:**

45.5% official rate; gray economy may reduce actual unemployment to 25-30%

**Population Below Poverty Line:**

25%

**Inflation Rate:**

4.4%

<b>Agricultural Products:</b>	Wheat, corn, fruits, vegetables, and livestock
<b>Natural Resources:</b>	Coal, iron ore, bauxite, copper, lead, zinc, chromite, cobalt, manganese, nickel, clay, gypsum, salt, sand, forests, and hydropower
<b>Exports:</b>	Metals, clothing, and wood products
<b>Export Partners:</b>	Croatia 18.8%, Italy 17.4%, Slovenia 14.9%, Germany 13.1%, Austria 6.6%, Hungary 5.3%, China 4.3%
<b>Imports:</b>	Machinery and equipment, chemicals, fuels, and foodstuffs
<b>Import Partners:</b>	Croatia 25.5%, Germany 14.1%, Slovenia 13.5%, Italy 11.3%, Austria 7.1%, Hungary 5.6%. (Serbia has substantial trade with the Republika Srpska.)
<b>Currency:</b>	Konvertabilna Marka (KM)
<b>Official Exchange Rate:</b>	KM per \$1US - 1.34115 (Dec. 2007)



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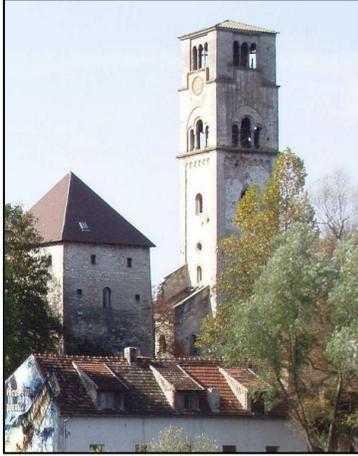
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# History

## Pre-Slavic Period



Bijačka kula in the City of Bihać.

Bosnian history can be traced back to Neolithic times (the New or latest period of the Stone Age). In the late Bronze Age, the Neolithic population was replaced by more warlike Indo-European tribes known as the Illyres or Illyrians. Celtic migrations in the fourth and third centuries BCE displaced many Illyrian tribes from their former lands, but some Celtic and Illyrian tribes mixed. Concrete historical evidence from this period is scarce, but overall it appears that the region was populated by a number of different peoples speaking distinct languages. Conflict between the Illyrians and Romans started in 229 BCE, but Rome did not annex the region until 9 CE. In the Roman period, Latin-speaking settlers from all over the Roman Empire settled among the Illyrians, and Roman soldiers were encouraged to retire in the region. Christianity had already arrived in the region by the end of the first century CE. By the sixth century, Emperor Justinian had reconquered the area for the Byzantine Empire. The Slavic tribes, ancestors of present-day Bosnian people, came in a second wave.

## Medieval Bosnia

Modern knowledge of the political situation in the western Balkans during the Dark Ages is largely scattered and incomplete. Upon their arrival, the Slavs brought with them a tribal social structure, which probably fell apart and gave way to feudalism only with Frankish penetration into the region in the late ninth century. It was also around this time that the south Slavs (ancestors of today's Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs, as well as Bulgarians, Slovenes and Macedonians) were Christianized. Bosnia, due to its geographic position and terrain, was probably one of the last areas to go through this process, which presumably originated from the urban centers along the Dalmatian coast. The principalities of Serbia and Croatia split control of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the ninth and tenth centuries, but by the High Middle Ages political circumstances led to the area being contested between the Kingdom of Hungary and the Byzantine Empire. Following another shift of power between these two in the late twelfth century, Bosnia found itself outside the control of both and emerged as an independent state under the rule of local *bans*.

The first notable Bosnian monarch, Ban Kulin, presided over nearly three decades of peace and stability during which he strengthened the country's economy through treaties with Dubrovnik and Venice. His rule also marked the start of a controversy with the independent Bosnian Church (Bogomil), an indigenous Christian sect. In response to Hungarian attempts to use church politics regarding this issue as a way to reclaim sovereignty over Bosnia, Kulin held a council of local church leaders to renounce Bogomilism and embraced Catholicism in 1203. Despite this, Hungarian ambitions remained unchanged long after Kulin's death in 1204, waning only after an unsuccessful invasion in 1254.

Bosnian history from then until the early fourteenth century was marked by the power struggle between the Šubić and Kotromanić families. This conflict came to an end in 1322, when Stjepan II Kotromanić became *ban*. By the time of his death in 1353, he was successful in annexing territories to the north and west, as well as Zahumlje and parts of Dalmatia. He was succeeded by his nephew Tvrtko who, following a prolonged struggle with nobility and inter-family strife, gained full control of the country in 1367. Tvrtko crowned himself on October 26, 1377 as Stefan Tvrtko I “*by the mercy of God King of Serbs, Bosnia and the Seaside and the Western Lands.*”

Tradition holds that he was crowned in the Serbian Orthodox Mileševa monastery, even though there is no evidence of this. Another possibility is that he was crowned in Mile near Visoko in the church that was built in the time of Stephen II Kotromanić’s reign, where he was later buried alongside his uncle Stjepan II. Following Tvrtko’s death in 1391, however, Bosnia fell into a long period of decline. The Ottoman Empire had already started its conquest of Europe and posed a major threat to the Balkans states throughout the first half of the fifteenth century. Finally, after decades of political and social instability, Bosnia officially fell in 1463. Herzegovina would follow in 1482, with a Hungarian-backed reinstated “Bosnian Kingdom” being the last to succumb in 1527.

### **Ottoman Era**

The Ottoman conquest of Bosnia marked a new era in the country’s history and introduced tremendous changes in the political and cultural landscape of the region. Although the kingdom had been crushed and its high nobility executed, Bosnia was considered a region in the Ottoman Empire with its own distinctive language and traditions. Within this division or province of Bosnia, the Ottomans introduced a number of key changes in the territory’s socio-political administration including a new landholding system, a reorganization of administrative units, and a complex system of social differentiation by class and religious affiliation.



Ottoman province of Bosnia in the seventeenth century.

The four centuries of Ottoman rule also had a drastic impact on the makeup of Bosnia’s population, which changed several times as a result of the empire’s conquests, frequent wars with European powers, migrations, and epidemics. The Bosnian Christian communities also experienced major changes. The Bosnian Franciscans (and all Catholics) were protected by official imperial decree, although on the ground these guarantees were often disregarded, and their numbers dwindled. The Orthodox community in Bosnia, initially confined to Herzegovina and Podrinje, spread throughout the country during this period and went on to experience relative prosperity until the nineteenth century. As the Bogomils – the schismatic Bosnian Church – declined, the Christian population turned to Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism, with many also converting to Islam. A native Slavic-speaking Muslim community emerged and eventually became the one of the largest ethno-religious groups, while a significant

number of Sephardic Jews arrived following their expulsion from Spain in the late fifteenth century. A fairly large number of Turks came, as Ottomans; many left after the Ottoman rule ended in 1878, but some stayed until as late as the early twentieth century. Meanwhile, the Bogomils disappeared altogether

As the Ottoman Empire thrived and expanded into Central Europe, Bosnia was relieved of the pressures of being a frontier province and experienced a prolonged period of general welfare and prosperity. A number of cities, such as Sarajevo and Mostar, were established and grew into major regional centers of trade and urban culture. Within these cities, various sultans and governors financed the construction of many important works of Bosnian architecture such as the “Old Bridge” (*Stari most*) in Mostar and Gazi Husrev-beg’s Mosque (Sarajevo). Furthermore, numerous Bosnians played influential roles in the Ottoman Empire’s cultural and political history during this time. Bosnian soldiers formed a large component of the Ottoman ranks in the battles of Mohács (Hungary) and Krbava Field (Croatia), two decisive military victories. Other Bosnians rose through the ranks of the Ottoman military bureaucracy to occupy the highest positions of power in the Empire, including admirals, generals, and grand viziers. Many Bosnians also made a lasting impression on Ottoman culture, emerging as mystics, scholars, and celebrated poets in the Turkish, Arabic, and Persian languages.

However, by the late seventeenth century, the Empire’s military misfortunes caught up with the country. The conclusion of the Great Turkish War with the treaty of Karlowitz in 1699 forced the Ottomans to withdraw from Hungary and Croatia, making Bosnia the Empire’s westernmost province once again. The following hundred years were marked by further military failures, numerous revolts within Bosnia, and several outbreaks of plague. Efforts to modernize the Ottoman state were met with great hostility in Bosnia, where local aristocrats stood to lose much through the proposed reforms. This, combined with frustrations over political concessions to budding Christian states in the east, culminated in a famous (albeit ultimately unsuccessful) revolt by Husein Gradašćević in 1831. Related rebellions would be extinguished by 1850, but the situation continued to deteriorate. Agrarian unrest eventually sparked the Herzegovinian rebellion, a widespread peasant uprising, in 1875. The conflict rapidly spread and came to involve several Balkan states and Great Powers, which eventually forced the Ottomans to cede administration of Bosnia to Austria-Hungary through the treaty of Berlin in 1878.

### **Austro-Hungarian Rule**

Although an Austro-Hungarian occupying force quickly overcame initial armed resistance upon takeover, tensions remained in certain parts of the country (particularly Herzegovina), and a mass emigration of Muslims occurred. However, a state of relative stability was reached, and Austro-Hungarian authorities were able to embark on a number of social and administrative reforms intended to make Bosnia and Herzegovina into a “model colony”. With the aim of establishing the province as a stable political model that would help to dissipate rising South Slav nationalism, Habsburg rule did much to codify laws, to introduce new political practices, and generally to provide for modernization.

While it was successful economically, Austro-Hungarian policy – which focused on advocating the ideal of a pluralist and multi-confessional Bosnian nation (largely favored by the Muslims) – failed to curb the rising tides of nationalism. The concept of Croat and Serb nationhood had

already spread to Bosnia and Herzegovina's Catholic and Orthodox communities from neighboring Croatia and Serbia in the mid-nineteenth century, and was too entrenched to allow for the widespread acceptance of a parallel idea of Bosnian nationhood. By the latter half of the 1910s, nationalism was an integral factor in Bosnian politics, with national political parties corresponding to the three religious groups dominating elections.

### **World War I**

The idea of a unified South Slavic state (expected to be led by an independent Serbia) became a popular political ideology in the region at this time, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Austro-Hungarian government's decision to formally annex Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1908 (the Bosnian Crisis) added to a sense of urgency among nationalists. These political tensions culminated on June 28, 1914, when Serb nationalist youth Gavrilo Princip, acting as a member of a group called "Young Bosnia" that included Croats and Muslims as well as Serbs, assassinated the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, in Sarajevo. The Austro-Hungarian Empire attacked Serbia in response – the event that proved to be the spark that set off World War I. Although some Bosnians died serving in the armies of the various warring states, Bosnia and Herzegovina itself managed to escape the conflict relatively unscathed.

### **The First Yugoslavia**

Following World War I, Bosnia was incorporated into the South Slav kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (soon renamed Yugoslavia, which means "Land of the South Slavs"). Political life in Bosnia at this time was marked by two major trends: social and economic unrest over property redistribution, and formation of several political parties that frequently changed coalitions and alliances with parties in other Yugoslav regions. The dominant ideological conflict of the Yugoslav state, between Croatian regionalism and Serbian centralization, was approached differently by Bosnia's major ethnic groups and was dependent on the overall political atmosphere. This, like every political issue after 1878, was complicated by the third group in Bosnia, the Muslims. Although the initial split of Yugoslavia into 33 *oblasts* (counties) erased the presence of traditional geographic entities from the map, the efforts of Bosnian politicians such as Mehmed Spaho ensured that the six *oblasts* carved from Bosnia and Herzegovina corresponded to the six *sandžaks* from Ottoman times and, thus, matched the country's traditional boundary as a whole.

The establishment of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1929, however, brought the redrawing of administrative regions into *banats* that purposely avoided all historical and ethnic lines, removing any trace of a Bosnian entity. Serbo-Croat tensions over the structuring of the Yugoslav state continued, with the concept of a separate Bosnian division receiving little or no consideration. The famous Cvetković-Maček agreement that created the Croatian *banats* in 1939 encouraged what was essentially a partition of Bosnia between Croatia and Serbia. However, outside political circumstances forced Yugoslav politicians to shift their attention to the rising threat posed by Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany. Following a period that saw attempts at appeasement, the signing of the Tripartite Treaty, and a coup d'état, Yugoslavia was finally invaded by Germany on April 6, 1941.

## World War II

Once the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was conquered by Axis forces in April 1941, all of Bosnia was ceded to the fascist puppet state of Croatia. Fascist rule over Bosnia led to widespread persecution of many of its residents. The Jewish and Roma populations were nearly exterminated. The Croatian state also had a policy of eliminating the large Serbian population, with one-third to be killed, one-third expelled and one-third forcibly converted to Catholicism. Hundreds of thousands died – far more Serbs than Jews. Many Serbs in the area took up arms and joined the Četniks, a Serb nationalist and royalist resistance movement that conducted guerrilla warfare against the Nazis, but also committed numerous atrocities against chiefly Bosnian Muslim civilians in regions under their control.

Starting in 1941, Yugoslav communists under the leadership of Josip Broz Tito organized their own multi-ethnic resistance group, the Partisans, who fought against Axis, Croat and Četnik forces. On November 26-27, 1942, the Anti-Fascist Council of National Liberation of Yugoslavia with Tito at its helm held a founding conference in Bihac, Bosnia, where Bosnia and Herzegovina was established as a republic within the Yugoslav federation, largely in its Ottoman borders. Military success by the Partisans eventually prompted the Allies to support them, and the end of the war resulted in the establishment of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with the constitution of 1946 officially making Bosnia and Herzegovina one of six constituent republics in the new state.



Mostar after the Bosnian War.

## Socialist Yugoslavia

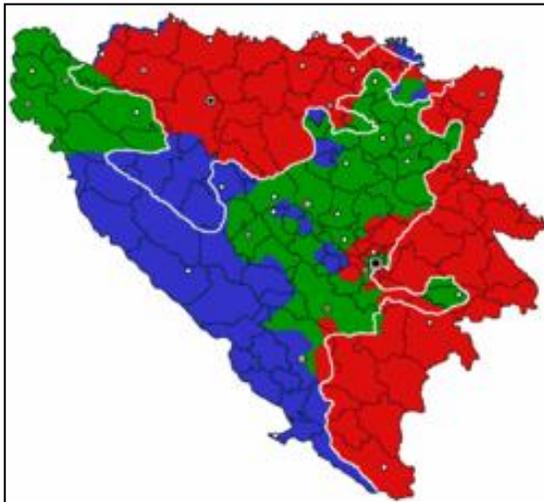
Because of its central geographic position within the Yugoslav federation, postwar Bosnia was strategically selected as a base for the development of the military defense industry. This contributed to a large concentration of arms and military personnel in Bosnia, a significant factor in the war that followed the breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. However, Bosnia's existence within Yugoslavia was generally peaceful. In the early 1950s, Bosnia somewhat recovered economically, taking advantage of its natural resources to stimulate industrial development, although it remained one of the least developed republics in Yugoslavia until the

end. The Yugoslav communist doctrine of “brotherhood and unity” particularly suited Bosnia's diverse and multi-ethnic society, which, because of this imposed system of tolerance, thrived culturally and socially.

Bosnia was considered a political backwater in federal Yugoslavia, though some Bosnian politicians did achieve important roles in the central government. As Yugoslavia started to collapse after 1989, most Bosnian politicians tried to avoid involvement in the increasing conflict between Serbia, Slovenia and Croatia. However, in Bosnia, as in the rest of Yugoslavia, separate nationalist movements were formed by Muslim, Serb and Croat politicians.

## The Bosnian War

In the 1990 parliamentary elections, the voters split on ethnic lines, the same pattern observed in every election ever held in Bosnia. This ethnically divided vote led to the national assembly being dominated by three ethnically based parties, which had formed a loose coalition to oust the communists from power. Croatia and Slovenia's subsequent declarations of independence and the ensuing warfare placed Bosnia and Herzegovina and its three constituent peoples in an awkward position. A significant split existed before the war on the issue of whether to stay with the Yugoslav federation; neither Serbs nor Croats accepted the idea of an independent Bosnia. A declaration of sovereignty in October 1991, passed over the strong objections of the Serbs, was followed by a referendum on independence from Yugoslavia in February and March 1992, which was boycotted by the great majority of Bosnian Serbs. With a voter turnout of 64%, 98% of whom voted in favor of the proposal, Bosnia and Herzegovina became an independent state, but it was clear that Bosnian Serbs overwhelmingly rejected inclusion in the new country. Following a tense period of escalating tensions and sporadic military incidents, open warfare began in Sarajevo as soon as Bosnia was recognized as an independent state, on April 6.



The situation on the ground in the closing days of the war. Serb-controlled territory is shown in red, Croat in blue, and Bosniak in green.

International recognition of Bosnia and Herzegovina meant that the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) officially withdrew from the republic's territory, although its Bosnian Serb members merely joined the army of Republika Srpska, the secessionist Serbian state on the territory of Bosnia. Armed and equipped from JNA stockpiles in Bosnia, supported by volunteers and various paramilitary forces from Serbia, and receiving extensive humanitarian, logistical and financial support from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Republika Srpska's offensives in 1992 managed to place much of the country under its control. By 1993, when another armed conflict erupted between the Sarajevo government and the Croat statelet of Herzeg-Bosna, about 70% of the country was controlled by the Serbs.

In March 1994, the signing of the Washington accords between the leaders of the Muslim-controlled republican government and the leaders of Croatia led to the creation of a joint Bosniak-Croat Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This, along with international outrage at Serb war crimes and atrocities (most notably the genocidal killing of over 8,000 Bosniak males in Srebrenica in July 1995), eventually turned the tide of the war. The signing of the Dayton Agreement in Dayton, Ohio by the presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Alija Izetbegović), Croatia (Franjo Tuđman), and Yugoslavia (Slobodan Milošević) brought a halt to the fighting, roughly establishing the basic structure of the present-day state. The three years of war and bloodshed had left approximately 100,000 people dead, about half of them civilians. About 65%

of the dead were Muslim Bosniaks, 25% Serbs, and the rest Croats and others. More than two million people were displaced.

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Photo of ruins in Mostar, courtesy of Somdeep Sen, Northeastern University

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# Religions

There is a strong correlation between ethnic identity and religion in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as is shown by the fact that most Bosniaks are Muslims, Croats are Catholics, and Serbs are Orthodox Christians. Tensions between the three constitutional peoples remain high in Bosnia and Herzegovina and often provoke political disagreements.

## *Serbian Orthodoxy*



Serb Orthodox cathedral in central Sarajevo.

The Orthodox Church became noticeable in Bosnia in the 1480s. In the early part of the sixteenth century, a number of monasteries are known to have been built. The monastery located in Romanija was constructed around 1515. This prominence occurred during the period in which the Ottomans controlled Bosnia. Major religious authorities in the Orthodox religion were centered both inside the Ottoman Empire and in Russia, while similar authority in the Catholic Church was centered in Rome.

The number of followers grew at a significant rate in the eighteenth century. There were a total of fourteen Orthodox monasteries in the region, mostly in Herzegovina, during this period. In the nineteenth century, the late Ottoman Empire tried to modernize and grant rights to the non-Muslim communities in an attempt to avoid rebellions. By the 1860s, there were over 400 priests in the area, and 57 Orthodox schools had been constructed by the 1870s.

In April 1941, the Independent State of Croatia was formed under a regime that ruthlessly persecuted Orthodox Serbs, Jews, Roma (Gypsies), and other antifascist Croats. The regime aimed to eliminate the Serb minority by forcible conversion to Catholicism and extermination. As many as 450,000 Serbs were killed in massacres and at the Jasenovac concentration camp.

In the following decades, relations between the communists and the church were tense. This was especially true during the first few years after World War II, when the communists put pressure on the church in order to limit its influence.

## *Islam*

The modern Bosniaks, often referred to as Bosnian Muslims, descend from Slavic converts to Islam in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries who lived in the medieval Bosnian Kingdom. Bosniaks are overwhelmingly Sunni Muslims, and historically Sufism played a significant role in the country. There are also Bektashi and Shia communities in Bosnia.



The Gazi Husrev Beg Mosque in Sarajevo

For Bosnian Muslims, as for Serbs and Croats, religion often serves as a community identifier, while religious practice is confined to occasional visits to the mosque or significant rites of

passage such as birth, marriage, and death. Due to more modern influences and 45 years of communism, some Bosniaks have atheist, agnostic or Deist beliefs. While there are significant numbers of Bosniaks who practice their faith to varying degrees, for others this identity tends to be secular and is based primarily on ancestral traditions and ethnic loyalty. Bosniaks also have a reputation for being “liberal” Muslims. Headscarves for women, which are widespread in Middle Eastern countries, are worn only by a minority of Bosniak Muslim women, and otherwise mostly for religious obligations. Today, Muslims constitute around 40% of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### ***Catholicism***

There has been a Roman Catholic presence in Bosnia since the eleventh century. However, the ruggedness of the region meant that Rome’s influence was limited until Franciscan and Dominican orders began working there late in the thirteenth century.

During the period of Ottoman rule over the area, the church, although able to continue its activities, was viewed suspiciously. Before the Ottoman conquest in 1463, there were 39 Franciscan monasteries in the region, but by 1580 there were only 10, the rest having been destroyed or converted to mosques. Towards the end of Ottoman rule, the church experienced a revival, with elementary and secondary schools in many of the main towns and several new churches built in the 1850s. There were almost 380 priests in the region during the 1860s.

When the Austro-Hungarians captured Bosnia in 1878, the church’s strength increased, and it became more active than it had ever been in the area. The Jesuits began working alongside the Franciscans, and a new cathedral and church were built in Sarajevo. During this period, Bosnia was also granted four bishops and an archbishop.

When the communists governed the region, the church was once again targeted for repression. A number of churches were destroyed, and many other monasteries, convents, and seminaries were closed. The Catholic Church in Bosnia also suffered greatly during the 1992-95 civil wars. More than 600 church buildings were damaged or destroyed. Many Catholics who fled the fighting have refused or been unable to return, and the rebuilding and repair of many structures has yet to begin.

### ***Judaism***

Jews first came to Bosnia in 1492, after being expelled from Spain during the Spanish Inquisition. They had a relatively peaceful existence in the region through the Ottoman period.



By 1923, 10,000 Jews were living in the region, and in 1926 the population had increased to 13,000. In 1941, 14,000 Jews resided in Bosnia, but by the end of World War II, only 4,000 were left. Many of those who remained joined the Socialist movement.

When the civil war broke out in 1992, many chose to leave the region, including 2,000 who were airlifted to Israel. Today, only about 500 Jews remain in Bosnia. They are spread out in the cities of Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar, Tuzla, Dobojo, and Zenica.

### ***Protestantism***

There are approximately 1,500 Protestants in Bosnia. This is largely a result of the work of missionaries, who have been present in the region since the collapse of communism.

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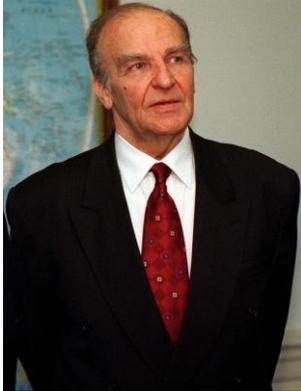
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## Famous Bosnians

### *Political*



**Alija Izetbegović** (1925-2003): Born in the northern Bosnian town of Bosanski Šamac, he was a Bosniak activist, lawyer, philosopher, and politician.

In 1946 he was sentenced to prison for anti-communist activities. After being released in 1949, he began studying at the University of Sarajevo, where he gained a BS in Law in 1956. He worked for nearly 30 years as a lawyer, but continued to promote an essentially Bosniak and Muslim viewpoint.

In April 1983, Izetbegović and 12 other Muslim activists were tried and convicted before a Bosnian court for a variety of political offenses. He was pardoned and released in 1988, but not before suffering serious and lasting damage to his health.

In 1989 Izetbegović and other Bosniak activists established a political party, the Party of Democratic Action (*Stranka Demokratske Akcije*, or SDA). It had a largely Muslim character; similarly, the other principal ethnic groups in Bosnia, the Serbs and Croats, also established ethnically based parties. The SDA won the largest share (33%) of the vote, with the runners-up being Serb and Croat nationalist ethnic parties. Izetbegović then became President after the other leading Muslim candidate agreed to stand down.

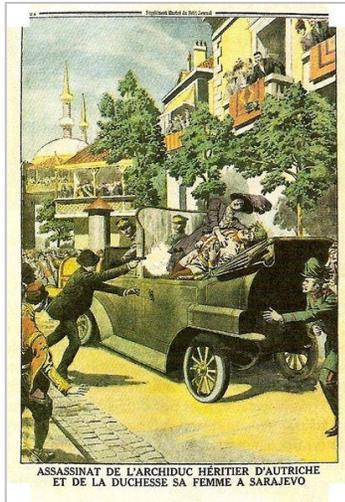
In February 1992, Izetbegović called a national referendum on Bosnian independence. Although it was boycotted by the Serbs, it achieved a 98% vote in favor, on a 64% turnout. The Bosnian parliament, already vacated by the Bosnian Serbs, formally declared independence from Yugoslavia on February 29, and Izetbegović announced the country's independence on March 3. It did not take effect until April 7, 1992, when the EU and US recognized it. After the war ended in 1995, Izetbegović became co-president of the Bosniak-Croat Federation, loosely linked by a weak central government with the Bosnian Serb Republic. He stepped down in 2000, citing his bad health.

**Gavrilo Princip** (1894-1918): Princip was born in the village of Obljaj, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the Austria-Hungarian Empire. He was a member of the Young Bosnia movement, a group made up of Serbs, Croats, and Bosnian Muslims who were committed to the independence of the South Slavic peoples from Austria-Hungary. This group got its weapons from the Black Hand secret society, which shared some responsibility for coordination, training, and/or supplying of weapons for the assassination of Franz Ferdinand (the heir apparent to the Austro-Hungarian throne).



On June 28, 1914, Gavrilo Princip participated in the assassination in

Sarajevo. General Oskar Potiorek, Governor of the Austrian provinces of Bosnia-Herzegovina, had invited Franz Ferdinand and Countess Sophie to watch his troops on maneuvers. Franz Ferdinand knew that the visit would be dangerous, as his uncle, Emperor Franz Josef, had been the subject of an assassination attempt by the Black Hand in 1911.



Seven members of the Black Hand group lined the Archduke's motorcade route. They were spaced out along the Appel Quay, each one with instructions to try to kill Franz Ferdinand when the royal car reached his position. Princip had gone into Moritz Schiller's cafe, having apparently given up, when he spotted Franz Ferdinand's car as it drove past after taking a wrong turn. Realizing the mistake, the driver put his foot on the brake and began to back up. In doing so, the engine of the car stalled and the gears locked, giving Princip his shot. Princip stepped forward, drew his pistol, and, at a distance of about five feet, fired several times into the car. Franz Ferdinand was hit in the neck and Sophie in the abdomen. Sophie died instantly. Franz Ferdinand, who in disbelief of her death insisted that she wake up, fainted within five minutes and died soon after.

Princip tried to kill himself first by ingesting cyanide, and then with the use of his pistol. The pistol was wrestled from his hand before he had a chance to fire another shot, and he vomited the past-date poison. Princip was too young to receive the death penalty, and instead he received the maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. He was held in harsh conditions, which were worsened by the war. He died of tuberculosis on April 28, 1918. At the time of his death, Princip weighed around 88 pounds, as his body had been weakened by malnutrition, blood loss and disease.

## Arts & Literature

**Mesa Selimović** (1910-1982): Selimović was one of the most highly regarded authors of Bosnia and Herzegovina after World War II. Born in Tuzla, he attended the Philosophical Faculty in Belgrade. Until World War II broke out, he worked as a secondary school teacher in his hometown. After the war, he worked for a while as a university teacher in Sarajevo and assumed many important cultural duties.

Selimović's compositions include novels, several volumes of short stories, and essays. He achieved his biggest success with the 1996 novel *Death and Dervish*, for which he received many Yugoslav awards, and which was translated into a number of other languages. His following novel, *The Fortress*, was also very popular.



**Emir Kusturica** (1954-): Kusturica is known as one of the most creative film directors since the 1980s. He was born in Sarajevo and attended the prestigious FAMU Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, Czech Republic. Although he is best known for his movies, he got his start directing television programs. In 1981, his debut film *Do You Remember Dolly Bell?* won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival. He continued his success with award-winning films such as *When Father Was Away On Business* (1985), *Time of the Gypsies* (1989), *Arizona Dream* (1993), *Underground* (1995) and *Black Cat, White Cat* (1998); he is one of only a few filmmakers to win the Palm d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival twice. In addition to his fame in the film industry, Kusturica is well-known and often criticized for his political activism.

**Goran Bregović** (1950-): Goran Bregović was born in Sarajevo to a Serbian mother and a Croatian father. His interest in music began at a young age, when he entered the conservatory to study violin. Throughout his adolescence, he was kicked out of several schools and found himself by joining school bands. He made a living as a member of various musical groups, but did not reach stardom until forming the group *Bijelo dugme* in the late 1970s. "White Button," as it is known in English, was one of the most popular musical acts in the former Yugoslavia and did a triumphal reunion tour of Belgrade, Sarajevo and Zagreb in 2006. After *Bijelo dugme*, Bregović's solo career took off, and he began composing film scores. His most famous movie credits include: *Time of the Gypsies* (1989), *Arizona Dream* (1993), *Queen Margot* (1994), and *Underground* (1995).



**Karl Malden** (1912-): Born Mladen Sekulovich to a Czech mother and a Bosnian-Serb father in Chicago, Karl Malden did not speak English until he was in kindergarten. After graduating from high school in the nearby steel town of Gary, Indiana, Malden worked in the industry for three years until 1934, when he left to attend the Arkansas State Teacher's College, then the Goodman Theater Dramatic School. Three years later, he went to New York City.



Karl became involved with the Group Theater, an organization of actors and directors who were changing the face of theater. He starred in plays such as *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller and *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams.

While Malden had one screen appearance before his military service in World War II, in *They Knew What They Wanted* (1940), he did not establish his film career until after the war. Malden won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor as Mitch in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1951), and showed his range as an actor in roles such as that of Father Corrigan in *On the Waterfront* (1954) and the lecher Archie Lee in *Baby Doll* (1956).

In the early 1970s, he built a television career when he starred as Detective Lieutenant Mike Stone in *The Streets of San Francisco* (1972), co-starring with Michael Douglas. He also became the spokesman for American Express, a position he held for 21 years. In 1988 he was elected President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, a position he held for five years.

**Ivana Miličević** (1974-): An ethnic Croat born in Sarajevo, Miličević's family immigrated to the United States when she was five years old, and she was raised in Michigan. She began modeling and acting in high school, with guest appearances on several television shows such as *Seinfeld*, *Felicity*, *The Nanny*, *Buzzkill*, *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* and *Friends*. Her acting career has also included a regular role on the HBO series *The Mind of the Married Man*.



In 2006 she starred in the CBS series *Love Monkey*. She was featured as “Valenka” in the newest James Bond film, *Casino Royale*, which was released in November 2006. She had a role as “Roxanne” in *Head Over Heels* in 2001. She also appeared as “Erika Helios” in *Frankenstein* in 2004.



**Danis Tanović** (1969-): Bosnian writer and director Danis Tanović became a celebrity in the international film community practically overnight when his drama about the horrors of the Bosnia-Herzegovina war, *No Man's Land*, won the Academy Award for Best Foreign film in 2002. Born in the central Bosnian city of Zenica to Bosniak parents, Tanović developed an interest in filmmaking after spending several years studying music and engineering, and was attending the Sarajevo Film Academy in 1992 when the war broke out. Over the next two years, he shot literally hundreds of hours of documentary footage of the war and its effect on the nation before leaving Sarajevo to study filmmaking in Belgium. While studying in Belgium, Tanović produced a documentary about the Bosnian conflict, *A Year After*, and several short films; he also wrote a play, *A Madman and a Nun*. In time, he set aside documentaries and shorter projects to concentrate on his screenplay for *No Man's Land*, which he brought before the cameras with financing from Belgian, Italian, British, and Slovenian film companies. Released in 2001, *No*

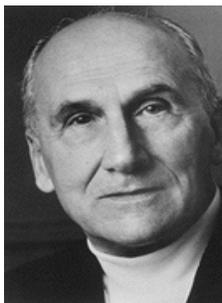
*Man's Land* received critical acclaim in Europe and America, and earned him several awards including the Best Screenplay prize at the 2001 Cannes Film Festival and Best New Director at the 2001 Cesar Awards. His work on the film was also cited at the Los Angeles International Film Festival, the Rotterdam Film Festival, the San Sebastian International Film Festival, and the Sao Paulo International Film Festival.



**Ivo Andrić** (1892-1975): Andrić was born of Croatian parents on October 9, 1892 in the village of Dolac near Travnik, Bosnia, then part of Austria-Hungary and today part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was imprisoned by the Austrian government during World War I because of his political activities. After the war, he became a civil servant in the newly created Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (which was later renamed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia). Working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he became Deputy Foreign Minister and then served as Ambassador to Germany until that country's invasion of Yugoslavia in 1941.

After the German invasion, Andrić left for Belgrade and spent the remainder of World War II writing his three most famous novels: *The Bridge on the Drina*, *The Woman From Sarajevo* (both published in 1945), and *The Vizier's Elephant* (published in 1948). During the Communist era, he served in a number of ceremonial posts, including as a member of the presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1961, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature "for the epic force with which he has traced themes and depicted human destinies drawn from the history of his country."

## Science



**Vladimir Prelog** (1906-1998): Prelog was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was at that time still part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In 1915, he moved to Zagreb. Educated in Zagreb and Osijek, he graduated from the Czech Institute of Technology in Prague in 1929, receiving a degree as a chemical engineer. In 1935, he was invited to join the Technical Faculty of the University of Zagreb, where he took the post of lecturer in organic chemistry.

In 1941, he accepted the invitation of Lavoslav Ružička and left for the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. He started as a private senior lecturer and was eventually promoted to professor. After Ružička's retirement in 1957, Prelog took over the organic chemistry laboratory, where he expanded its activity to unusual areas: heterocyclic compounds, alkaloids, salicylic compounds, and the isolation and study of biochemically active compounds found in smaller quantities in animal organisms. He also studied the structure of antibiotics and the stereochemistry of enzyme reactions. Thanks to Prelog, Zurich has become one of the most significant centers of modern organic chemistry. Prelog received the 1975 Nobel Prize for chemistry for his works in the field of natural compounds and stereochemistry, sharing the prize with Australian/British chemist John Cornforth.

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# Language

Bosnian is part of the Slavic branch of the Indo-European language family, which is the largest language family in Europe. It is a variant of the group of languages also known as Serbian and Croatian, with the distinctions between them based on political criteria rather than linguistic ones. The alphabet can be either Roman, such as in English or German, or Cyrillic, such as in Russian or Ukrainian. German (especially among the Croats) and Turkish (especially among the Bosnians and Serbs) have also heavily influenced the language. Although Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats all speak a version of the same language, they use some different words to make their variants more distinctive.

## The Bosnian Alphabet

Aa	a in apple: dan (dan)-day
Bb	as English B, baby, boy
Cc	ts in cats: crn (tsrn)-black
Čč	ch in church: čitati (chitati)-to read
Ćć	as in chin, chimney, future, Dutch: noć (noch)-night
Dd	as English D, drive, drop
Dž	J in John, jibe, pledge: džep (dzhep)-pocket
Đđ	roughly dj, dy or George, judge, jacket: među (medju)-among
Ee	e in net, trek, emit: pet (pet)-five
Ff	as English F, fault, fury
Gg	as English G, glowing, guide: grad (grad)-city
Hh	ch in loch, hand: hvala (hvala)-thank you
Ii	e in he, deed: imati (eemati)-to have
Jj	y in yes, yellow: Ja (Ya)-I
Kk	as English K, candle, car, cat, clock
Ll	as English L, floor, lion, love
Lj	ll in million: haljina (halyina)-dress
Mm	as English M, mine
Nn	as English N, nice, never
Nj	n in news, onion: knjiga (knyeeega)-book
Oo	in not, hold, over: molim (moleem)-please
Pp	as English P, piano, people
Rr	in rolled, river, roof
Ss	in bless, sea, gossip
Šš	sh in shy, slushy, wish, shirt: šest (shest)-six

Tt	as English T, tall, town
Uu	oo in food, roof: put (poot)-road
Vv	as English V, vivid
Zz	as English Z, plausible, noise
Žž	s in pleasure, profusion: živjeti (zheevyete)-to live

### Basic Vocabulary

January	Januar	0	Nula
February	Februar	1	Jedan
March	Mart	2	Dva
April	April	3	Tri
May	Maj	4	Četiri
June	Juni	5	Pet
July	Juli	6	Šest
August	August	7	Sedam
September	Septembar	8	Osam
October	Oktobar	9	Devet
November	Novembar	10	Deset
December	Decembar		
		Black	Crna
Monday	Ponedjeljak	White	Bijela
Tuesday	Utorak	Blue	Plava
Wednesday	Srijeda	Green	Zelena
Thursday	Četvrtak	Red	Crvena
Friday	Petak		
Saturday	Subota	Brother	Brat
Sunday	Nedelja	Sister	Sestra
		Mother	Majka
Day	Dan	Father	Otac
Afternoon	Poslije podne	Daughter	Kćerka
Today	Danas	Son	Sin
Tomorrow	Sutra	Grandson	Unuk
Yesterday	Juče	Granddaughter	Unuka
What time is it?	Koliko je sati?	Grandmother	Nana/Baka
		Grandfather	Djed

Please	Molim	Why?	Zašto?
Thank you	Hvala	What?	Šta?
Yes	Da	Which?	Koji?
No	Ne	Who?	Ko?
Can I?	Mogu li?	Where?	Gdje?
Would you?	Možete li?	How much?	Koliko?
Excuse me	Izvinite	When?	Kada?
Good day	Dobar dan	How?	Kako?
Good bye	Do viđenja		

Good morning	Dobro jutro
Good evening	Dobro večer
Hello	Zdravo
What is your name?	Kako se zovete?
My name is	Zovem se...
How are you?	Kako ste?
I am very well. Thank you.	Ja sam dobro, hvala.
Pleased to meet you	Drago mi je da sam vas upoznala/o (for female/male speaker)

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## Economy



A banknote of 50 konvertibilna marka from Bosnia and Herzegovina

For a variety of reasons, economic prosperity has been difficult to achieve in Bosnia. When the region was under the control of the Ottomans between 1480 and 1878, the economy was largely based on agriculture. Although 95% of the population farmed, only 5% of the land was suitable for farming. For all of the emphasis on agricultural production, a small prune crop was the only product that was exported. With the exception of a small center for mining and working iron and a few trade guilds, industry was nonexistent. Making conditions more difficult was the lack of a banking system, which meant there was no money available to start or expand a business, and the road system was small and unusable when it rained.

This limited development continued under the Habsburgs. Economic policy was conducted to benefit the larger empire instead of Bosnia. State monopolies were expanded into Bosnia, making local businesses uncompetitive and forcing them to close. Some government-run factories and mines were established, but they were opened towards the end of Habsburg rule and created only a small number of jobs. Monopoly licenses were granted to large banks, which generated abuses and further hindered growth.

During the Yugoslav period, Bosnia was not only the poorest republic in the federation, but it also had the lowest level of economic growth. In 1947 its income was 20% below the national average; this level had declined to 38% below the average in 1967. It was designated as an underdeveloped region in 1961. In the early 1970s, with the exception of Kosovo, Bosnia had the highest infant mortality and illiteracy rates, the greatest proportion of people with only three years of primary school, and the smallest proportion of people residing in towns in the entire country. The agricultural industry failed to develop because the size of individual plots was too small, and the region had to import much of its food. Moreover, while mining was important, much of the industry in the region was dedicated to arms production, which left factories that were commercially unviable after independence. These factories were also overstaffed, making

them even more inefficient. Infrastructure continued to be limited because, under Yugoslavia's centrally planned economy, Bosnia was a financier of projects outside of the republic.

Bosnia has encountered its most difficult economic problems since the war ended in 1995. Much of its industry and infrastructure was damaged or destroyed during the war, requiring large amounts of international aid to repair. This aid has been declining in recent years. Approximately half of the roads in the country (52%) are paved, and many of those are in poor condition with large numbers of potholes. At an estimated 2004 rate of 44%, unemployment poses a serious problem for the country. The gray market reduces this rate to approximately 25%, but these data cannot be recorded accurately. The government is unable to tax income earned on the gray market, forcing it to work with an even smaller budget. Finally, new businesses have been slow to start (Bosnia has approximately 10 companies per 1,000 people, fewer than almost any other nation in Europe). This is largely due to the difficulty in getting loans, often with an average interest rate of 10%, and the number of regulations and need for bribery to get licensed.

However, GDP has grown every year since 2000, averaging 4.8% (although this is still low given where the country began). Industrial output also increased between 2000 and 2005, averaging almost 7% growth per year. Finally, foreign direct investment (FDI) has increased.

Bosnia's central bank was established at the end of 1997. The country's currency, the *konvertibilna marka* (convertible mark), was introduced in 1998. Originally pegged to the German Mark, it is now pegged to the Euro.

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# Government and Politics

Bosnia and Herzegovina's system of government was established by the Dayton Peace Agreement of 1995. Most governmental powers belong to the two "entities," the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (majority Bosniak and Croat) and the Republika Srpska (majority Serb). The central government structure is as follows:

## Executive

The Presidency in Bosnia and Herzegovina rotates among three members (Bosniak, Serb, and Croat), each elected for a four-year term. The three members of the Presidency are directly elected (the Federation votes for the Bosniak and Croat, and the Republika Srpska for the Serb).

The Presidency is responsible for:

- Conducting the foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Appointing ambassadors and other international representatives, no more than two-thirds of whom may come from the Federation;
- Representing Bosnia and Herzegovina in European and international organizations and institutions, and seeking membership in such organizations and institutions of which it is not a member;
- Negotiating, debating, and, with the consent of the Parliamentary Assembly, ratifying treaties of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Executing decisions of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- Proposing, upon the recommendation of the Council of Ministers, an annual budget to the Parliamentary Assembly;
- Reporting as requested, but no less than annually, to the Parliamentary Assembly on expenditures by the Presidency;
- Coordinating as necessary with international and non-governmental organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Exercising command and control over the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in peacetime, crises, and war, and;
- Performing such other functions as may be necessary to carry out its duties, as may be assigned to it by the Parliamentary Assembly, or as may be agreed on by the Entities (the Federation and the Republika Srpska).

The Chair of the Council of Ministers (effectively, Prime Minister) is nominated by the Presidency and approved by the House of Representatives. He/she is then responsible for appointing a Foreign Minister, Minister of Defense, Minister of Foreign Trade, and others as appropriate. The Council is responsible for carrying out policies and decisions in the fields of defense, intelligence, and foreign policy; foreign trade policy; customs policy; monetary policy; finances of the institutions and for the international obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina; immigration, refugee, and asylum policy and regulation; international and inter-Entity criminal law enforcement, including relations with Interpol; establishment and operation of common and international communications facilities; regulation of inter-Entity transportation; air traffic control; facilitation of inter-Entity coordination; and other matters as agreed on by the Entities.

## **Legislature**

The Parliamentary Assembly is the lawmaking body in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It consists of two houses, the House of Peoples and the House of Representatives.

The House of Peoples includes 15 delegates, two-thirds of whom come from the Federation (five Croats and five Bosniaks) and one-third from the Republika Srpska (five Serbs). Nine members of the House of Peoples constitute a quorum, provided that at least three delegates from each group are present. Federation representatives are selected by the House of Peoples of the Federation, and Republika Srpska representatives are selected by the Republika Srpska National Assembly.

The House of Representatives is comprised of 42 members, two-thirds elected from the Federation and one-third elected from the Republika Srpska. Federation representatives are elected directly by the voters of the Federation, and Republika Srpska representatives are directly elected by Republika Srpska voters.

The Parliamentary Assembly is responsible for enacting legislation as necessary to implement decisions of the Presidency or to carry out the responsibilities of the Assembly under the constitution; deciding upon the sources and amounts of revenues for the operations of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and international obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina; approving a budget for the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina; and deciding whether to consent to the ratification of treaties.

## **Judiciary**

The Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the supreme, final arbiter of legal matters. It is composed of nine members: four are selected by the House of Representatives of the Federation, two by the Assembly of the Republika Srpska, and three by the President of the European Court of Human Rights after consultation with the Presidency. The Constitutional Court's original jurisdiction lies in deciding any constitutional dispute that arises between the Entities, or between Bosnia and Herzegovina and an Entity or Entities. The Court also has appellate jurisdiction within the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Both the Federation and the Republika Srpska government have established lower court systems for their territories.

## **References:**

Bosnia and Herzegovina Background Notes  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2868.htm>

## Bosnia and the European Union

European Union (EU) integration is one of the main political objectives of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bosnia is not currently a member of the EU. The EU's relations with the Western Balkans states (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia) were recently moved from the External Relations to the Enlargement policy sector of the EU. The aforementioned states are not currently recognized as candidate countries, but only as potential candidate countries.

To join the EU, a country must meet the Copenhagen criteria, defined at the 1993 Copenhagen European Council. These criteria require a stable democracy that respects human rights and the rule of law; a functioning market economy capable of competition within the EU; and acceptance of the obligations of membership, including EU law. Evaluation of a country's fulfillment of the criteria rests with the European Council.



Map of Potential EU Candidate Countries  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/europe/04/enlarging\\_europe/html/bosnia.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/europe/04/enlarging_europe/html/bosnia.stm)

The states of the former Yugoslavia (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia) have all adopted EU integration as an aim of their foreign policy. Slovenia joined the EU on May 1, 2004, and Croatia is currently negotiating its entry. The Republic of Macedonia is also recognized as an EU candidate country.

The 2003 European Council summit set integration of the Western Balkans as a priority of EU expansion. Optimistic predictions suggest that Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro are considered likely to join the EU between 2010 and 2015, depending on their fulfillment of the admission criteria. Bosnia and Herzegovina still has many economic and political problems. The EU may show some leniency regarding Bosnia's economy due to the political issues at stake. Recently it has been making slow but steady progress, including cooperation with the war crimes tribunal at The Hague, so the outlook is relatively positive. Due to the stance of many Bosnian politicians, High Representative Miroslav Lajčák has stated that he will shift more of his focus for the time being from EU accession to reforms that would improve the standard of living in the country.

The Negotiations on Stabilization and Association Agreement started during 2005. This is the first step before Bosnia may make an application for candidate status and membership negotiations. The current negotiations with the EU are expected to be finalized in late 2008. Former President of the European Commission, Romano Prodi, has stated that Bosnia has a

chance of joining the EU soon after Croatia, but it is entirely dependent on the country's progress.

**References:**

BBC News

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/europe/04/enlarging\\_europe/html/bosnia.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/europe/04/enlarging_europe/html/bosnia.stm)

Enlargement of the European Union

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/02/01/news/eu.php>

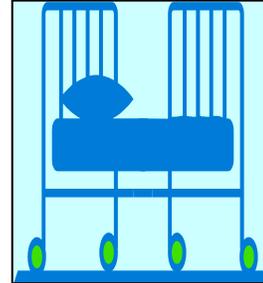
Bosnia and Herzegovina – Relations with the EU

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/bosnia\\_and\\_herzegovina/eu\\_bosnia\\_and\\_herzegovina\\_relations\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/bosnia_and_herzegovina/eu_bosnia_and_herzegovina_relations_en.htm)

# Welfare

## *Health Statistics*

- Life expectancy at birth, male/female (years): 70/77
- Healthy life expectancy at birth, male/female (years, 2002): 62/66
- Probability of dying before age five (per 1,000 live births): 15
- Probability of dying between 15 and 60 years, male/female (per 1,000 population): 186/88
- Total expenditures on health per capita (2004): \$603
- Total expenditures on health as % of GDP (2004): 8.3



## *Housing*



There is a chronic housing shortage in Bosnia and Herzegovina since a majority of all homes, and even a few entire towns, were destroyed during the civil war from 1992 to 1995. Over two million people were forced from their homes during that time. Despite help from international assistance programs, only about half of the nation's refugees and displaced residents were able to return to their homes as of 2001. Many surviving homes are still in serious need of repair, and utilities are not always available.

## *Postwar Problems*

Landmines remain a problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The area of suspected landmine contamination is estimated at over 2,000 square kilometers, which is more than 4% of the country's territory. These devices have killed more than 400 people since 1996. While most urban areas have been largely cleared, some areas are particularly dangerous near former lines of conflict, including the suburbs of Sarajevo. The de-mining community recommends staying on hard surface areas and out of abandoned buildings. Families traveling in Bosnia and Herzegovina should be especially aware of the danger posed by mines and unexploded ordnance.

Much of the country's medical infrastructure was destroyed during the 1992-1995 war. Medical facilities are being rebuilt, but services are still quite limited, especially outside of Sarajevo.

## **References:**

World Health Statistics 2007  
<http://www.who.int/countries/bih/en/>

## Housing

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/Bosnia-and-Herzegovina-HOUSING.html>

## Political Priority for Housing

<http://www.unece.org/env/hs/prgm/cph/countries/bulgaria/cp1-conc.pdf>

## State Department Travel Warnings

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1070.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1070.html)

## Postwar Problems

[http://www.mdtravelhealth.com/destinations/europe/bosnia\\_herzegovina.html](http://www.mdtravelhealth.com/destinations/europe/bosnia_herzegovina.html)

# Education



Primary education in Bosnia lasts for eight years. Secondary education is provided by general and technical secondary schools, where studies last for four years. All forms of secondary schooling include an element of vocational training. Students graduating from general secondary schools obtain the *Matura* and can enroll in any faculty or academy by passing a qualification examination prescribed by the institution. Students graduating in technical subjects obtain a Diploma.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has four major universities in Sarajevo, Mostar, Tuzla and Banja Luka. The war (1992-1995) created an extremely difficult situation for the university system. However, academies were subsequently founded in Zenica and Bihac in 1993, as well as the Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Special Education in Tuzla. At the end of 1995, the Faculty of Machine Engineering was established in Bihac from the former Advanced Technical School. The higher education institutions in Zenica and Bihac were considered integral parts of the University of Sarajevo. The newly-created University of Sarajevo of the Republika Srpska consists of faculties of the universities of Sarajevo, Tuzla and Mostar that dissociated themselves from their former universities. The framework of the higher education system can be found in the 1993 University Act.

As part of the former Yugoslavia, Bosnia enjoyed a highly developed educational system. Two of Bosnia's natives, although educated abroad, were awarded Nobel Prizes: Vladimir Prelog, for chemistry in 1975, and Ivo Andrić, for literature in 1961.

The recent war created a "brain drain" and resulted in many Bosnians working in high-tech, academic and professional occupations in North America, Europe and Australia. This situation is viewed as an economic opportunity for building a vibrant economy in today's Bosnia. However, few members of Bosnia's diaspora are returning to Bosnia and Herzegovina with their experience, Western education and exposure to modern business practices. Most émigrés still lack professional incentives to return to their homeland.

Bosnia's current educational system with seven universities – one in every major city, plus satellite campuses – continues to produce highly educated graduates in math, science and literature. However, the universities have not been modernized in the last 15 years due to war and various political and economic reasons, and as a result they do not meet Western educational standards, which are part of the criteria for EU membership. The need for reform of the current

Bosnian educational system is generally acknowledged, although specific methods for its change still have not been formulated.

**References:**

School Education and Higher Education

<http://www.euroeducation.net/prof/boherco.htm>

<http://www.iowaparents.org/files/bosnia.pdf>

<http://www.euroeducation.net/prof/boherco.htm>

## Bosnian Artists



Visual arts in Bosnia and Herzegovina were always present, from the prehistoric era through original medieval tombstones (stecak) to paintings in the Kotromanić court. However, only with the arrival of the Austro-Hungarians in Bosnia did a real painting renaissance begin. The first artists that were educated in European academies appeared at the beginning of the twentieth century.

**Gabrijel Jurkić** (1886-1974) was a Croatian artist who was born in Livno, now Bosnia and Herzegovina, and died at a monastery nearby. There is a gallery dedicated to his work in Livno, and his pictures are also displayed at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Zagreb. He studied at the Academy of Arts in Vienna. In 1993, he appeared on a postage stamp issued by the Croat administration in Mostar.

**Mersad Berber** (1940-) is a renowned Bosnian painter. Berber was born in Bosanski Petrovac, a town in western Bosnia. By 1963 he was in Ljubljana, completing his painting studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in the class of Maksim Sedej and studying for his M.A. in the graphic arts with Professor Riko Debenjak. Fifteen years later, Berber himself received a teaching position at the Academy of Fine Arts in Sarajevo. Since his first one-man show at the City Gallery of Ljubljana in 1965, the career of this remarkable artist has been on a sharp rise. Nearly 40 years of his artistic activity has been spent as a true *homo universalis*, as he occupied himself with painting, graphic art, tapestry, illustrating and preparing bibliographic editions, graphic and poetic maps. His scenography and costume design have come to life in theatres in Ljubljana, Zagreb, Sarajevo and Washington. In 1984 his work was included in the Tate Gallery collection, and in 1985 Berber finished *Tempo Secondo*, his own animated cartoon. Today Berber, as one of the best-known graphic artists in the world, makes the aesthetic and ethical identity of his homeland known to millions of people.

### References:

<http://www.answers.com/topic/gabrijel-jurki>  
<http://www.mersad-berber.com/eng/home.html>

# Bosnian Architecture

## Medieval Period

During the medieval period, communities were organized so that a few families with common interests would live closely together in a housing cluster. As the community grew, segments of families would collectively move to another area, forming a new cluster or a village. The continuing links between these related clusters stimulated trade and the economy. Individual families lived together in houses known as Dinaric houses. These were simple structures built of natural materials (usually timber and wickerwork). Interior space was organized around the hearth in a central room with separate private quarters for men and women.



The famous Stari Most in Mostar  
(Photo courtesy of Somdeep Sen)

## Ottoman Period

Rivers were an important element of urban life during the Ottoman Period. The *Stari Most* (built in 1566 in Mostar in Herzegovina) was the longest single span arch stone bridge at that time. Architecture was organized around a set of unwritten laws, including human scale, unobstructed views, geometry, open and flexible spaces, simple furniture, and spatial links to nature. It also used local materials and traditional building techniques.

## Austro-Hungarian Period

In the short time that the Austrian Empire ruled Bosnia, it had a great influence on future urban planning and architecture. Some of the changes included new building code regulations such as required building permits, life safety and fire protection requirements, regulated wall thickness and building heights. There were also changes in general design philosophy. At this time, Bosnia was assimilated into European mainstream architecture.

## Communist Period

At the end of World War II, Bosnia and Herzegovina become a republic in the Yugoslav Federation. At this time, Yugoslavia favored industrialization that required an emphasis on development of public housing to serve the migration of population from rural to urban areas. Concrete became a material of choice for construction. There were insufficient amounts of adequate infrastructure, electricity, water and central heating to sustain new public housing developments. This was due in part to poor planning. Poor construction methods and insufficient quality (due to lack of resources) caused unhealthy living environments. All of these issues led to a diminishing of cultural identity in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while draining its natural and human resources. Conversely, there were a few architectural projects that attempted to address issues of cultural diversity. An example are the “Unis” Twin



Momo and  
Uzeir towers

Towers built in Sarajevo in 1986, designed by Ivan Štraus. Among the people of the city, the twin towers are commonly called Momo (Serbian) and Uzeir (Bosnian). There is no consensus among the people of the city on which tower bears the Serbian or Bosnian name. The ambiguity of the names represents cultural unity as its primary architectural quality.



Ferhadija mosque in Banja Luka shortly after destruction in 1993

### **Architecture During and After the Bosnian War**

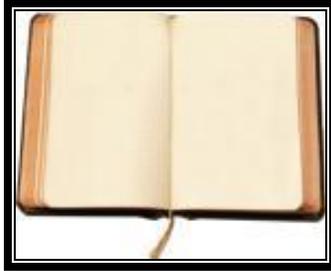
In 1992, the Republika Srpska army attacked Sarajevo and shelled both of the twin towers. During the Bosnian War from 1992-1995, over 2,000 mosques, Islamic and Catholic monasteries, and churches were destroyed. Cultural preservation is under way in Bosnia and Herzegovina and can most notably be seen with the recent reconstruction of *Stari Most* in Mostar, along with many other structures of cultural and historical significance that were damaged or destroyed in the recent war. Other projects remain stifled by political disputes and lack of funds. Sarajevo is one of the cities with the most ongoing construction in southeastern Europe. The Unis Twin Towers have been renovated completely.

### **References:**

<http://research.the-bac.edu/bosnia/side/side-top.htm>

<http://www.answers.com/topic/architecture-of-bosnia-and-herzegovina>

# Bosnian Literature



Bosnia and Herzegovina has a rich literary tradition reaching back nearly to the Middle Ages. Many Bosnian writers have gained international acclaim for their translated literature. One notable Bosnian writer is Ivo Andrić, the Nobel Prize-winning author of *The Bridge Over the Drina* and *Travnik Chronicles*. Branko Ćopić, Mak Dizdar (*The Stone Sleeper*), Isak Samokovlje (*Tales of Old Sarajevo*) and Mesa Selimović (*Death and Dervish*) are a few other well-known Bosnian writers.

Other notable writers include: Miljenko Jergović (*Sarajevo Marlboro*, *Karivani*), Dževad Karahasan (*Sarajevo, Exodus of a City*), Ivan Lovrenović, Predrag Matvejević, Semezdin Mehmedinović (*Sarajevo Blues*), Goran Simić (*Sprinting from the Graveyard*), Jasna Samić (*Pavillion Bosniacque*) and Abdulah Sidran.

## References:

Bosnian Institute

<http://www.bosnia.org.uk/bosnia/literature.cfm>

## Customs

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country of numerous and varied traditions, but most of its people share a somewhat laid-back attitude toward life.

### *Family Names*

The majority of Bosnian family names end in “ić,” which essentially means “child of,” much like the English “John-son.” Women’s first names tend to end in “a” and “ica,” pronounced EET-sa. Family names are often an indication of ethnicity. Sulejmanagic, for example, is a Muslim name, as are others containing such Islamic or Turkish roots as “hadj” or “bey.” Children receive their father’s last name. Someone with an Islamic-sounding root in his or her last name may be presumed to be, at least by heritage, a Muslim.

### *Dining Out*

Coffee drinking is generally perceived as an everyday social event rather than an individual habit. At restaurants or bars in Bosnia and Herzegovina, people rarely ask for separate checks. Sharing a bill is more likely to happen among youth. The most common way to pay is for each person to buy a round of drinks.

### *At Home*

When invited to someone’s house for the first time or for a celebration, a box of candy or a bottle of wine are traditional host gifts. However, if the hosts are Muslim Bosniaks, it is probably best not to bring wine, but rather candy and flowers.

It is customary to remove one’s shoes before entering a house. This tradition stems from the time of Ottoman rule. In addition to being a common practice, it is also very practical in order to keep homes clean, as streets are often muddy or dirty. When visiting a Bosnian home, it is a good idea to wear shoes that may be easily removed and socks free from holes.

### *Bosnian Proverbs*

- He who is late may gnaw the bones.
- A good rest is half the work.
- Complain to one who can help you.
- He who lies for you will lie against you.
- You can make a peasant drunk on a glass of water and a gypsy violin.
- A brave man seldom is hurt in the back.
- The eyes of all cheats are full of tears.
- When an ant gets wings, it loses its head.
- Two things rule the world – reward and punishment.
- Why would you use poison if you can kill with honey?

### ***Traditional Dress***

For centuries, Bosnia was well-known for having a wide variety of folk costumes. Today, these outfits serve as stage costumes rather than street wear. Traditionally, older men wore breeches, a cummerbund, a striped shirt, a vest, and even a fez, a hat that was usually red. These garments were often colorful and richly embroidered. The typical women's costume was a fine linen blouse embroidered with floral or folk motifs, worn under a vest called a jelek that was cut low under the breast and made of velvet, embroidered with silver or gold thread. A colorful skirt was covered by an apron and worn on top of a white linen petticoat that showed beneath the skirt. The baggy trousers worn by women, called *dimije*, spread to all three ethnic groups as a folk costume, though each group wore different colors as specified by the Ottoman Empire. *Dimije* were rare on the streets of cities before World War II, but they were common in rural districts and among the older women within the cities. Traditional lore dictated that you could tell how high in the mountains a woman's village was by how high on the ankles she tied her *dimije* to keep the hems out of the snow.

Muslim women of Bosnia have not traditionally worn the *chador*, or *burqa* (a garment that covers women from head to toe), which is familiar in most other Muslim countries. Bosnian Muslim women instead wear headscarves and raincoats as substitutes for the *chador*, particularly on religious holidays.

### ***Holidays***



In addition to universal (or American) holidays, Bosnian Americans observe their individual religions' holidays. The Serbian Orthodox Church uses the Julian calendar, which is 13 days behind the Gregorian one commonly used in the West. Serb Bosnian Americans follow this calendar for holidays. For example, Orthodox Christmas falls on January 7 rather than December 25. Eastern Orthodox Christian families also celebrate the Slava, or Saint's Name Day, of the family. Muslim Bosnian Americans follow the Islamic holidays and calendar, including Ramadan, the month of ritual fasting. At the end of Ramadan, a period called Bajram, they exchange visits and small gifts over three days. Croat Bosnian Americans observe Catholic holidays.

### **References:**

Holidays, Traditional Dress, Family Names:

<http://www.everyculture.com/multi/A-Br/Bosnian-Americans.html>

Proverbs:

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<http://creativeproverbs.com/bk01.htm>

<http://members.virtualtourist.com/m/26956/17c/a/>

At Home, Dining Out:

<http://www.globaljournalist.org/magazine/2005-3/beat-memo.html>

## Bosnian Fairytales

(taken from *Tales From the Heart of the Balkans*; retold by Bonnie C. Marshall and edited by Vasa D. Mihailovich; 2001: Libraries Unlimited Inc., Englewood, CO)

### *The Ox and the Mouse*



An ox was lying in the stable chewing his cud when a little mouse came out of the wall and began strutting and jumping with a carefree air on the ox's back. The ox heard the commotion and gave the mouse a dirty look.



"Isn't there enough space in this stable?" he asked. "Why do you have to play on my back? Perhaps you don't know who I am."

"Oh, yes, I know who you are," said the mouse. "You're an ox. You are big and strong, but good and kind. If I walk on your back, it won't do you any harm. And, besides, I like your soft, warm fur." The mouse gave a little leap of joy and slid all the way down the ox's furry back.

"Just because I'm good and kind doesn't mean I'll stand for any old mouse to strut and jump on my kindness. Now scam, pest! I have only to flick my tail to toss you up to the top of the stable and through the roof."

"Please don't do that, Mr. Ox. I know that you could do it if you wanted. But since you are good and kind to everyone else, be kind to me, too. Maybe time will come when I can be of use to you."

"Thousands of nincompoops like you can neither harm nor help me. I'm neither afraid of you, nor do I expect that the likes of you will ever be of any help to me. Get out of here before I smash you!" bellowed the ox.

The mouse quickly jumped off the ox's back and crawled into a hole in the wall.

Several days later, the same ox was in the stable tied to a post near the manger. Somehow he had managed to wrap the rope around his neck. The tangled rope was choking him. He began jumping up and down in pain and breathing through his nostrils so heavily and raspily that the mouse heard the commotion. She came running.

"What's happened to you?" she asked.

"Something terrible. As you see, I'm strangling myself."

"Butt with your horns and tear the rope off."

“I would if the rope wasn’t around my neck. Please help me. If you don’t I’m sure to die.”

“I would like to help you, but I don’t dare jump onto your neck. Remember what you told me a few days ago?”

“Never mind that now. You can jump on my neck and even on my eyes, but please help me.”

The mouse jumped onto the ox’s neck and worked with all her might. Little by little she gnawed the rope until it broke and was just barely able to save the ox’s life.

When the ox caught his breath, he was sorry that he had spoken harshly to the little mouse. He was ashamed of himself for having made fun of the possibility that someday the mouse might help him.

“Anyone who abuses his power by hurting someone, as I did, deserves to be hated,” he said, “but please don’t hate me, little mouse. Forgive me for being so mean to you, and let’s be friends.”

From that day on, the ox and the mouse were the dearest of friends.

## *Bey Zlatum*

Once upon a time there was a poor man who had neither house nor property. He expected death to come any day, and he was just barely able to exist living beneath two planks of wood thrown together at the side of the road.

He had a shed in which he stored some meal in a secret place. As luck would have it, a fox began visiting his shed. She visited his meal bin every day until one day he caught sight of her and began lying in wait to see if he could catch her with his bare hands. He was so poor that he was unable to buy a gun or even a lock for his door to keep the fox out.

Day after day went by, but the fox always got away. The poor man was not able to get close enough to the fox to lay a hand on her.

Watching her attack his supply of meal, which decreased each night, he finally determined to find a way to make a lock for the door. Before he had to go to all that trouble, however, his luck changed.

One morning when he got out of bed, the fox was strolling leisurely around his storage shed, and he had an opportunity to catch her. This time the fox did not notice his presence. The poor man went inside and grabbed her.

He carried the fox outside and tied her up. Then he went to get a stick because he did not have an ax. He wanted to kill her so that she would never be able to return to steal his meal again.

When fox saw that she was about to lose her life, she began to beg. "Please let me go! If you do, I'll see to it that you marry the tsar's daughter."

The man felt sorry for the fox. His idea to kill her had seemed foolish from the beginning, but he was driven to such a desperate act because she had intended to cheat him out of all his meal.

If I kill her, it will be of no benefit to me, he thought to himself. But if I let her go, she'll have learned a lesson. She won't dare come here again. I think I'll let her go.

He untied her. As soon as she was free, the fox lit out for the woods.

"Where are you going, fox?" the poor man asked, noting that she seemed to have no intention of thanking him.

She turned to him. "I'm going to the tsar to ask for the hand of his daughter the tsarevna, in marriage for you."

"Never mind, Auntie Fox," he said. "Even if you could manage to get the tsar to agree to it, I don't have a decent home to bring the tsarevna to."

The fox waved her tail and said, “That’s not your worry.” Then she ran off into the forest.

She set out for the tsar’s palace and arrived there safely. Once there, she greeted the first guard she met. “May God help us!” she said to him.

“God be with you, Auntie Fox,” the guard replied.

“May I see the honorable tsar?” she asked.

“Wait here, Auntie Fox, and I’ll ask.”

The guard went to the tsar and told him that the fox had come on business and that she had asked if she could see the tsar about a very important matter.

The tsar said that he would grant her an audience, so the guard told Auntie Fox that she could go in to see the tsar.

Auntie immediately went before the tsar and said, “May God help us, honorable tsar!”

“God be with you, Auntie Fox,” answered the tsar. “What misfortune brings you to me?”

“Honorable tsar, it’s not a question of misfortune. I have something to tell you, if you will allow me.”

“You know, Auntie, that one may speak freely before my throne and ask for anything,” answered the tsar. “So, if you have something to say, speak up.”

The fox needed no more encouragement. She was eager to speak as a bully is to quarrel.

“Honorable tsar,” she began, “I have heard that you have a daughter whose beauty is rumored about the world. I have a young man by the name of Bey Zlatum. He is a fine, rich gentleman. Everyone says so. He’s 109 times better looking than your daughter. I’m telling you the truth. Now, I ask you, do you want to give your daughter in marriage to my Bey Zlatum?”

“How can I give her when I don’t know if the girl is in agreement?” the tsar answered. “I won’t give her against her will because, after all, she is my daughter, and I love her.”

“Let me ask her,” said Auntie Fox. “We’ll see what she has to say.”

The tsar ordered his daughter to come to the throne room. As soon as she appeared, the tsar told her everything. Then he said, “My dear child, if you wish to marry Bey Zlatum, just say so. If you don’t want to marry him, tell Auntie Fox, and she’ll go away.”

The tsar’s daughter listened, then lowered her eyes and was silent.

The fox started to run out the door, acting as if she was leaving because of a terrible insult. “I swear on my favorite chicken coop,” she said, “that my Bey Zlatum is 109 times better looking than you and 10 times richer than your father. Don’t give it another thought. Just give your promise, and you won’t regret it.”

When the beautiful tsarevna saw that her father was not against it, she gave her promise. Then she went out into the garden to take a stroll while she made plans for the wedding.

The tsar turned to Auntie Fox. “Look, Auntie Fox, you heard what she said. Now you have only to take her to Bey Zlatum’s mansion. But don’t come to get her until half a year has passed. She won’t be ready sooner, because everyone in the palace will be busy sewing a splendid wardrobe for her and preparing for the wedding day. Don’t bring less than 500 guests to the wedding. The more the merrier.”

As soon as the fox heard the tsar’s words, she left and hurried back to her Bey Zlatum.

When she arrived, Bey Zlatum was very happy because he did not think he would ever see Auntie Fox again. But he was worried when she told him that she had asked for the hand of the tsar’s daughter in marriage, and that after half a year had passed, he and 500 wedding guests were to fetch the tsarevna and bring her to his humble home.

“What will we do, Auntie?” Bey Zlatum asked. “God is our only hope. As you see, I don’t have a thing to my name, much less am I able to meet royalty and bring the tsar’s daughter home.”

“Don’t worry about anything,” answered Auntie Fox. “I’ll arrange it all.”

Day after day passed. As the time when they would have to go to the tsar’s palace drew near, Auntie Fox did not even think about the wedding procession, but her Bey Zlatum racked his brains trying to think of a solution to their dilemma.

When the appointed day came, Auntie Fox said, “Let’s go, Bey Zlatum!”

“Where are our guests? Where is my wedding robe?” he asked.

“Don’t worry about it,” replied Auntie Fox. “Just follow me.”

Bey Zlatum, already knowing what would come of it, took his fate into his hands and followed Auntie Fox.

As they approached the tsar’s palace, Bey Zlatum again asked, “For goodness sake, what will we do, Auntie?”

Once again Auntie Fox answered, “Don’t worry about anything.”

Not far from the tsar's palace, they came upon a mud puddle. As soon as Auntie Fox caught sight of the puddle, she began to roll in it. She told Bey Zlatum to do the same. Because he had obeyed Auntie in everything else so far, he obeyed her in this, too, and he began rolling in the mud.

If only you had seen what they looked like when they came out of the mud! Auntie Fox could barely drag her mud-caked tail, and Bey Zlatum kept breaking clumps of soil off his body to make it easier to move as he walked down the road. Finally, they arrived at the tsar's palace.

Auntie Fox went up to the guards, for she had learned long ago that one must always walk through the main entrance. She ordered them to ask the tsar if Auntie Fox and Bey Zlatum might come before him.

The guards went to their commander and requested that he send the fastest among them to the tsar to ask about Auntie's business, because Auntie Fox wanted to finish it up as soon as possible.

The commander, when he heard that Auntie Fox was in a hurry, summoned his grandfather from guard duty and commanded him to run quickly to the tsar on Auntie Fox's behalf. Leaning on his crutch, the old man hobbled off to the tsar as fast as he could crawl.

"Honorable tsar," he said. "Auntie Fox has come with Bey Zlatum, and she wishes to ask if she might come before you."

"Let her come in," the tsar said.

After what seemed to be an eternity, the old man hobbled back and told the fox that she could go in to the tsar. Auntie Fox took her Bey Zlatum by the hand and began to speak to the tsar. "May God help us, tsar!"

"God be with you, Auntie," the tsar replied.

"Well, here I am," said the fox. "I've come as I promised."

"And where is your Bey Zlatum?" asked the tsar.

"Here he is, beside me," answered the fox.

"Why are you so dirty?" asked the tsar when he saw how muddy they were.

"Don't even ask us, your majesty" the fox exclaimed. "We had an accident on the way. We came to a bridge, and to our misfortune the bridge broke. Bey Zlatum and I and the rest of our guests fell into the water below. Everyone drowned, except Bey Zlatum and myself. We were able to dig ourselves out of the mud. You can see how muddy we are. If you have a robe, please loan it to Bey Zlatum because he doesn't have a robe to change into, and it's a disgrace that he should go about looking so dirty."

“Don’t worry, Auntie. Everything will be taken care of,” the tsar answered. He ordered his servants to bring his nicest robe, and they changed Bey Zlatum’s old, tattered robe for the new one.

Then Auntie Fox said, “As you see, honorable tsar, we encountered terrible trouble and all the wedding guests have perished. It would not be proper now for us to return home to gather guests again because Bey Zlatum’s people are in mourning over their loved ones lost during the collapse of the bridge. For that reason, we ask that you provide us with 500 guests and whatever we need for the road.”

“I will, my dear children,” the tsar said, “because such an accident could happen to anyone, even to me. Don’t worry about anything.”

The tsar called his servants together and ordered them to invite all the lords of the land to be guests at the wedding.

Supper drew near, and the tsar and Bey Zlatum dined. Auntie Fox remained in the kitchen on the hearth picking over chicken bones.

After supper, Bey Zlatum went to his room to sleep and Auntie Fox went with him. Bey Zlatum lay in bed on a mattress and Auntie lay behind the stove.

The next day when the tsar and all his servants got up, Bey Zlatum rose from his bed and got dressed. He shouted to Auntie Fox to get up.

When dinnertime came, all the guests who were to be part of the wedding procession assembled. They dined with the tsar and Bey Zlatum. Halfway through the meal, the tsar called his daughter.

“Here is your spouse, my dear daughter,” he said. “May you be happy forever, until the day you die. I give her to you, Bey Zlatum, my son-in-law. She is my only child. I wouldn’t give her to anyone else but you. Take good care of her, and be happy with her.”

“Well said!” a guest exclaimed in agreement.

When dinner was over, they began firing cannons, as is the custom during Bosnian weddings. The wedding guests sang merrily, but fear curled like a serpent around Bey Zlatum’s heart. What would happen to him? He had no beautiful mansion to bring the guests to.

Whenever he was alone with Auntie Fox, he put on a worried look and said, “What will happen to me now for goodness sake?”

“Don’t be afraid,” she kept reassuring him.

All of the guests sat in carriages by twos and threes. In one carriage sat the tsarevna and her maid of honor, and in another sat Bey Zlatum and Auntie Fox. While they were traveling, Bey Zlatum

squirmed and fidgeted about the coach like a devil on a tree stump. Auntie Fox consoled him and tried to quiet him down, telling him he had nothing to fear.

When they had covered half the distance, Auntie Fox said to Bey Zlatum, "I'm taking a shortcut across the field. You go straight ahead, but don't go to your cottage. When you are near it, listen for my bark. Ride with your guests in the direction my bark is coming from."

As soon as Auntie had jumped out of the coach, she whisked into the forest.

In a short while, she came to a palace that belonged to two cruel giants. There were hardly any people left alive in the land because the giants had killed off almost everyone.

The giants came out to greet the fox. "What's roaring down the road like thunder?" they asked.

"My dear brother, the people of the world are coming to our palace to kill you," Auntie Fox replied. "I've come to warn you that you'll lose your heads if you wait here for them."

"Tell us quickly, you mangy fox, how we can escape," the giants bellowed rudely. "Advise us right now, or we'll make a fur collar out of you."

"Crawl under that pile of straw," said Auntie Fox.

They did as she said. After they had settled into the straw and quieted down, Auntie set the straw afire so that the two wicked giants perished. Auntie Fox was very happy, for she had rid the world of two terrible monsters, and she had freed the people of the land from the reign of terror.

Meanwhile, Bey Zlatum was thinking all sorts of things. "What a fool I am for staying alone like this. I think I'll run away, too." He kept talking to himself in this manner until he was near his own dilapidated cottage.

Here, he began listening. He heard Auntie barking in the forest far away, and he set out in the direction her voice was coming from.

When he got to her, he could not believe his eyes. A wonderful palace with marble pillars rose into the clouds. The wedding guests marveled at its beauty. Bey Zlatum, more than anyone else, wondered whose beautiful palace it was. If only I owned this magnificent dwelling, he said to himself, I wouldn't be ashamed to receive guests in it.

They stopped in the courtyard. Auntie Fox came out and said, "Well, at last you've arrived. Get out of the carriage."

Thinking that the owner of the palace would notice them, Bey Zlatum grew numb with fear and trembled like a leaf. But the palace was empty.

A little later, Auntie Fox told him the whole story in private. He was so delighted he could hardly contain himself.

Supper was prepared. The food was so abundant that no one went hungry. The guests enjoyed themselves, proposing toasts to each other and rejoicing in the good fortune of the tsar's daughter, for no one had dared to hope that Bey Zlatum would be so very rich.

The guests were entertained for three weeks, as was the custom. When the fourth week drew near, the guests went home, singing merrily and firing shots into the air.

When they reached the tsar's palace, they told the tsar that Bey Zlatum was a good husband, a good host, and a very rich man. The tsar was delighted to hear the good news.

Bey Zlatum was very happy in his palace with his darling bride. If he is still alive, you can be certain he is enjoying himself to this very day.

# Food

## Ajvar – A kind of relish



### *Ingredients*

2 large eggplants  
6 large red sweet peppers  
Salt and pepper  
1 garlic clove, minced  
1 lemon, juiced  
1/2 cup olive oil  
Parsley, minced

### *Instructions*

- Bake eggplants and sweet peppers at 350°F until tender when pierced with a fork.
- Peel skin from hot vegetables and chop or mince the vegetables.
- Season to taste with salt and pepper and stir in the garlic and lemon juice.
- Gradually stir in as much of the oil as the vegetables will absorb.
- Mix well.
- Pile into a glass dish and sprinkle with parsley.

## Sogan Dolma - Stuffed Onions



### *Ingredients*

21-28 oz onions (medium size bulbs)  
7 oz apple vinegar  
1 small onion  
18 oz stuffing: 1/3 each cooked brown rice, okra and ground carrots (and/or other root vegetables)  
Sea salt  
Ground ginger  
Natural oil, tamari soy sauce or miso

### *Instructions*

- Peel onions, cook in a little water with salt and vinegar.
- When tender, place in cold water.
- Press out with thumbs the inner parts of the bulbs, leaving an empty external shell about 1 cm thick.
- Chop finely the 1 small onion.
- Mix with rice, okra and carrots; season with a little salt and ground ginger; and stuff the onion shells.
- Grease a casserole dish with oil, and place the stuffed onions inside.
- Pour in some warm water and tamari or diluted miso.
- Cover and cook until tender.

### **Bosanski Lonac - Bosnian Pot**



### *Ingredients*

3 lbs lamb or beef, cut into cubes  
1 cup finely chopped onion  
1 tbsp finely chopped garlic  
1 cup finely chopped parsley  
1/4 cup finely chopped celery leaves  
1 tbsp salt  
2 tsp pepper  
3 bay leaves  
1/2 cup butter  
1 cup sliced carrots  
1 cup chopped kohlrabi  
1/2 cup chopped parsley root  
1/2 cup chopped celery root  
1 cup green beans, cut into 1" pieces  
2 red bell peppers, seeded and cut into squares  
2 cups tomatoes, peeled, seeded and quartered  
3 cups potatoes, cut into cubes  
2 leeks, cleaned and cut into 1/2" slices  
1 cup coarsely chopped cabbage  
1/2 tsp hot paprika or cayenne, or to taste  
6 cups water  
1/4 cup vinegar

### *Instructions*

- Preheat the oven to 350°F
- Rinse the meat and put in a sieve to drain.

- Combine the onion, garlic, parsley, celery leaves, salt, pepper, and bay leaves.
- Melt the butter in a large, oven-proof stew pot, then put in alternate layers of vegetables and meat, sprinkling some of the onion/garlic/parsley combination on top of each layer.
- Combine the water and vinegar, and pour it into the pot.
- Cover the pot with a lid or aluminum foil, and bake until everything is tender, about 3 hours.

**Pita:**



There are several kinds of pita depending on which filling you choose:

**Burek - Meat Filling**

In large bowl, combine:

- 1 lb meat, ground
- 1 onion, finely diced
- 1 potato, grated
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 1/3 cup warm water
- 1 1/2 tsp salt

**Sirnica - Cheese Filling**

In large bowl, combine:

- 16 oz cottage cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup flour
- Salt

**Zeljanica - Spinach and Cheese Filling**

In large bowl, combine:

- 6 cups fresh spinach, chopped, OR a 10-oz package of frozen spinach
- Sprinkle with salt.
- Squeeze out all water and add to the cheese filling (above).

**Krompirusa - Potato Filling**

In large bowl, combine:

- 3 large potatoes, grated
- 1 small onion, grated
- 1 small carrot, grated (optional)

1 tbsp salt

*Instructions*

- Have ready 12 phyllo pastry sheets, thawed (about an 8 oz package of frozen phyllo dough).
- Place one sheet of phyllo dough on a kitchen towel and spread a little oil on it.
- Spoon the filling onto the long edge of the dough, in a long row, about 1 inch wide and about 2 inches from the edge of the dough.
- Roll the dough into a thin tube, starting at the long edge with the filling.
- Coil the tube into a spiral (like a cinnamon roll).
- Place on a greased 9x13" pan or cookie sheet, and brush the top with a bit of oil. (Repeat procedure until you have used all the filling.)
- Bake about 30 minutes in preheated 350°F oven (180°C) until golden brown in color.
- Brush with butter.
- Serve with plain yogurt.

**Ćevapi - Grilled rolls of minced beef, pork and lamb**



*Ingredients*

5 oz lean beef, minced  
4 oz lean lamb, minced  
18 oz lean pork, minced  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
2 oz onion, minced  
4 tsp water  
Hot chili to taste (optional)  
Pepper to taste  
Salt to taste  
1/4 tsp baking soda

*Instructions*

- Combine well all ingredients for Ćevapi. Refrigerate mixture overnight.
- Using hands, shape the Ćevapi mixture into uniform rolls.
- Cook the Ćevapi on a hot, lightly oiled barbecue grill or frying pan for 6-10 minutes, turning frequently.
- Ćevapi can be served on its own or between slices of *lepinja* bread.

## Tufahije - Nut Filled Apples



### *Ingredients*

6 apples  
2 cups water  
1 tsp lemon juice  
14 oz granulated sugar  
4 oz ground walnuts  
2 oz ground hazelnuts  
Lemon zest  
10 g cinnamon-sugar  
1 tsp milk

### *Garnish (optional)*

Whipped cream  
6 candied cherries

### *Instructions*

- Peel and core apples.
- Cook apples in water, lemon juice, and sugar until they become tender but still firm, for about 15 minutes.
- Carefully take out apples and leave them to cool. Reserve syrup.
- Mix ground walnuts, ground hazelnuts, lemon zest and cinnamon-sugar with milk.
- Fill cooled apples with this mixture.
- Pour syrup over them and garnish with whipped cream and candied cherries.
- Serve in dessert cups. (Makes 6 servings.)

### **References:**

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[http://www.superluminal.com/cookbook/substantial\\_bosnian\\_pot.html](http://www.superluminal.com/cookbook/substantial_bosnian_pot.html)

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<http://www.angelfire.com/sd/jandk/Pita.htm>

Ćevapi

[http://www.ezycook.com/europe\\_favorite.html](http://www.ezycook.com/europe_favorite.html)

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<http://www.dianasdesserts.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/recipes.recipeListing/filter/guests/recipeID/2763/Recipe.cfm>

## **Additional Resources**

CIA – The World Factbook: Bosnia and Herzegovina

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

Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Washington DC

<http://www.bhembassy.org/>

US Department of State: Bosnia and Herzegovina

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2868.htm>

Bosnia Maps – Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/bosnia.html>

Info Please: Bosnia and Herzegovina

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107349.html>

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<http://www.everyculture.com/Bo-Co/Bosnia-and-Herzegovina.html>

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<http://www.bhtourism.ba/eng/>

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<http://www.kakarigi.net/manu/briefhis.htm>

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[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1070.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1070.html)

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<http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/bosnia.htm>