

Croatia: A Curriculum Guide for Secondary School Teachers



Created by the **Center for Russian and East European Studies**
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Jeanette A. Hahn, Dubrovnik, 2004

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Introduction

Croatia: A Curriculum Guide for Secondary School Teachers was created to provide information on the historical and contemporary development of the Croatian 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). 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 Croatian culture.
- A description of the effects of political, economic and cultural changes and how these changes shaped the present Croatia.
- Identification and explanation of the contributions of key historical individuals and groups in politics, science, the arts, and religion in Croatia.
- Examination of the changing economic and political system of Croatia, and how these changes have affected Croatian society.

These and other areas of Croatian 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 Croatia 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 Croatia 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 Croatia that are 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 69 faculty members affiliated with REES are based in 14 arts and sciences departments and five 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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Part 1. Background & People

Croatia in a Nutshell



- Location:** Southeastern Europe, between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia
- Size:** Slightly smaller than West Virginia
- Bordering Countries:** Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia
- Climate:** Hot summers and cold winters; mild winters and dry summers along coast
- Population:** 4,495,904
- Birth Rate:** 9.57 births/1,000 population
- Death Rate:** 11.38 deaths/1,000 population
- Life Expectancy:** Total Population: 74.5 years
Male: 70.8 years
Female: 78.31 years
- Nationality:** Noun: Croat or Croatian
Adjective: Croatian
- Ethnic Groups:** 89.6% Croatian, 4.5% Serb, 5.9% other (including Bosnian, Hungarian, Slovene, and Roma)

Religions:	Roman Catholic 87.8%, Orthodox 4.4%, other Christian 0.4%, Muslim 1.3%, other and unspecified 0.9%, none 5.2%
Languages:	Croatian 96.1%, Serbian 1%, other and undesignated 2.9% (including Italian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, and German)
Government:	Presidential/parliamentary democracy
Capital:	Zagreb
Independence:	June 25, 1991
Constitution:	Adopted December 22, 1990; revised 2000, 2001
Agriculture:	Wheat, corn, sugar beets, sunflower seed, barley, alfalfa, clover, olives, grapes, soybeans, potatoes, dairy products
Industries:	Chemicals and plastics, machine tools, fabricated metal, electronics, pig iron and rolled steel products, aluminum, paper, wood products, construction materials, textiles, shipbuilding, petroleum and petroleum refining, food and beverages, tourism
Exports:	\$10.3 billion
Imports:	\$18.93 billion
Export Partners:	Italy 23%, Bosnia and Herzegovina 13.4%, Germany 11.4%, Austria 9.6%, Slovenia 7.6%
Import Partners:	Italy 17.1%, Germany 15.5%, Russia 7.3%, Slovenia 7.1%, Austria 6.9%, France 4.4%
Currency:	Kuna
Exchange Rate:	5.92 kuna per US dollar

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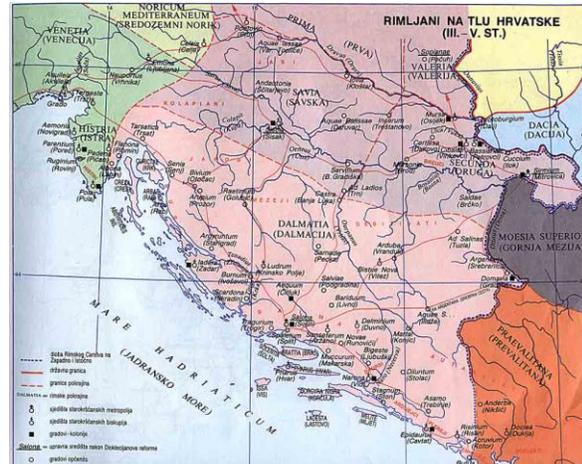
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History

Origins

There are two main theories concerning the origins of the Croats. Most historians believe that early Croats migrated from the northeast region, which is now Ukraine. However, a new emerging theory is that Croats were originally nomadic Sarmatians, who came from present-day Iran. The Sarmatians conquered a number of Slavic tribes in Poland. It is believed that some tribes of Sarmatians eventually adopted the Slavic language of these local tribes and took on the tribal name “Croat”.



Under the direction of the Byzantine Empire, the Croats drove out the Avars, a Eurasian nomadic people, and Slavic tribes from the region. The Croats settled Dalmatia, the region along the Adriatic coastline, as well as neighboring lands by the early 7th century. The Croats were ruled by the Byzantine Empire in the 8th century.

Early History

The first native ruler of Croatia was duke Branimir in 879. In 924, Croatia became independent under King Tomislav. However, by the 11th century the Hungarian ruler Coloman ruled over both Croatia and Hungary. The Hungarian government introduced feudalism. In 1409, part of Dalmatia (a Dalmatian city is pictured to the right) was sold to Venice. By the 1500s, the Ottoman Empire grew in power and took over much of Croatia's land. Eventually, Austrian forces drove out the Ottomans.



Croatia supported Austrian Empress Maria Theresa in the War of Austrian Succession. In the early 1800s, the Habsburgs took control of Dalmatia from the fallen Venice. Hungary took control of Croatia and Slavonia. In 1868, Croatia gained autonomy at the cost of giving much land to Hungary.

leadership of the Cominform. Consequently, Stalin expelled Yugoslavia from the Cominform. Stalin launched anti-Tito purges in an attempt to punish those who supported Tito in Moscow. Tito's form of communism became popularly called Titoism.

Titoism did depart ideologically from Stalinism in 1950. Yugoslavia's National Assembly passed a bill written by Tito and Milovan Djilas, a leading theorist who would eventually become a dissident toward Tito's government. The bill implemented a kind of profit-sharing for workers of state-run enterprises. This was a great disparity with Stalin's form of communism, and it became known as market socialism. Tito became president of Yugoslavia in 1953.

In 1961, Tito co-founded the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) with other leaders from India and Egypt. NAM was an organization of countries that wished to obtain independence from the influence of the western and eastern superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. Belgrade hosted the first NAM Summit.

Tito was given credit by the West for maintaining peace among the various ethnic groups in Yugoslavia. Despite the image of unity, however, Croats and Serbs still battled over power. The Serbs dominated control of the government. In Croatia, nationalist sentiments grew popular, resulting in widespread discrimination against Serbs and promotion of the Croatian language as being separate and superior to Serbian. In 1970, students in Zagreb led a revolt called the Croatian Spring demanding greater Croat autonomy. One of the key organizers of the Spring was Franjo Tudjman, who later would become the leader of independent Croatia. In 1974, Tito was appointed President for life of Yugoslavia under the new constitution. He tightened control of the media and arrested professors and journalists who opposed the government. In 1980, Tito became ill, and he died shortly afterward at the age of 88.

Aftermath of Communism: Ethnic Tensions

Once Tito died, the false sense of the unity of Yugoslavia quickly dissipated. In 1990, Franjo Tudjman was elected president of Croatia in the country's first democratic elections. Tudjman's political platform embraced ultra-nationalism in direct opposition to Slobodan Milošević, the Serbian nationalist leader who carried out ethnic cleansing against Bosnians, Kosovar Albanians, and Croats. Milošević authored the military siege of Sarajevo, resulting in the murder of Bosnian civilians. The Serbian military was also responsible for large-scale civilian deaths in Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo.

In 1991, Croatia held a referendum to form an independent state separate from Yugoslavia. Over 90% voted for the formation of a separate Croatian state.



Just as hungry for a homogeneous state as Milošević, Tudjman managed to avoid the Western spotlight on his human rights abuses. Tudjman was able to appeal to the West by asserting his devotion to building a democratic state. However, Tudjman suppressed the Croatian media and rigged elections.

Tudjman battled for control over the Serb Krajina, a region within Croatia that at one point had a Serb majority. Serbs and Croats had contested the area for decades. In 1993, Tudjman authorized the Croatian army to enter the region and carry out killings of Serbian civilians. Serbs were buried alive, disfigured and castrated by the Croatian military. Tudjman also did not support a separate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and saw the state as part of Croatia. The Croatian government authorized the massacre of over 100 Bosnian Croats in the small town of Ahmici. The Croatian government is also believed to have endorsed the atrocities committed by Croat militant groups in Mostar, Herzegovina.

Tudjman was heavily influenced by the United States to sign the Dayton Peace Accord in 1995, which established the peace and autonomy of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Tudjman died in 1999. If he had lived, Tudjman would have been indicted for war crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). New elections resulted in more moderate leadership, with Stjepan Mesić as president and Ivo Račan as prime minister. Most recently, Ivo Sanader, a reformist, was elected as prime minister. The European Union gave Croatia applicant status in 2004. The country is expected to become a member between 2008 and 2010.

One impending problem that the country faces is its cooperation with the ICTY. Croatia has failed to be fully cooperative in turning over war criminals from the Bosnian and Serbian conflicts. Such war criminals include a number of Croat army generals indicted for crimes against humanity and violations of the customs of war. The picture to the right shows Serbian civilians in the town of Gospic who were killed by Croat forces. The current government of Croatia has promised to comply with the ICTY.



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<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3166.htm>

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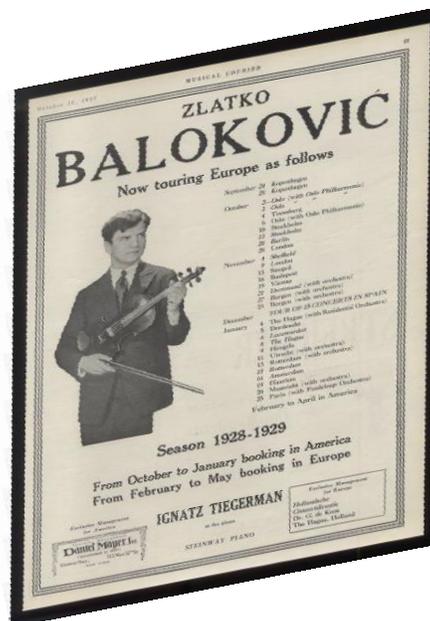
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Famous People

Ivo Andrić (1892-1975) Nobel Prize winner in Literature. He was a supporter of one Yugoslavia and wrote in both Serbian and Croatian. He wrote mostly fiction. His writings usually focused on the everyday lives of Yugoslavians. His most famous novels are *Bridge on the Drina* and *Bosnian Chronicle*.



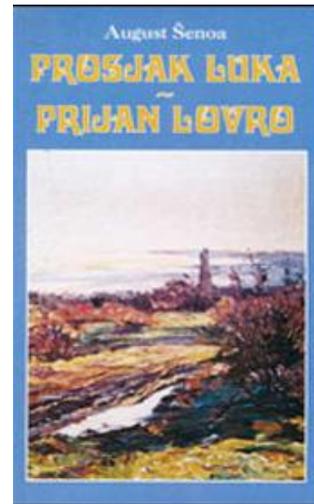
Zlatko Baloković (1895-1965) Croatian violinist. He began taking violin lessons at age 10. He studied in Prague. In 1913, he was invited to play with the Moscow Philharmonic. He later toured in Berlin, Vienna, and Genoa. During World War II, he moved his family to the United States. He was very active in politics and supported the communist resistance. He raised money and political support while in the United States for the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief. He eventually returned to Yugoslavia and had many close friends in the communist government, including Tito.



Boris Martinović (b. ~1954--) Opera singer who received international attention when he first studied at Julliard. He performed at the Metropolitan Opera and Carnegie Hall in the late 1970s. He sang with the Cincinnati Opera, New York City Opera, and Baltimore Opera. He later appeared in operas in Trieste, Rome, and Milan. He continues to perform throughout the world today.



August Senoa (1838-1881) Croatian novelist and poet born in Zagreb. Considered “the father of the Croatian novel.” His works include *Goldsmith’s Gold* and *Peasant’s Revolt*. Both captured the everyday life of peasants, as well as the struggle of Croats against foreign rule. Senoa is credited with introducing the historical narrative in Croatia.



Charles Billich (b. 1934--) Painter born in Lovron, Croatia. He studied dance in Rijeka, a Croatian city on the Adriatic Sea. While a student, he wrote and illustrated satirical articles for an Italian newspaper. His work criticized the communist government. He was imprisoned and sent to a political gulag, or Soviet-style labor camp, in Slovenia. While in prison, he learned about art through his interactions with other prisoners. Though sentenced to ten years’ imprisonment, he was released after two years. He obtained political asylum in Austria and studied art. He moved to Australia within a few years. He struggled for many years as an artist, but eventually achieved worldwide fame for his work. His



paintings were featured in the Vatican Collection. His work is also found in museums in France, Japan, Italy and the United States. In 2000, he received the Sport Artist of the Year Award. He served as the official artist of the Olympic Games. He will be the official sports artist of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. For the 2008 games, Billich created a series of paintings called Bing Ma Yong, which depict ancient Chinese warriors as modern Olympians.

Marco Polo (1254-1324) A Venetian trader and explorer born in present-day Korcula, Croatia. He was one of the first Westerners to travel to the Far East. His explorations led him to China where he is believed to have met Kublai Khan, the great Mongol leader and grandson of Genghis Khan. This meeting is illustrated to the right. The journeys of Marco Polo were well-documented in *The Travels of Marco Polo*. These writings were an inspiration for other explorers, including Christopher Columbus. Marco captured details of China including the use of paper money, tigers, and the Imperial Postal System.



Ante Pavelić (1889-1959) Founder and leader of the Ustaše Nazi movement. As a young man, he moved to Zagreb to study law. Pavelić became a strong proponent of Croatian independence. He served on the Zagreb City Council. During the dictatorship of Alexander I, Pavelić fled Croatia. He participated in anti-Serb demonstrations in Bulgaria and Macedonia. Consequently, he was condemned to death by the Belgrade government. He founded the Ustaše terrorist organization shortly thereafter. Training camps for the Ustaše were set up in Italy and Hungary. In 1933, the Ustaše forces attempted to invade Croatia, but were unsuccessful. In World War II, Pavelić became leader of the Independent State of Croatia, a puppet Nazi state. Pavelić launched a terror campaign against Serbs, Jews, Gypsies, and communists. After WWII, Pavelić fled to Italy, where he was provided a safe haven. He later went to Argentina and was appointed as a security advisor to Juan Peron. Argentina issued visas for Nazi collaborators and anti-communists. In 1957 Pavelić was shot in an assassination attempt. He moved to Spain, where he died within a couple of years from his injuries.



Josip Broz Tito (1892-1980) Leader of Yugoslavia for nearly half a century. He was born to a Croat father and Slovenian mother. He became a machinist as a young man. He joined the union of metallurgy and the Social-Democratic Party of Croatia and Slovenia. In 1913, he served in the Austro-Hungarian Army. At the beginning of World War I, he was arrested for anti-war propaganda. He was later sent to the Eastern Front to fight the Russians. He was injured in battle and sent to a hospital. The Russians were victorious

and took control of the Galician region where Tito had fought. Tito was sent to a labor camp in the Ural Mountains. He led demonstrations for prisoners of war and was arrested. He escaped and fled to Siberia, where he enlisted in the Red Army. He became a member of the Russian Communist Party in 1918. In 1936, Tito was sent to Yugoslavia to lead the Communist Party. After the war, Tito signed an agreement with the Soviet Union allowing temporary entry of Soviet troops into Yugoslavia. Tito became Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1945. In the late 1940s, Tito criticized Stalin and created a rift between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. He remained as leader of Yugoslavia until 1980, when he died.



Franjo Tudjman (1922-1999) The first president of Croatia after the fall of communism. He was born in northern Croatia. During World War II, he fought for the partisans. He became a general in the Yugoslav People's Army at an impressively young age. In 1961, he left military service and founded the Institute for the History of Croatian's Worker's Movement. Tudjman wrote a number of articles criticizing the Yugoslav communist establishment. As a result, he was expelled from the Communist Party. In 1971, he was sentenced to two years in prison for his participation in the Croatian Spring, a political movement that pushed the communist government for greater civil rights for Croats.

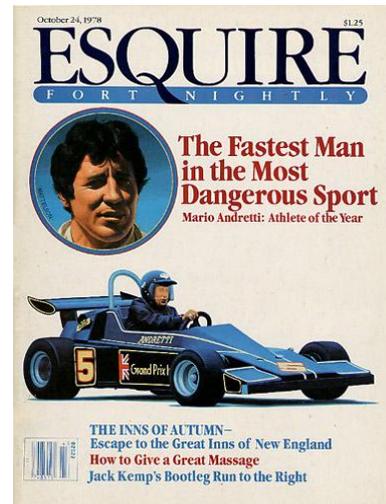


By the 1980s, Tudjman became popular for his Croatian nationalist politics. Tudjman published *The Horrors of War*. This book is very controversial because of its blatant anti-Semitism and gross miscalculation of Serbs killed by the Ustaše. Tudjman designed a national political platform that was rooted in ultra-nationalism. He played a significant role in the creation of the Croatian Democratic Union. Tudjman was elected as President of Croatia. As leader, Tudjman purported to embrace democracy. However, he shut down newspapers and is believed to have defrauded the electoral process. He restored the use of flags used by the Ustaše. He also implemented programs that removed Serbs from

jobs, especially in the public sector. The programs designed against the Serbs were said to be reactive to Serbian leader Slobodan Milošević's equally discriminatory policies.

It is contested which group authorized murdering civilians first. However, it should be noted that both the Serbian and Croatian governments were responsible for brutal atrocities that resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians. Significantly, Tudjman fought against a separate Bosnian state. It is unclear to what extent he supported the violence that ensued in the region, but it is strongly believed that he sent his military to forcefully crush Bosnian efforts for independence. In addition, the Croatian Army was responsible for the deaths of Serbian women and children while fighting against the Serbs in the Republic of Serb Krajina, as well as using torture against the Serbs. Eventually, under pressure from the U.S. and other Western countries, Tudjman signed the Dayton Peace Accord. As part of the terms of the Accord, Bosnia and Herzegovina did receive autonomy from both Croatia and Yugoslavia (now Serbia and Montenegro). Tudjman died in 1999. It is widely speculated that had he lived, he would have been prosecuted as Milošević was for war crimes, including torture and ethnic cleansing.

Mario Andretti (b.1940--) Racecar driver born in Istria, a peninsula on the Adriatic Sea, in present-day Motovin, Croatia. His family fled Yugoslavia in 1948 and moved to the United States. Andretti began racing in 1959. He made his debut in the United States Auto Club (USAC) in 1964. He won the Indianapolis 500 and Daytona 500, among other competitions. He has been considered by the racing community as one of the greatest racers in the history of the sport. He was inducted into the International Motorsports Hall of Fame. In 2006, he was selected by President George W. Bush to serve as a Presidential Delegate for the Olympic Games in Turin.



Mario Ančić (b. 1984--) Professional tennis player born in Split. He began playing tennis at age seven and debuted internationally in the 1999 NEC World Youth Cup and Davis Cup. He first appeared in the Wimbledon finals at age 16. He was a semi-finalist in both the Australian Open and U.S. Open that same year. Ančić made his Grand Slam debut in 2002.



Goran Višnjić (b.1972--) Croatian actor who stars in *ER* as Dr. Luka Kovac. Višnjić began acting in plays as a young boy. He served in the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) for one year. He left the JNA and joined the Croatian Army to fight against the Krajina Serbs. He eventually left military life to pursue drama. He studied at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Zagreb. He played the lead in Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the Dubrovnik Summer Theatre for many years. He had small roles in the films *The Peacemaker*, *Welcome to Sarajevo*, and *Practical Magic*. He recently starred in the mini-series *Spartacus* and co-starred with Jennifer Garner in *Elektra*. He also was the voice of Soto in *Ice Age*.



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Famous Croats

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Mario Andretti

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Marco Polo

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Part 2. Current Issues

Government and Politics

Croatia is a parliamentary democracy. It has three branches of government: the executive, legislature, and judiciary.

The president is the chief of state. The president appoints the prime minister and influences foreign policy. He is elected by popular vote for a five-year term. The current president is Stjepan Mesić (pictured to the right). The president's powers have been restricted since the death of Franjo Tudjman. The parliament now enjoys greater powers as a check on the president. The prime minister is elected by the parliament and is the head of the government. The prime minister proposes legislation, implements laws, adopts economic and foreign policies, and oversees state administrations. Ivo Sanader was elected prime minister in 2003.



The parliament, which is called the Sabor, is the unicameral legislative body. The interior of the Sabor chambers is illustrated on the left. Members of parliament are elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms. The parliament's powers include enactment and amending of the Constitution, passing laws, and adoption of the state budget.

There are three tiers of the judicial system: the Supreme and Constitutional courts, county courts, and municipal courts. The Supreme Court's main purpose is the uniform application of the law, and it is the highest court of the land. Justices of the Supreme Court are appointed for life. The Supreme Court building is pictured to the right. The Constitutional Court reviews constitutional challenges to lower-court decisions. Justices who serve on the Constitutional Court are appointed by the Parliament to eight-year terms.



The government also has an ombudsman, a government official who is appointed to hear the complaints of citizens usually pertaining to human and civil rights abuses. The

ombudsman is a member of the Parliament who serves for an eight-year term. Some issues that come before the ombudsman include property disputes and administrative corruption, such as cases of bribes.

Croatia's government is a multi-party system, meaning that there are more than two major political parties. Political parties normally form alliances to win successful political blocks of parliamentary seats. The following political parties are those with the greatest number of elected representatives within the parliament:

- Croatian People's Party – Liberal Democrats
- Croatian Democratic Party
- Croatian Party of Rights
- Croatian Peasant Party
- Croatian Party of Pensioners
- Istrian Democratic Assembly
- Social Democratic Party of Croatia

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Politics of Croatia

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List of Political Parties

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Croatia and the European Union



- current EU members
- acceding countries (Romania and Bulgaria)
- official candidate countries (including Croatia)

The European Union (EU) gave Croatia formal membership-candidate status in 2004. Membership in the EU will be a major accomplishment in Croatia's process of becoming a stable democracy. Croatia's membership also will allow the country to be a part of the European community, both economically and politically. Croatia is expected to become a full member of the EU between 2008 and 2010.

In 2000, the European Committee, which is the body within the EU that handles accession, established the Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) program. SAP was created with the objective of having Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia begin their application process for EU membership. The main impetus behind SAP is to encourage "a policy of good neighborliness based in the negotiated settlement of disputes, respect for rights of minorities, honoring international obligations." In order to become a member of the EU, Croatia will need to address the following problems: minority rights abuses, refugee displacement, judiciary reform, and administrative corruption. Every country that wishes to become a member of the EU must comply with EU law and regulations. Specific sectors that are in need of large-scale reforms in Croatia include fisheries, agriculture, transportation, healthcare, and banking.

Another key requirement for membership is Croatia's full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The ICTY was established in 1993 with the intent to try war criminals who violated international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. The ICTY prosecutes "violations of the customs of war, breaches of the 1949 Geneva Convention, genocide, and crimes against humanity." A number of Croatian military figures have been indicted



by the ICTY, such as General Tihomir Balskic (pictured above), who was indicted for crimes against humanity. In order for Croatia to become part of the EU, it must provide the ICTY with the individuals implicated in these crimes. The new presidential administration has been increasingly more cooperative with the ICTY.

The EU provides a number of programs designed to help countries in the pre-accession process. The main goals of these pre-accession programs are to assist a country in complying with EU laws and objectives. The *Poland and Hungary Assistance for Restructuring of their Economies (PHARE)* program initially began as a means to assist Central European countries in their transition to market-based economies and democracies. *PHARE's* focus is economic and political restructuring. *PHARE* works to strengthen public administration and institutions. The program also focuses on compliance with the EU's *acquis communautaire*. The *acquis communautaire* provides support and training to familiarize government administrators with over 80,000 pages of EU law. Croatia also receives funding through two other pre-accession programs: *Instrument for Structured policies for Pre-Accession (ISPA)* and *Special Accession Program for Agricultural and Rural Development (SAPARD)*. ISPA finances transportation infrastructure initiatives, as well as environmental development. SAPARD finances reforms in agriculture and rural development. In addition to these programs, Croatia also benefits from the Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development, and Stabilization (CARDS) program. The objective of CARDS is to give additional support to those countries that are beneficiaries of SAP, with the specific goals of assisting in reconstruction, democratic stabilization, and return of refugees.

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Info Center Europe

<http://www.infocentereurope.net/croatia.html>

Europa Enlargement

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/croatia/index.htm>

Enlargement of European Union (map also taken from this website)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enlargement_of_the_European_Union

ICTY at a Glance

<http://www.un.org/icty/glance-e/index.htm>

Economy



After World War II, Yugoslavia initially modeled its economy after the Soviet Union, but then in 1948. Yugoslavia separated from the Cominform. The Cominform, or Communist Information Bureau, was created to promote the Soviet Union's dominance over East European governments. Yugoslavia developed a new economic program referred to as socialist self-management. The means of production were to be owned and operated by the people, instead of by the state. The self-management model organized workers into various associations. Workers attended association meetings and voted on work-related issues, including projects and projected levels of production. The agendas were designed by the directors of the associations. In actuality, these directors were appointed by the government and preserved their power over the associations. Another distinction of the Yugoslav from the Soviet model was the preservation of small farms, as opposed to collectivization of agriculture.

The Yugoslav model suffered from a number of shortcomings. First, the association meetings and the designing of projects and goals were very time-consuming. Deadlines and goals were often not met. There were ongoing modifications to business plans. There was also a problem with coordination of programs. Many programs were duplicated and not completed. The small farms remained inefficient, and failure to modernize meant a failure to increase the amount of food and agricultural products that were available to meet the country's needs.

Nonetheless, economic growth did occur in 1950-1979. There was a steady increase in the national product, industrial production, and the export of manufactured products. However, in the 1980s, Yugoslavia suffered from increased oil prices that drove up the cost of production. Inflation and unemployment rates rose sharply, while productivity levels plummeted. Macedonia and Kosovo, which were the less-developed regions of Yugoslavia, were particularly vulnerable to this economic decline.

Since 1992, as an independent state, Croatia has made much progress in its transition toward an open economy where prices are set by supply and demand, in contrast to its earlier controlled economy where prices were fixed by the government.

However, Croatia still faces ongoing economic problems. The country has undergone a process of de-industrialization. Long-term problems resulting from mismanagement of service industries also continue to plague economic progress. Completing privatization continues to be a problem for some industries, including a number of banks that were forced to revert back to the ownership of the government. The unemployment rate remains high, at around 18%. Another endemic problem has been the increase in displaced persons and refugees as a consequence of the ethnic wars from the 1990s.

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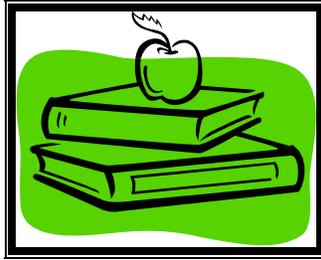
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Croatia: Economic Profile

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Education



Before World War II, the Yugoslav educational system was unstructured. The majority of children were not formally schooled. Only about 4% of students completed primary education. In the 1930s, Yugoslavia reported that nearly 40% of its population was illiterate. However, some regions enjoyed much higher rates of literacy, including Croatia. Partly due to the influence of the Catholic Church's valuing of formal education, almost 75% of Croats were literate. Another reason for Croatia's much higher literacy rate was that courses in schools throughout Yugoslavia were taught in Serbo-Croatian, as opposed to minority languages like Albanian.

During the interwar period, education became more centralized. Belgrade was the central source of educational policy. Many other regions of Yugoslavia resented the Belgrade government for its domination over local traditions and values. After World War II, new schools, libraries, and learning institutions were built in a national attempt to increase literacy and expand the number of skilled workers and professionals.

By the 1980s, education improved drastically throughout the region, especially in Croatia. The majority of Croatian primary and secondary school teachers held university degrees. Today, in independent Croatia, over 90% of Croats continue their education beyond elementary school. The ethnic conflicts of the 1990s had a major impact on school attendance. However, Croats still have a higher average level of education than residents of neighboring areas, such as Macedonia and Kosovo.

Over 30% of children attend preschool. Elementary school education is compulsory and consists of an eight-year program. Classes become more specialized after the initial four years of elementary education. One major criticism of the elementary schools is the rigid uniformity. Teachers can only choose from six textbooks, which offer the same curriculum. High schools have improved their capacity to train students for college education. However, shortages of well-trained teachers continue to exist.

There are four large universities located in major cities in Croatia. There are also a number of smaller colleges that offer polytechnic programs throughout the country. A larger percentage of Croatians earn university degrees than do residents of neighboring Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Health and Welfare



Before World War II, Yugoslavia had the highest death rate from tuberculosis and diphtheria in Europe. After the war, the government took control of the healthcare system in an attempt to address the health crisis within the country. Disease control initiatives were highly successful. Over 80% of Yugoslavians gained access to healthcare, which decreased the number of outbreaks drastically. Other improvements included an increase in physicians, nurses, and hospitals throughout the country.

The healthcare system was further revised in the 1974 Constitution, which mandated the government to provide extensive healthcare services. The government provided free services to patients suffering from certain diseases listed by the government as “dangerous to society.” Such diseases included infectious diseases and mental illness. The government also provided excellent pre-natal and post-natal care to mothers, which resulted in a rise in birth rates. The government implemented progressive maternity leave benefits. Mothers were eligible for paid maternity leave for 28 days before delivery and at least 105 days after delivery. Working mothers were also provided with paid leave for childcare emergencies.

Children received free pediatric care. Students under the age of 26 also received special healthcare services. The government provided services for the disabled, the elderly, orphans and single parents.

During the 1990s, healthcare became less available for many due to violence and dispersal of the population. However, Croatia’s healthcare system has improved over the past decade, partly due to funding from the World Health Organization and other donors that have helped the healthcare system to stabilize its costs and increase delivery of services.

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Part 3. Culture

Religion

While Yugoslavia unified the Southern Slavs into one state, each region remained distinctive in terms of religion.

Religion in Croatia

The predominant religion in Croatia is Roman Catholicism. Historically, Croats were first baptized in the 7th century by priests of the Roman church. During the rule of Tomislav and his successors, Church officials became very powerful within the government. Bishops served as important advisors for kings. Bishops and priests continued to



play a large role in Croatian politics for centuries. In the 1940s, some Bishops endorsed and were leaders of the Ustaše. After World War II, the new government punished many Catholics for their involvement in and leadership of the fascist movement. The communist government seized much land belonging to the Catholic Church. Various Catholic schools were closed. Churches were prohibited from having formal mass and religious ceremonies. Some Catholic officials were tried for war crimes and imprisoned. A number of innocent Catholic priests were the target of violent crimes by citizens and the government seeking revenge. In 1952, Tito ended relations with the Vatican in an effort to further hinder Catholic influence in the country.

However, in 1966, the relationship was reconciled and the government acknowledged the Vatican's leadership of Catholic religious doctrine. Tito's new position was largely attributed to his desire to please Western powers, including the United States. The Church agreed that clergy would remain outside of the realm of politics. The Church has been a social and cultural fixture since this time. The majority of the Catholic population from the former Yugoslavia is Croatian. Over 7.5 million Croats presently identify themselves as Roman Catholic.

Religion Elsewhere in the Former Yugoslavia

The majority religion in present-day Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia is Eastern Orthodox. The Serbian Orthodox Church was established in the 13th century by Saint Sava Nemanja. He was the first Serbian archbishop. The Church was headquartered in Serbia, but the faith eventually spread throughout the other regions. In Macedonia, the Church departed from its origins in doctrine and practice. These distinctions became more apparent throughout the centuries. In 1967, the Serbian Orthodox Church in Yugoslavia split into two churches—the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Macedonian

Orthodox Church. Studies done during the period of communist government found that over 10 million Yugoslavians identified themselves as either Serbian or Macedonian Orthodox. In Serbia, there are over 180 monasteries and four seminaries.

Beginning in 1895, the Serbian Church planned the erection of St. Sava Church, which would be the largest Eastern Orthodox Church in the world. Construction began in the early 1900s, but was suspended shortly thereafter due to the Balkan Wars. Construction continued again until World War I made the initiative impossible. Building resumed again from 1935 through 1940. All work ceased when Belgrade was bombed in 1942 by the Germans.



Building did not reconvene until 1984. The Church was almost completed in 2004. However, the inside of the Church remains incomplete. To date, it has taken over 110 years to complete St. Sava!

Former Yugoslavia has the largest Islamic community in Europe west of Turkey. There are over four million people in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo who identify themselves as Muslim. Islam first emerged in the region during Ottoman rule. In 1930, various Islamic groups unified under the leader Rais-ul Ulama, headquartered in Sarajevo. Sarajevo was home to the first Islamic school in Europe. After World War II, over 800 mosques were built. In comparison with other faiths, Muslims were less affected by the communist government because they generally kept out of political affairs. After Tito's death, however, Muslims became targets of violence and victims of ethnic cleansing campaigns by Milošević. In addition to Serbian atrocities, the Croatian government was also responsible for supporting the Croat anti-Muslim militia in Mostar and Jablainica, which imposed an ethnic cleansing campaign in the early 1990s.



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In essence, most Croatians and Serbians can communicate with one another with little trouble. However, some argue that this does not mean that the two languages are identical. One key difference is not in the spoken, but the written form of the language. Croatia uses the Latin alphabet, whereas Serbia uses the Cyrillic alphabet.

The following are some common words and phrases from <http://www.cusd.claremont.edu/~tkroll/EastEur/cro-list.html>:

- da = yes
- ne = no
- molim = please
- hvala Vam = thank you
- dobro jutro = good morning
- laku noce = good night
- dovid-enja = goodbye
- dobar dan = hello, good day
- kako si? = how are you?
- shto radish? = what are you doing?
- nishta, odmaram = nothing, I am relaxing
- prshut = prosciutto
- gradele = grill
- dobro mirishi! = smells good!
- dobar tek = enjoy your meal, bon appetit
- sunce = sun
- more = sea
- riba = fish
- galeb = seagull
- kakvo che vrime biti sutra = what will the weather be like tomorrow?
- gdje je dobro more za plivanje? = where is a good place to swim?
- kako se zove? = do you know her/his name?
- kud chesh? = where are you going?
- ostani josh malo = stay a bit longer
- divna noch = beautiful night
- mogu li te poljubiti? = may I kiss you?
- ma zezash me = you're kidding me
- ovo nije loshe! = this is not bad!
- laku noch = good night
- ne da mi se ichi nikuda! = I do not want to go anywhere
- odlazim u subotu/nedjelju = I am leaving on Saturday/Sunday
- jedan dan, dva dana, tri dana = one day, two days, three days
- sutra = tomorrow
- za tjedan dana = in a week
- a shto chesh! = nothing you can do/that is how it is
- vidimo se = see ya!

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Dance

The Moreska The Sword Dance of Korcula



The Moreska means “Moorish” and is a sword-dance that is performed in Korcula, a small island off the Dalmatian coast. The Moreska is also a dance performed in Italy and Spain. For many decades, other performances have substituted swords with wooden sticks or other theatrical props. However, Korcula is the only place in the world where the dance is performed using real swords. The dance was first introduced in the 16th century by the Venetians. The dance itself consists of a performance of rival dance-warriors. There are two sides representing the battle between the Christians and the Turks. The dancers come from the special Korcula Society which has trained dancers for the last several decades. Most families in Korcula have a male relative participate in the performances. During World War II, the musical scores, costumes and instruments were lost. However, after the war, a barber and a schoolteacher resurrected the Moreska and composed new music. Since that time, the Moreska has been performed regularly. The dance is very popular among tourists. Tourists are brought into the stage area and are taken back into another world as they witness the lightning flashes of the swords and amazing choreography. It is a *must* for anyone who visits the enchanting island.

The following provides a synopsis of the Moreska performance from <http://www.korcula.net/naselja/korcula/moreska.htm>:



The Moreska from Korcula opens with a scene in which the Black King is seen dragging the captured Bula (Muslim maiden) along in chains, trying to persuade her to respond to his love. The Bula refuses because she loves the White King (or Red King) and knows that he loves her.

The White King and his army and the Black King's army with banners and swords enter from either side. The two Kings confront each other, and a dialogue of hurled insults and scorn ensues. The Kings are the first to cross swords while their armies stand facing each other and ready for battle. When the White King calls on his men to fight, the two armies clash swords and then break away from one another in order to make way for the Dance of the Black King, the graceful but menacing "Sfida". In this dance, which is performed in 6/8 rhythm, the Black King challenges the White King to a contest. The White King accepts the challenge, and then the Black King's father, Otmanovic, and a soldier from the White King's army join the fight. They dance in a circle threatening one another with swords. The soldier withdraws, leaving the two Kings and Otmanovic. At a given moment both armies, who are facing each other, leap forward and clash swords and then the Black King, still dancing, forms a circle with all the soldiers of both armies gradually joining in.

After this, seven Kolaps or "strokes" of the Moreska are danced in different and complicated rhythms and patterns, and all are performed within this circle. The fight consists of alternating sword thrusts and parries. It is performed in pairs, i.e., one White against one Black fighter.



The seventh Kolap is performed in a speedy 4/4 rhythm and the swords clashes are fast and furious. The Black soldiers, facing outwards, defend themselves from within the circle which becomes smaller and tighter as they withdraw from the charges of the White army. Finally the Black soldiers fall down wounded, dying and defeated, laying their swords at their enemy's feet. The Black King admits defeat and surrenders, and the White King, the victor, frees the Bula from her chains and kisses her.

The following dialogue is translated from part of the 19th century Croatian text of “The Moreska,” published in Zadar in 1869.

Bula: Leave me alone! Your demands are in vain
My charms belong to another man.
Sweet Osman, my beloved,
If you could see now
How my heart is breaking
And full of sorrow for you!
Although this odious steel
Binds my hands,
My heart is always with you
And yours with me.
I shall bear you in my heart
As long as I have life.

Moro: Stop wailing, my lady
(Black King) I have had enough!
It is painful for me to listen
When you call my opponent your pride
Here, in front of my face
But I bear and endure it all
For the love I feel for you
My dear nymph, I give you my heart
For your sweet charms.

Bula: If you will
But one favor grant me,
All I ask
Is that you stop loving me.
Of far more pain for me
Is your unwanted love
Than the steel
That weighs upon my hands.

Moro: I will not leave you
Nor will I stop loving you.
I love honorably your everlasting beauty.
Ask whatever you wish,
Even my father’s kingdom.

Drums are heard.
Enter the White Army.

Otmanovic: There is no fear in Otmanovic!

Osman:
(White King) Do not trust your sword
Without honor and without honesty.
Traacherously, you wished to steal
My betrothed, by torturing her.
Where is your knightly honesty,
Where your bravery?
How did you dare to enslave her?
Let me remind you
That the army from my court
Is ready to rescue her.

Moro: You ask me to return her
To your hands. Never!
I would rather lose my head.

Bula: Ah, you wicked man!



Osman: If it were not that I disdain
To darken my sword with your blood,
And stoop from my might,
I should destroy you.

Otmanovic: Useless to be angry, Osman,
Listen to me.
There is no difference

Between your two crowns,
Both are full of glory
I am an emperor as you are!

Osman: How dare you compare
My crown with yours
I, who reign over all the world,
From East to West, and fear nobody.

Moro: Ah! I cannot bear
Your offenses any more.
Fall then!

Osman: Now defend, come my army.

Bula: From this sharp sword I will willingly receive
The wound of death;
Come, deadly steel
If it will stop their mutual rage.

Moro: Console yourself, dear nymph,
I could not bear to look
At your dead body in my lap.
Now, knight, gather your armor.
A fierce war is about to begin.

Bula: Then render me to him
If my death would afflict you.
My affliction is the greatest
Because I would rather choose death
Than your unwanted love.

Osman: To your arms, my soldiers,
Let everyone be witness to my honesty,
Which is as big as my empire.
Now, knight, gather your armor.
A fierce war is about to begin.

Moro: Willingly, oh knight,
I shall be fighting for the nymph.

**Together

I am ready to fight for the damsel
Who arouses my love and noble passion;
Willingly, oh knight.



**At the end of the 4th Kolap

Bula: Oh, knights!
Do something to stop your wars
Which wound my heart and draw tears of
Blood from my eyes.
Turn your sword on me
And let him live
Take my life
But my beloved spare.

Moro: As long as I have
Power in my hands
I will cause him strife
Rather than lose you.

Osman: You are going to lose
Either by defeat or by slavery.
My strength and courage
Will force you to relinquish her to me.

**At the end of the 7th Kolap

Osman: You've lost all your dignity
And now you are my slave for good.

Moro: I readily to you my sword surrender
It has grown heavy in my hands.
And with it I return your Bula.

Bula: My dear, sweet love,
For whom my heart is longing,
Receive the gift of my eternal faith,
Take me, your constant love.



Osman: Let this chaste kiss
Be a reward for all my suffering.



The happy couple marches out of the theater with the entire company onto the cobblestone streets.

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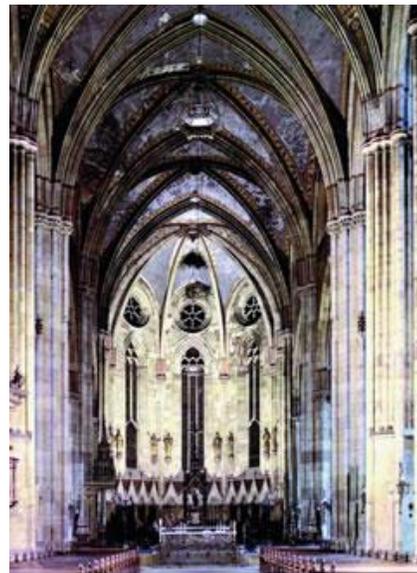
Architecture

Croatian architecture is rich in aesthetic beauty and impressive artistry. Influences of Venice and Italy have resulted in some of the most captivating towns and structures in Europe.

The first towns in Croatia were rudimentary, focusing on practical needs of homes and churches. In the 9th century, more Christian churches were built, especially in coastal towns. Design became a bit more sophisticated with the use of stone ornamentation along the molding of the structures. By the 12th century, Romanesque architecture became popular for the building of cathedrals. Romanesque architecture applies the designs found in ancient Rome. Structures often have arches and columns that resemble the great structures of Rome, like the Parthenon. The Amphitheatre in Pula, Istria is an example of Romanesque architecture.



By the 13th century, Gothic style became dominant, especially in the north. It reflected lightness, openness and elegance. The main components include the flying buttress, a free-standing support, usually made from stone, which attached to the main structure by an arch or a half-arch. Whereas Romanesque structures were heavy, Gothic architecture used narrow and light columns for structural support. Gothic design evolved to be more sophisticated with the influence of Venetian architects. Venetian Gothicism was very ornate, and designs were sophisticated.



By the 15th and 16th centuries, Croatian architecture was heavily influenced by the Renaissance. Architects turned to the influences of Italy and France to create enchanting and romantic towns, especially in Dalmatia. Dubrovnik is considered a “gem of the Renaissance.” Red-roofed shops and houses along cobblestone streets became the model of coastal towns. Today, these towns are popular tourist destinations.



Baroque architecture was seen in the 17th century, mainly due to Jesuit influence. Many Baroque buildings can be identified by their stately color of gold and long rows of smaller columns. Baroque architecture emphasizes importance and authority in its style. The city of Zagreb is a model of Baroque architecture. Prominent buildings are set up in long rows throughout the city. Main avenues are pedestrianized and grand monuments are centered in town squares.



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Croatian Food



Croatia has a very diverse cuisine. The northern and eastern parts of the country share a similar palate to the cuisine found in Central Europe, like Hungary, with hearty peasant dishes such as stews and roasts. The cuisine in the Dalmatian Peninsula and other areas along the Adriatic is similar to coastal Italian fare with lighter seafood dishes.

Main Dishes

Grilled Meats (Cevapcici)



Ingredients for Meat

1 lb ground lamb
1 lb ground veal
1 lb ground pork
1 large yellow onion, peeled and grated
3 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
3 tbsp hot Hungarian paprika
2 tbsp freshly grated nutmeg
Olive oil for basting

Ingredients for Yogurt Sauce

1 pint yogurt
½ cucumber, peeled and mashed
2 cloves garlic, crushed
Juice of ½ lemon
Salt and ground white pepper for taste
Pinch of cayenne pepper

Mix all the ingredients, except the oil, thoroughly and roll the mixture into “cigars” about 1 inch by 3 inches. Rub lightly with olive oil and grill or broil until well browned. Can also be cooked on barbeque. Take all ingredients of yogurt sauce and mix together. Serve meat with yogurt sauce. Can also serve with pita bread, cucumbers, tomatoes, and onions.

Mussels with Yellow Tomatoes (Musele d’Oro)



Ingredients

2 lbs. fresh, cleaned mussels
2 cleaned, roasted yellow peppers
1 14.5 oz can yellow tomatoes, diced
1 fennel bulb, diced
1 shallot, chopped finely
4 tbsp olive oil
5 cloves chopped garlic
1 large lemon
½ bunch of parsley, chopped

In a large skillet, sauté olive oil, fennel, and shallots for 10 minutes or until fennel has become translucent. Add the chopped garlic and simmer for another 2 minutes. Chop the roasted peppers into ½ inch cubes and add to mixture along with can of drained yellow tomatoes; simmer for an additional 4 minutes. Increase the heat to high and add the mussels. Cook covered for 1 minute, then add the parsley and juice of one lemon and stir. Cover and heat for an additional 3 minutes.

Fish Stew (Dalmatian Brodetta)



Ingredients

- 2 ½ lbs fresh mixed seafood: sole, snapper, tuna, monkfish, mussels, clams, etc.
- 4 tbsp extra virgin oil
- 3 cloves of fresh garlic
- 2 tbsp of red pepper flakes
- 1 yellow onion
- 1 bunch of flat leaf parsley
- 2 tomatoes, sliced
- 1 tbsp tomato paste
- 1 tbsp vinegar

Preheat olive oil in a large dutch oven. Saute onions for 1 minute before adding red pepper flakes, garlic and tomato paste. Chop the fish into squares, approximately 1 to 2 inches. Add the thicker fish first to the pan. Gradually add the less firm fish on top. Add the tomatoes, vinegar, fresh parsley, salt and pepper and bring to boil. Minimize stirring as much as possible. Cook on a very low heat for 1 hour. Serve immediately on top of risotto, pasta, or polenta.

Pancakes with Cottage Cheese (Palacinke sa sirom)



Ingredients for Pancakes

2 cups flour
½ cup milk
½ cup water
1 egg
Pinch of salt
Zest from ½ lemon
Cooking oil

Ingredients for Filling

1 cup cottage cheese
1 cup sour cream
1 egg
3 tbsp sugar
1 tbsp raisins

Ingredients for Topping

½ cup sour cream
1 egg, beaten

Heat a few drop of oil in a non-stick frying pan. Combine flour, egg, salt and lemon zest and mix in bowl. Add some of the milk. If mixture remains dry, add rest of milk or additional water to make batter. Ladle batter into pan, tilting the pan in a circular motion until batter thinly covers the whole pan. Cook for 1 to 2 minutes, then turn over and cook for another 30 seconds. For filling, preheat oven to 350°. Mix filling ingredients together and spread across centers of pancakes. Roll up pancakes. Place the pancakes in a rectangular baking pan. Mix ingredients for topping. Pour topping over pancakes and bake for 25 minutes uncovered.

White Fish Soup (Bodulian Juha)



Ingredients

1 lb white fish
1 cup clam broth
1 cup water
2 tbsp olive oil
1 dozen cherry or grape tomatoes
2 cloves garlic
1 tsp red pepper flakes
¼ cup Ditalini pasta or other small pasta
Salt and pepper

Heat the oil, garlic and red pepper flakes in a large skillet and simmer. Add the fish, clam broth, and water on a medium-high heat. Poach the fish until tender (fish should be flaky within 15-20 minutes). Remove the fish from the soup and cut into 1-inch pieces. Add the Ditalini and tomatoes to boiling liquid and continue to boil for 12 minutes. Serve the fish and soup together in large bowls. Salt and pepper to taste.

Lamb Soup (Janjeca Juha)



Ingredients

14 oz lamb meat
1 bunch of celery
1 bunch of carrots
2 oz rice
2 oz cabbage
2 egg yolks
2 cloves garlic
1 onion
1 bay leaf
4-5 peppercorns
Juice of 1 lemon
4 oz sour cream
Salt and pepper
Parsley

1 tbsp of coriander, paprika and sage mixed together for seasoning

Cut meat and vegetables into cubes. Cut the cabbage into strips. Mix the egg yolks with the sour cream and lemon juice. Chop the parsley. Place the meat in pot, cover with water and bring to boil. Skim well, add vegetable cubes, onion, bay leaf, salt, pepper, and spices. In a separate pot, cook rice in salted water and keep separate. As soon as the meat is tender, set the meat and vegetables aside. Slowly add the egg yolk and sour cream to the broth. Add rice, meat and vegetables to broth. Bring to a simmer and serve with parsley as garnish.

Stuffed Cabbage Leaves (Sarma)



Ingredients

2 large cabbage heads
6 slices of bacon chopped
1 large onion chopped
1 can of tomato soup (10 to 12 oz)
2 eggs
½ tsp salt
½ tsp pepper
1 tsp paprika
2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
¾ lb ground beef
¾ lb ground pork
½ lb ground ham
2/3 cup rice

Remove center cores of cabbage. Pour boiling water over leaves to soften. Sauté bacon and onion. Add half the tomato soup. Beat eggs and add salt, pepper, paprika, Worcester sauce, ground beef, pork and ham. Add bacon mixture and rice and mix thoroughly. Separate cabbage leaves and drain. Place heaping tablespoons of stuffing at core end of each cabbage leaf and roll carefully, tucking in ends. Place rolls in layers in Dutch oven or heavy kettle. Chop small unused leaves and place on top. Pour in remaining soup and add enough water to rolls. Cover and simmer for about 2 hours.

Tomato Chicken (Moskva)



Ingredients

1 frying chicken
¼ cup margarine
4 green onions
1 tomato
¼ cup boiling water
2 tbsp chopped parsley
½ tsp sugar
Salt, pepper
½ cup sour cream
1 tsp flour
½ tsp paprika

Rub chicken with salt and pepper. In a deep skillet, heat margarine. Brown chicken on both sides; add boiling water; cover and cook 30 minutes or until chicken is done. Remove chicken from pan; keep chicken hot. Add onion to the remaining juices from the pan. Cook onions until translucent. Add tomatoes, parsley, salt, pepper for taste. Cook the ingredients until the tomatoes stew. Mix sour cream, paprika, sugar, and flour into sauce. Cook until thick. Spoon over chicken and serve.

Roasted Leg of Lamb (Iski Lopiz)



Ingredients

2.5 lb lamb
3 tbsp olive oil
½ lb each of green peas, artichoke, leeks, tomatoes, carrots
6 small new potatoes
½ bulb fennel
Onions
2 cloves garlic
½ cup fresh parsley
Salt and pepper
1 cup dry white wine

Wash and dry the lamb. Heat oil in a large sauté pan or Dutch oven, adding onions after 1 minute, sautéing until slightly browned. Add the meat and simmer for 15 minutes. Add salt, pepper, garlic, and a portion of the sliced tomatoes, chopped fennel and parsley; continue simmering for another 5 minutes. Take the rest of the vegetables (drained) in with the lamb, mix well and top with wine. Cover and cook in oven at 300° until the vegetables and meat are completely tender. Before serving, add the rest of the tomatoes and chopped parsley.

Meat Stew (Goulash)



Ingredients

3 lb beef, chuck or round bone
1 lb pork
4 large onions, sliced
3 qt sauerkraut
3 tbsp paprika
½ pint sour cream

Cut meat in cubes. Sauté onions in small amount of oil. Remove from flame; add paprika. Stir briskly to keep from burning. Add meat; cover and braise slowly for 1-1 ½ hours. Add sauerkraut; cook for ½ hour longer. Stir in sour cream. Serve with boiled potatoes or flour dumplings.

Farmer's Bread (Pogaca)



Ingredients

¼ cup lard or bacon fat
2 lb plain flour
2/3 cup yeast cake
1 1/3 cup water

Rub fat in 1 ½ pounds of flour; add salt and yeast previously dissolved in lukewarm water. Mix together. Knead well, occasionally sprinkling the dough with the remaining flour. Roll the dough out into the size and shape of baking pan (preferably a round baking pan). Grease or oil and flour the pan and place dough in pan. Cover. Let it rise for 15 minutes. Starting 1 inch from the edge of the pan, use a fork to create small circles that are 1 inch apart to create an ornamental border around the rim of the dough. If desired, brush with egg yolk. Bake at 425° for ½ hour. After ½ hour, reduce the heat of the oven to 225°. When golden brown, cut the bread into long strips or triangles and serve hot with sour cream. It is often served as an appetizer.

Desserts

Drop Doughnuts (Prsurate)



Ingredients

2 lb flour
1 quart hot water
1 cup sugar
½ cup brandy
2 tsp vanilla
½ tsp nutmeg, grated
1 cup raisins
1 lemon (grated peel)
½ cup tepid water
6 tsp dried yeast
1 ½ quart of soy or other light vegetable oil for frying

Take the yeast and soak it in the tepid water and set aside. Place flour in large bowl. Mold flour along the ring of the bowl. Gradually pour in a quart of hot water and blend with the flour. Mix the batter thoroughly with a wooden spoon and add water until the mixture begins to ball. Continue whipping and gradually add sugar, brandy, vanilla, nutmeg, raisins and lemon zest (grated peel).

Lastly, add ½ cup of the tepid water with yeast. Let batter stand for 15-20 minutes while oil heats. Heat about ½ quart of oil in frying pan. Whip the dough again. Have a teaspoon with warm water handy

Once oil is very hot, roll a ball of dough and place in hot oil with the teaspoon. Continue to roll balls and place in oil. As a tip to keep the balls well formed, dip the teaspoon in the water after each time you use the teaspoon to place the balls in the oil. This is to prevent extra dough from cooking in the pan. Fill the pan, but be sure not to crowd the balls. Turn the balls in the pan after one side is browned. When both sides are golden, remove and let cool. Let cool and sprinkle them with confectioners' sugar.

Fruit and Nut Cake (Okrugli Vrsak)



Ingredients

1 ½ cup butter

1 lb confectioners' sugar

6 eggs

1/8 tsp salt

1 tsp vanilla

1 tsp almond flavor

1 lemon (grated peel)

4 cups flour

1 tsp baking powder

½ cup of raisins or nuts or mixed fruit (or a mixture of both if preferred)

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs one at a time and beat well. Add all the flavorings and salt. In a separate dish blend flour and baking soda. Add the mixture to the batter one cup at a time. Add flour and baking powder. Mix only long enough to make it creamy. Add either fruit or nuts on top of batter. Bake in floured loaf pan for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until done at 325°.

Walnut and Almond Tort (Torta)



Ingredients

8 eggs

1 cup sugar

2 cups walnuts

2 cups almonds

1 orange (grated peel and juice)

1 lemon (grated peel and juice)

3 tbsp grated dry bread
2 tbsp vanilla
2 tbsp Maraschino liquor
2 tbsp rum
¼ cup walnuts and almonds for topping

Grind the nuts with a grinder for about ½ hour so that it becomes a paste. Keep the nuts for the topping on the side.

Separate 4 egg whites and set them aside. Beat 8 yolks and 4 egg whites with sugar. While the eggs are beating, prepare the following ingredients. Grate the bread. Prepare the rind and juice from the lemon and orange; add vanilla to the rind and juice. Keep the bread separate.

Preheat oven to 325°F. When the egg yolks are ready, beat the remaining 4 egg whites until stiff. Gently fold all ingredients into egg whites. Grease and flour a 14 x 10 inch pan. Pour ingredients into pan. Spread topping of walnuts and almonds over the tort. Bake at 325°F for about 1 hour. After baking, allow to cool for 10 to 15 minutes. Frost the cake or use powdered sugar.

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