

DOWNLOAD PDF THE SMALL SLAVIC STATES FROM THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN BALKANS

Chapter 1 : Slavs - Infogalactic: the planetary knowledge core

Western Balkans is a neologism coined to refer to older inhabitants of the northern and central Balkans, Most of the states in the Balkans are predominantly.

Slavic peoples in 6th century Slavic tribes from the 7th to 9th centuries in Europe The Slavs under name of the Antes and the Sclaveni make their first appearance in Byzantine records in the early 6th century. Byzantine historiographers under Justinian I , such as Procopius of Caesarea , Jordanes and Theophylact Simocatta describe tribes of these names emerging from the area of the Carpathian Mountains , the lower Danube and the Black Sea , invading the Danubian provinces of the Eastern Empire. Procopius wrote in that "the Sclaveni and the Antae actually had a single name in the remote past; for they were both called Sporoi in olden times. They lived in scattered housing, and constantly changed settlement. Regarding warfare, they were mainly foot soldiers with small shields and battleaxes, lightly clothed, some entering battle naked with only their genitals covered. Their language is "barbarous" that is, not Greek-speaking , and the two tribes do not differ in appearance, being tall and robust, "while their bodies and hair are neither very fair or blond, nor indeed do they incline entirely to the dark type, but they are all slightly ruddy in color. And they live a hard life, giving no heed to bodily comforts The Avars asked the Slavs to accept the suzerainty of the Avars; he however declined and is reported as saying: The name may refer both to Balts and Slavs. Migrations East Slavic tribes, 8th and 9th centuries According to eastern homeland theory, prior to becoming known to the Roman world, Slavic -speaking tribes were part of the many multi-ethnic confederacies of Eurasia such as the Sarmatian, Hun and Gothic empires. The Slavs emerged from obscurity when the westward movement of Germans in the 5th and 6th centuries CE thought to be in conjunction with the movement of peoples from Siberia and Eastern Europe: Huns , and later Avars and Bulgars started the great migration of the Slavs , who settled the lands abandoned by Germanic tribes fleeing the Huns and their allies: Perhaps some Slavs migrated with the movement of the Vandals to Iberia and north Africa. After a military movement even the Peloponnese and Asia Minor were reported to have Slavic settlements. Middle Ages Early Slavic states Life of the East Slavs, by Sergey Ivanov When their migratory movements ended, there appeared among the Slavs the first rudiments of state organizations, each headed by a prince with a treasury and a defense force. In the 7th century, the Frankish merchant Samo , who supported the Slavs fighting their Avar rulers, became the ruler of the first known Slav state in Central Europe, which, however, most probably did not outlive its founder and ruler. This provided the foundation for subsequent Slavic states to arise on the former territory of this realm with Carantania being the oldest of them. In this period, there existed central Slavic groups and states such as the Balaton Principality , but the subsequent expansion of the Magyars , as well as the Germanisation of Austria , separated the northern and southern Slavs. The First Bulgarian Empire was founded in , and the Slavic language Old Church Slavonic became the main and official of the empire in Bulgaria was instrumental in the spread of Slavic literacy and Christianity to the rest of the Slavic world. Modern history Slavs in their Original Homeland, by Alphonse Mucha Since the 16th century east Slavs settled most of Siberia reaching Kamchatka and the Pacific island of Sakhalin As of , there were only three free Slavic states in the world: Bulgaria was also free but was de jure vassal to the Ottoman Empire until official independence was declared in In the entire Austro-Hungarian Empire of approximately 50 million people, about 23 million were Slavs. The Slavic peoples who were, for the most part, denied a voice in the affairs of the Austria-Hungary, were calling for national self-determination. Because of the vastness and diversity of the territory occupied by Slavic people, there were several centers of Slavic consolidation. In the 19th century, Pan-Slavism developed as a movement among intellectuals, scholars, and poets, but it rarely influenced practical politics and did not find support in some Slavic nations. Pan-Slavism became compromised when the Russian Empire started to use it as an ideology justifying its territorial conquests in Central Europe as well as subjugation of other Slavic ethnic groups such as Poles and Ukrainians, and the ideology became associated with Russian imperialism. During

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World War II, Nazi Germany planned to kill, deport, or enslave the Slavic and Jewish population of occupied Eastern Europe to create living space for German settlers, [35] and also planned the starvation of 80 million people in the Soviet Union. Lee estimates that, by the end of World War II in 1945, the Russian population was about 90 million fewer than it could have been otherwise. A notable political union of the 20th century that covered most South Slavs was Yugoslavia, but it ultimately broke apart in the 1990s along with the Soviet Union. The word "Slavs" was used in the national anthem of the Slovak Republic, Yugoslavia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, later Serbia and Montenegro. As of now, Kazakhstan has the largest Slavic minority population with most being Russians. Ukrainians, Belarusians and Poles are present as well but in much smaller numbers. Pan-Slavism, a movement which came into prominence in the mid-19th century, emphasized the common heritage and unity of all the Slavic peoples. The main focus was in the Balkans where the South Slavs had been ruled for centuries by other empires: The Russian Empire used Pan-Slavism as a political tool; as did the Soviet Union, which gained political-military influence and control over most Slavic-majority nations between 1917 and 1991 and retained a hegemonic role until the period of the 1990s.

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Chapter 2 : New Strategic Calculus for the Balkans (I) | calendrierdelascience.com

In the Western Balkans, South Slavs and Germanic Gepids intermarried with invaders, eventually producing a Slavicized population. [citation needed] In Central Europe, the West Slavs intermixed with Germanic, Hungarian, and Celtic peoples, while in Eastern Europe the East Slavs had encountered Uralic and Scandinavian peoples.

Even the geographic extent of the "Balkan" region is a matter of controversy. Many scholars, especially those writing in the Cold War era, have included only the Communist states and linked them with Czechoslovakia, Poland and East Germany, while omitting Greece and ignoring Turkey and the Ottoman era. Other historians exclude Hungary, Croatia and other Habsburg lands, because of their "central" European character, supposedly contrary to Balkan themes. But the presence of contradictory themes is itself characteristically Balkan. Physical geography Balkan geography revolves around three features: Leften Stavrianos has pointed out the influence of geography on Balkan history. The Black, the Aegean, the Mediterranean and the Adriatic Seas surround it; they have served as both barriers and entry points. Unlike some peninsulas, the Balkan area has not been physically isolated from nearby regions. In the northeast, Romania is exposed to the steppe regions of the Ukraine, an easy invasion route from prehistoric times to the present. In the northwest, the valley of the Danube and the flat Hungarian plain are easy points of entry. Most but not all of the ethnic groups in the region entered by one of these paths. While it is surrounded on three sides by water, the peninsula is not cut off from neighboring regions to the east, west or south. To the east, the narrow straits of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles are a natural pathway between the Balkans and Anatolia, and Asia beyond. To the west, the Italian peninsula is only forty miles away across the Adriatic from Albania, and influence from that direction has been another constant. Finally, the Aegean and Mediterranean islands to the south are stepping stones to the eastern Mediterranean and Egypt. Not surprisingly, the Balkan region has been a crossroads for traffic passing to and from all these destinations. The mountains which divide the region are a prominent internal physical characteristic. The region takes its name from the "Balkan" mountain range in Bulgaria from a Turkish word meaning "a chain of wooded mountains". On a larger scale, one long continuous chain of mountains crosses the region in the form of a reversed letter S, from the Carpathians south to the Balkan range proper, before it marches away east into Anatolian Turkey. On the west coast, an offshoot of the Dinaric Alps follows the coast south through Dalmatia and Albania, crosses Greece and continues into the sea in the form of various islands. The first effect of these mountains is to divide the region into small units within which distinct ethnic groups have been able to sustain themselves. This area, a little smaller in size than France and Germany or the states of Texas and Oklahoma, is home to a dozen or more prominent ethnic groups. Second, the mountains have been physical obstacles, hampering efforts at regional combination, whether political, economic or cultural. The ethnic groups have tended toward distinct national cultures, local economies and political autonomy. Third, the mountains have subdivided every district into vertical ecological zones, ranging from more valuable lowland farming areas to less valuable wooded or rocky uplands. This variety of ecological niches supports various cultures in close proximity: In general, the higher up the zone, the less productive the land, and so the upper regions of the mountains act as places of exile and refuge for defeated ethnic groups expelled from more desirable coast and valley lands. In general, then, the mountain features of the Balkans have contributed to the continued fragmentation of human groups in the area. The rivers of the region are short; their influence is usually local, with one exception. The small rivers of the area typically rise in coastal mountains and drop into the nearest sea after a short course. They are too small to carry water traffic; instead they cut ravines that block travel along the coasts. The great exception is the Danube. It enters from the northwest, passes through the Hungarian plain, skirts the south Slavic states, and exits through Romania into the Black Sea on the east. Despite its size, the Danube also fails to be a source of regional integration. Several factors prevent easy use of the Danube for regular communication and trade: Instead, the Danube acts to introduce outside influences. The western reaches of the river point to the German

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world; the eastern reaches lead to a dead end in the Black Sea, and leave travel at the mercy of Russia and Turkey. The Danube serves the needs of powerful external forces far more than it helps the internal needs of the Balkan peoples. Like the mountains, the Balkan rivers have done little to foster unity in the area. Ethnic geography The Balkans have been inhabited since prehistoric times. The pre-Indo-European inhabitants left little behind except for archaeological remnants and a few place names like Knossos on the island of Crete. At a minimum this means recognizing a dozen major ethnic groups, where they live now and in the past, and how their religions, languages and cultures compare and interconnect. It has the virtues of the chronological and helps explain how some later arrivals affected their neighbors. Unfortunately the early history of some groups is incomplete and the evidence is controversial. The question of who has lived where, when and for how long is critical for several modern political and territorial disputes. The story of the Albanians illustrates these points about evidence, and the controversies about its use. More precisely, we can say that around BC the archaeological record shows a "discontinuity," a significant break in material culture during a short span of time. Objects left in graves and the structure of grave sites changed. Nineteenth century writers explained this and similar events, especially among the Greeks by describing supposed waves of Indo-European invaders: Modern scholars argue for scenarios with less drama. Alterations in burials can mean a total change in population, but they can also mean that an existing population adopted new customs, with or without the arrival of large numbers of new people. For example, future archaeologists should not see the sudden appearance of Japanese VCRs in late twentieth century American landfills as evidence of migration or invasion, but only of trade and cultural contact. The same thing is true in Balkan prehistory. Some new people probably entered the area, and some of the old population probably remained. After BC, classical Greek records describe the Illyrians as a non-Greek people to the north and west. The Illyrians left no "historic" or written records of their own. We have to use linguistic and archaeological evidence to trace their story. Based on this evidence, scholars will say that the Illyrians inhabited the region which today makes up Albania and the former Yugoslavia. Their descendants have remained in the mountains of present-day Albania continuously since BC: In the rest of former Illyria, other peoples took their place. Albanian is an Indo-European language, but one without relatives; it is believed to be the only surviving language descended from ancient Illyrian. The linguistic evidence is not simple. The linguistic evidence here relies on fields like "onomastics", the study of place names and the names for everyday objects, and complex reasoning from meagre facts. Archaeology is the second source for Albanian prehistory. Scholars can trace a continuous evolution of burial goods, ornamentation on costumes, and cultural practices deduced from material remains from BC forward to the historic Middle Ages. Based on that, and on the lack of recorded migration to the area by other groups, scholars believe the Illyrians became the modern Albanians. The Albanians today number about five million. Three and a half million live within Albania, another 1. The Kosovo region is a good example of competing historical claims to Balkan lands. Kosovo is a region of great cultural significance for Serbia, the site of important medieval events. At the same time, it has a majority Albanian population today, and the Illyrian evidence says that proto-Albanians were there long before the Serbs. Both nations claim it. In cases like this, scholarship is mixed with nationalist politics: The 19th century model for Greek entry to the area involved three "waves" of invaders riding in carts, driving cattle and overwhelming the pre-Indo-European inhabitants. Each wave was associated with historic sites and a later dialect group -- Achaeans, Ionians and Dorians -- with intricate dating squabbles. The current view is simpler. Scholars now see a single immigration, with the dialects evolving later. The image of the "tribal mass" in motion has been discarded in favor of two competing theories. According to the first model, the "invasion" consisted of individuals, families and small groups blending into the indigenous population. The second model sees a small clique of well-armed conquerors, who used the innovation of the chariot to defeat and displace the existing rulers. In either case, the old inhabitants simply took on the new culture, adopting new tools and a new religion, and creating a mix which is classical "Greek" culture. Greek colonies appeared all around the coasts of the eastern Mediterranean, and followed Alexander the Great all over the Middle East. We have copious

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historic records about Greece, but there are still some questions. The most mysterious episode in Greek national history takes place at the end of the Roman period. The Greek world was part of Rome, but Greek culture survived under Roman rule. Greek was the language of the earliest Christian gospels. These "barbarians" created a "dark age" in the Balkans during which written Greek records cease. In AD Greek written culture reappears. Apparently these "invasions" can also be characterized as an intermingling of peoples. Greek civilization seems to have survived in small cities, and ultimately the newly arrived Slavs became Hellenized. Are we then dealing with the same Greek identity? It persists in a cultural sense, but the 19th century notion of "blood" might say that these are not quite the same people. This is worth keeping in mind later as one wrestles with questions of ethnic identity. In , the Byzantine Empire fell under Ottoman rule, but Greek culture and language once again survived. Today there are over ten million Greeks in Europe. Most Greeks live in the Greek state. However, until the s there were substantial Greek populations in Anatolia. Today the chief "irredenta" or minority populations outside the borders of Greece are in Istanbul, on Cyprus and in southern Albania excluding Greeks in America, and others abroad. The Greeks are overwhelmingly Eastern Orthodox, under the authority of the Patriarch of Constantinople.

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Chapter 3 : Balkans - Wikipedia

Within the Balkan States, a number of countries are also considered to be "Slavic states," and are typically defined as Slavic-speaking communities. These include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia.

They inhabit a contiguous region in the Balkan Peninsula, southern Pannonian Plain and eastern Alps, and are geographically separated from the body of West Slavic and East Slavic people by the Romanians, Hungarians, and Austrians. In the 20th century the country of Yugoslavia lit. The concept of Yugoslavia, as a single state for all South Slavic peoples, emerged in the late 17th century and gained prominence through the Illyrian movement of the 19th century. The name Yugoslavia sometimes spelled Jugoslavia is a combination of the Slavic words jug south and sloveni Slavs. The Council established its own Central Committee and Presidency, while one member of the Council was to be representative of a, people. In addition, it comprised five representatives of Croatian Sabor, the Diet of Bosnia and Reichsrat for a total of 95 representatives. The instructions were largely ignored by the delegation members who negotiated with Regent Alexander of the Kingdom of Serbia who later became Alexander I of Yugoslavia. Early Slavs Little is known about the Slavs before the 5th century. Their history prior to this can only be tentatively hypothesized via pre-Indo-European archeological and linguistic studies. Much of what we know about their history after the 6th century is from the works of Byzantine historians. In his work *De Bellis*, Procopius portrays the Sclavini supposed to be Slavs as unusually tall and strong, with a tan complexion and reddish-blond hair, living a rugged and primitive life. They lived in huts, often distant from one another and often changed their place of abode. They were not ruled by a single leader, but for a long time lived in a "democracy". John of Ephesus, in his *Ecclesiastical History* portrays the Slavs as extremely violent people. He has often been identified as Perun, the creator of lightning. The Slavs went into battle on foot, charging straight at their enemy, armed with spears and small shields, but they did not wear armour. The lack of understanding may be attributed to matrilineal succession practiced among Southern Slavs. Migrations and postulated homeland Further information: Slavic settlement of the Eastern Alps Scholars have traditionally placed the Slavic Urheimat in the Pripet marshes of Ukraine, or alternatively between the Bug and the Dniepr. The Balkans was one of the regions which lay in the path of the expanding Slavs. Material culture from the Danube suggests that there was an evolution of Slavic society between the early 7th century and the 8th century. As a reaction to this economic isolation, and external threats e. Archeological sites from the late 7th century show that the earlier settlements which were merely a non-specific collection of hamlets began to evolve into larger communities with differentiated areas e. As community elites rose to prominence, they came to "embody a collective interest and responsibility" for the group. Some, such as Bulgarian scholar Vasil Zlatarski, suggest that the first group settled the western Balkans, becoming one of the forerunners of the linguistic group that became the Bosnians, Serbs and Croats, [9] whilst offshoots of the Antes settled the eastern regions roughly speaking, becoming one of the ancestors of the Bulgarians. They spread about destruction, taking loot and herds of cattle, seizing prisoners and taking fortresses. This meant that even numerically small, disorganised early Slavic raids were capable of causing much disruption, but could not capture the larger, fortified cities. These large scale population movements are associated with the arrival to the area of the Avars, a nomadic Turkic group that had lost a war against other nomads further east, and settled in the Carpathian basin, subjugating the many small Slavic tribes. Most scholars consider the period of as the beginning of large scale Slavic settlement in the Balkans. They settled the Carpathian plain, west of the main Slavic settlements. They asserted their authority over many Slavs, who were divided into numerous petty tribes. Other Slavic tribes continued to raid independently, sometime coordinating attacks as allies of the Avars. Others still spilled into Imperial lands as they fled from the Avars. Archaeological evidence show that there was intermixing of Slavic, Avar and even Gepid cultures, suggesting that the later Avars were an amalgamation of different peoples. The Avar Khanate finally collapsed after

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ongoing defeats at the hands of Franks, Bulgars and Slavs c. What remained of the Avars was absorbed by the Slavs and Bulgars. The earliest Croatian state was the Principality of Dalmatia. Prince Trpimir of Dalmatia was called Duke of Croats in . He organized a state by annexing the Principality of Pannonia as well as maintaining close ties with Pagania and Zahumlje. By AD, Slavs had settled in most of the Central and Southeast Europe, from Austria even down to the Peloponnese of Greece, and from the Adriatic to the Black Seas, with the exception of the coastal areas and certain mountainous regions of the Greek peninsula. This has led scholars to cast doubt on the accuracy of the historical sources, often describing large scale settlements by the Slavs throughout the Balkans, including southern Greece. Over the classical ages, they were at times invaded, conquered and influenced by Celts, Greeks and Romans. Following the fall of Rome and numerous barbarian raids, the population in the Balkans dropped, as did commerce and general standards of living. Many people were killed, or taken prisoner by invaders. They were the most vulnerable to raids and were also hardest hit by the financial crises that plagued the falling empire. However, the Balkans were not desolate; considerable numbers of indigenous people simply remained. The larger cities were able to persevere, even flourish, through the hard times. Archaeological evidence suggests that the culture in the cities changed whereby Roman-style forums and large public buildings were abandoned and cities were modified. The centerpiece of such cities was the church. This transformation from a Roman culture to a Byzantine culture was paralleled by a rise of a new ruling class: Sarmatian tribes such as the Iazyges are recorded to have still lived in the Banat region of the Danube. Since their lifestyle revolved around agriculture, they preferentially settled rural lands along the major highway networks which they moved along. Whilst they could not take the larger fortified towns, they looted the countryside and captured many prisoners. In his *Strategikon*, Pseudo-Maurice noted that it was commonplace for Slavs to accept newly acquired prisoners into their ranks. The Slavs lacked an organised, centrally ruled organisation which actually hastened the process of willful Slavicisation. Such interactions awarded the pre-Slavic populace protection within the ranks of a dominant, new tribe. In return, they contributed to the genetic and cultural development the South Slavs. This phenomenon ultimately led to an exchange of various loan-words. For example, the Slavic name for "Greeks", *Grci*, is derived from the Latin *Graecus* presumably encountered through the local Romanised populace. Conversely, the Vlachs borrowed many Slavic words, especially pertaining to agricultural terms. Whether any of the original Thracian or Illyrian culture and language remained by the time Slavs arrived is a matter of debate. It is a difficult issue to analyse because of the overriding Greek and Roman influence in the region. However, what is certain is that the Thracian [18] and Illyrian identities disappear from history during this period. Over time, due to the larger number of Slavs, the descendants of most of the indigenous populations of the Balkans were Slavicized, an exception being Greece, where the smaller number Slavs scattered there came to be Hellenized over succeeding centuries aided in time by more Greeks returning to Greece in the 9th century and the role of the church and administration. However, they too were eventually assimilated into the body of Slavs. In contrast, the Romano-Dacians in Wallachia managed to maintain their Latin-based language, despite much Slavic influence. After centuries of peaceful co-existence, the groups fused to form the Romanians. First kind are people of swarthy complexion and dark hair. They live near the coast of the [Mediterranean] Sea. The other kind are fair people, who live inland. *Sclaviniae* Byzantine literary accounts i. In , a combined Avar, Bulgar and Slav army besieged Constantinople. The siege was broken, which had repercussions upon the power and prestige of the Avar khanate. This time, the Belegezites also known as the *Velegeziti* did not participate and in fact supplied the besieged citizens of Thessaloniki with grain. A number of medieval sources attest to the presence of Slavs in Greece. While en route to the Holy Land in , Willibald "reached the city of Monemvasia, in the land of Slavina". This particular passage from the *Vita Willibaldi* is interpreted as an indication of a Slavic presence in the hinterland of the Peloponnese. For example, while the Byzantinist Peter Charanis believes the *Chronicle of Monemvasia* to be a reliable account, other scholars point out that it greatly overstates the impact of the Slavic and Avar raids of Greece during this time. Florin Curta points out that evidence of substantial Slavic presence does not appear before the 7th century [38] and remains

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qualitatively different from the "Slavic culture" found north of the Danube. There, investigations of burial graves and cemetery types indicate an uninterrupted continuity of traditions from late antiquity, reflecting a contiguous demographic spread that chronologically matches with the arrival of Slavic-speaking groups. Relations between the Slavs and Greeks were probably peaceful apart from the supposed initial settlement and intermittent uprisings. This was achieved through its theme system, referring to an administrative province on which an army corps was centered, under the control of a strategos "general". It was not until years later that a third theme would be established. In 866, the eunuch general Staurakios campaigned from Thessaloniki, south to Thessaly and into the Peloponnese. New themes in the 9th century included those of Thessalonica, Dyrrhachium, Strymon, and Nicopolis. Apart from military expeditions against Slavs, the re-Hellenization process begun under Nicephorus I involved often forcible transfer of peoples. That the re-Hellenization of Greece through population transfers and cultural activities of the Church was successful suggests Slavs found themselves in the midst of many Greeks. As the Slavs supposedly occupied the entire Balkan interior, Constantinople was effectively cut off from the Dalmatian cities under its nominal control. However, the Slavic tribes of Macedonia never formed their own empire or state, and the area often switched between Greek Byzantine, Bulgarian, Serbian and temporarily even Norman control. The Byzantines were unable to completely Hellenize Macedonia because their progress north was blocked by the Bulgarian Empire, and later by the Serbian Kingdom, which were both Slavic states. However, Byzantine culture nonetheless flowed further north, seen to this day as Bulgaria, the Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia are part of the Orthodox world. Even in Dalmatia, where Byzantine influence was supplanted by Venice and Rome, the influence of Byzantine culture persists. When they had been defeated by the Langobards at Lauriana, in 568, their attempts to penetrate westward into what is now Italian Friuli ended. 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 9th century. It was also around this time that the Slavs were Christianized. Bosnia and Herzegovina, because of 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. Following another shift of power between the two in the early 12th century, Bosnia found itself outside the control of both and emerged as an independent state under the rule of local bans. Kulin, though a nominal vassal of Hungary, was the first Bosnian ruler who was de facto sovereign. In response to Hungarian attempts to use church politics regarding the issue as a way to reclaim sovereignty over Bosnia, Kulin held a council of local church leaders to renounce the heresy and embraced Catholicism in

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Chapter 4 : Western Balkans Regular Economic Report: Fall

In the 19th century, there were only three free Slavic States in the world; Montenegro, Russia, and Serbia. Slavs are the ethnic majority in most of the Central and Eastern Europe Slavic countries. Slavs are the ethnic majority in most of the Central and Eastern Europe Slavic countries.

Early Slavs Little is known about the Slavs before the 5th century. Their history prior to this can only be tentatively hypothesized via pre-Indo-European archeological and linguistic studies. Much of what we know about their history after the 6th century is from the works of Byzantine historians. In his work *De Bellis*, Procopius portrays the Sclavini supposed to be Slavs as unusually tall and strong, with a tan complexion and reddish-blond hair, living a rugged and primitive life. They lived in huts, often distant from one another and often changed their place of abode. They were not ruled by a single leader, but for a long time lived in a "democracy". John of Ephesus, in his *Ecclesiastical History* portrays the Slavs as extremely violent people. He has often been identified as Perun, the creator of lightning. The Slavs went into battle on foot, charging straight at their enemy, armed with spears and small shields, but they did not wear armour. The lack of understanding may be attributed to matrilineal succession practiced among Southern Slavs. Migrations and postulated homeland Further information: Slavic settlement of the Eastern Alps Scholars have traditionally placed the Slavic Urheimat in the Pripet marshes of Ukraine, or alternatively between the Bug and the Dniepr. The Balkans was one of the regions which lay in the path of the expanding Slavs. Material culture from the Danube suggests that there was an evolution of Slavic society between the early 7th century and the 8th century. As a reaction to this economic isolation, and external threats e. Archeological sites from the late 7th century show that the earlier settlements which were merely a non-specific collection of hamlets began to evolve into larger communities with differentiated areas e. As community elites rose to prominence, they came to "embody a collective interest and responsibility" for the group. Some, such as Bulgarian scholar Vasil Zlatarski, suggest that the first group settled the western Balkans, becoming one of the forerunners of the linguistic group that became the Bosnians, Serbs and Croats, [9] whilst offshoots of the Antes settled the eastern regions roughly speaking, becoming one of the ancestors of the Bulgarians. They spread about destruction, taking loot and herds of cattle, seizing prisoners and taking fortresses. This meant that even numerically small, disorganised early Slavic raids were capable of causing much disruption, but could not capture the larger, fortified cities. These large scale population movements are associated with the arrival to the area of the Avars, a nomadic Turkic group that had lost a war against other nomads further east, and settled in the Carpathian basin, subjugating the many small Slavic tribes. Most scholars consider the period of as the beginning of large scale Slavic settlement in the Balkans. They settled the Carpathian plain, west of the main Slavic settlements. They asserted their authority over many Slavs, who were divided into numerous petty tribes. Other Slavic tribes continued to raid independently, sometime coordinating attacks as allies of the Avars. Others still spilled into Imperial lands as they fled from the Avars. Archeological evidence show that there was intermixing of Slavic, Avar and even Gepid cultures, suggesting that the later Avars were an amalgamation of different peoples. The Avar Khanate finally collapsed after ongoing defeats at the hands of Franks, Bulgars and Slavs c. What remained of the Avars was absorbed by the Slavs and Bulgars. The earliest Croatian state was the Principality of Dalmatia. Prince Trpimir of Dalmatia was called Duke of Croats in He organized a state by annexing the Principality of Pannonia as well as maintaining close ties with Paganian and Zahumlje. By AD, Slavs had settled in most of the Balkans, from Austria to the Peloponnese, and from the Adriatic to the Black seas, with the exception of the coastal areas and certain mountainous regions of the Greek peninsula. This has led scholars to cast doubt on the accuracy of the historical sources, often describing large scale settlements by the Slavs throughout the Balkans, including southern Greece. Over the classical ages, they were at times invaded, conquered and influenced by Celts, Greeks and Romans. Following the fall of Rome and numerous barbarian raids, the population in the Balkans dropped, as did commerce and general

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standards of living. Many people were killed, or taken prisoner by invaders. They were the most vulnerable to raids and were also hardest hit by the financial crises that plagued the falling empire. However, the Balkans were not desolate; considerable numbers of indigenous people simply remained. The larger cities were able to persevere, even flourish, through the hard times. Archaeological evidence suggests that the culture in the cities changed whereby Roman-style forums and large public buildings were abandoned and cities were modified. The centerpiece of such cities was the church. This transformation from a Roman culture to a Byzantine culture was paralleled by a rise of a new ruling class: Sarmatian tribes such as the Iazyges are recorded to have still lived in the Banat region of the Danube. Since their lifestyle revolved around agriculture, they preferentially settled rural lands along the major highway networks which they moved along. Whilst they could not take the larger fortified towns, they looted the countryside and captured many prisoners. In his *Strategikon*, Pseudo-Maurice noted that it was commonplace for Slavs to accept newly acquired prisoners into their ranks. The Slavs lacked an organised, centrally ruled organisation which actually hastened the process of willful Slavicisation. Such interactions awarded the pre-Slavic populace protection within the ranks of a dominant, new tribe. In return, they contributed to the genetic and cultural development of the South Slavs. This phenomenon ultimately led to an exchange of various loan-words. For example, the Slavic name for "Greeks", *Grci*, is derived from the Latin *Graecus* presumably encountered through the local Romanised populace. Conversely, the Vlachs borrowed many Slavic words, especially pertaining to agricultural terms. Whether any of the original Thracian or Illyrian culture and language remained by the time Slavs arrived is a matter of debate. It is a difficult issue to analyse because of the overriding Greek and Roman influence in the region. However, what is certain is that the Thracian [18] and Illyrian identities disappear from history during this period. Over time, due to the larger number of Slavs, the descendants of most of the indigenous populations of the Balkans were Slavicized, an exception being Greece, where the smaller number of Slavs scattered there came to be Hellenized over succeeding centuries aided in time by more Greeks returning to Greece in the 9th century and the role of the church and administration. However, they too were eventually assimilated into the body of Slavs. In contrast, the Romano-Dacians in Wallachia managed to maintain their Latin-based language, despite much Slavic influence. After centuries of peaceful co-existence, the groups fused to form the Romanians.

Relationship with Byzantium Further information: *Sclaviniae* Byzantine literary accounts i. In , a combined Avar , Bulgar and Slav army besieged Constantinople. The siege was broken, which had repercussions upon the power and prestige of the Avar khanate. This time, the Belegezites also known as the Velegeziti did not participate and in fact supplied the besieged citizens of Thessaloniki with grain. A number of medieval sources attest to the presence of Slavs in Greece. While en route to the Holy Land in , Willibald "reached the city of Monemvasia , in the land of Slavina ". This particular passage from the *Vita Willibaldi* is interpreted as an indication of a Slavic presence in the hinterland of the Peloponnese. For example, while the Byzantinist Peter Charanis believes the *Chronicle of Monemvasia* to be a reliable account, other scholars point out that it greatly overstates the impact of the Slavic and Avar raids of Greece during this time. Florin Curta points out that evidence of substantial Slavic presence does not appear before the 7th century [38] and remains qualitatively different from the "Slavic culture" found north of the Danube. There, investigations of burial graves and cemetery types indicate an uninterrupted continuity of traditions from late antiquity , reflecting a contiguous demographic spread that chronologically matches with the arrival of Slavic-speaking groups. Pg

Relations between the Slavs and Greeks were probably peaceful apart from the supposed initial settlement and intermittent uprisings. This was achieved through its theme system , referring to an administrative province on which an army corps was centered, under the control of a strategos "general". It was not until years later that a third theme would be established. In 866, the eunuch general Staurakios campaigned from Thessaloniki, south to Thessaly and into the Peloponnese. New themes in the 9th century included those of Thessalonica , Dyrrhachium , Strymon , and Nicopolis. Apart from military expeditions against Slavs, the re-Hellenization process begun under Nicephorus I involved often forcible transfer of peoples. That the re-Hellenization of Greece through population transfers and cultural activities of the Church was successful suggests Slavs found

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themselves in the midst of many Greeks. As the Slavs supposedly occupied the entire Balkan interior, Constantinople was effectively cut off from the Dalmatian cities under its nominal control. However, the Slavic tribes of Macedonia never formed their own empire or state, and the area often switched between Greek Byzantine, Bulgarian, Serbian and temporarily even Norman control. The Byzantines were unable to completely Hellenize Macedonia because their progress north was blocked by the Bulgarian Empire, and later by the Serbian Kingdom, which were both Slavic states. However, Byzantine culture nonetheless flowed further north, seen to this day as Bulgaria, the Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia are part of the Orthodox world. Even in Dalmatia, where Byzantine influence was supplanted by Venice and Rome, the influence of Byzantine culture persists. When they had been defeated by the Langobards at Lauriana, in , their attempts to penetrate westward into what is now Italian Friuli ended. 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 9th century. Following another shift of power between the two in the early 12th century, Bosnia found itself outside the control of both and emerged as an independent state under the rule of local bans. In response to Hungarian attempts to use church politics regarding the issue as a way to reclaim sovereignty over Bosnia, Kulin held a council of local church leaders to renounce the heresy and embraced Catholicism in . By the time of his death in , 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 . The Ottoman Empire had already started its conquest of Europe and posed a major threat to the Balkans throughout the first half of the 15th century. Finally, after decades of political and social instability, the Kingdom of Bosnia ceased to exist in .

The Slavs accepted as their rulers the Bulgar Khans but retained significant autonomy. Both peoples had to protect the country from the Byzantines to the south and the Avar Khanate to the north-west. The Byzantines were aware of this new threat but were completely defeated in the Battle of Ongal and in officially recognized Bulgaria as a sovereign country, known nowadays as the First Bulgarian Empire. By the mid 9th century Bulgaria expanded into much of the Slavic-populated areas of the Balkan peninsula in Thrace, Moesia, Macedonia and Dacia. Khan Omurtag " made an administrative reform which aimed the centralization of the country and deprived the Slavs of their autonomy. As a result, some Slavic tribes to the north-west rebelled but they were quickly subjugated. Balkans, latter half of 9th century Following the Christianization of Bulgaria and the creation of the Glagolitic and Cyrillic alphabets and the formation of a literary Bulgarian language, the Bulgars and Slavs finally merged into the Bulgarian people. In the Byzantines also had to recognize the Imperial title of the Bulgarian rulers in Bulgarian " Tsar and the Bulgarian Patriarchate.

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Chapter 5 : West Slavs | Revolvry

Finally, the Turks now have possession of only a small corner of the Balkans, but at one time ruled much of it, and there were large Turkish populations in many areas, especially the cities. The Turks entered Anatolia from Central Asia around as tribal nomads converted to Islam.

Society Slavic Countries Slavs are the largest Indo-European ethno-linguistic group in Europe, and share historical backgrounds and cultural traits across a large geographic area. The modern Slavs are diverse in almost all ways including culture, genetic, and relationship between them. There are over million Slavs worldwide. History Of The Slavs The ancient Slavs belonged to diverse tribal societies who lived in the migration period between the 5th and the 10th century especially in the Eastern and Central Europe. They absorbed the Iranian ethnic groups who were also living in the Central and Eastern Europe around the sixth century. The majority of the Slavs converted to Christianity in the 9th century and occupied most of the medieval Christian states including Bulgaria , Poland , Serbia , Croatia , and Bosnia. Slavs were organized into chiefdoms with consolidation of the chiefdoms taking place in the 7th and 8th century. During the consolidation period, the culture of the Slavs was greatly influenced by the neighboring communities including the Khazars, Vikings, and Byzantium. The settlement had open areas which were significant for public activities and ceremonies. Slavs were part of the Eurasia, a multi-ethnic group which made up the Hun, Gothic, and Sarmatian Empires. In the 19th century, there were only three free Slavic States in the world; Montenegro , Russia , and Serbia. Slavs are the ethnic majority in most of the Central and Eastern Europe Slavic countries. They make up the citizenship of those countries. Currently, there are over million Slavs worldwide. Russia has the highest number of Slavs, million. Russians in the country form the ethnic majority. There are over 57 million Poles and Ukrainians each living in Poland and Ukraine respectively. Macedonia and Montenegro account for the least number of Slavs, 2. Protestants, atheists, and Muslims make the religious minority among the Slavs. Religion plays a key role in the alphabet used in the Slavic language. The Bosniaks, mainly Muslims, also use the Latin alphabet. The Slavic culture has been influenced greatly by the other ethnic groups they have come into contact with including the Balkans and the Thracians. The Slavs assimilated most of the non-Slavs they came into contact with including their culture while at the same time influence the cultures of the other communities which they could not assimilate.

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Chapter 6 : Slav | History & Facts | calendrierdelascience.com

Generally, the Balkans are bordered on the northwest by Italy, on the north by Hungary, on the north and northeast by Moldova and Ukraine, and on the south by Greece and Turkey or the Aegean Sea (depending on how the region is defined).

The Slavs under name of the Antes and the Sclaveni first appear in Byzantine records in the early 6th century. Byzantine historiographers under emperor Justinian I , such as Procopius of Caesarea, Jordanes and Theophylact Simocatta describe tribes of these names emerging from the area of the Carpathian Mountains, the lower Danube and the Black Sea, invading the Danubian provinces of the Eastern Empire. Jordanes in his work *Getica* written in or AD. He describes the Veneti as the ancestors of Antes and Slaveni, two early Slavic tribes, who appeared on the Byzantine frontier in the early 6th century. Procopius wrote in that "the Sclaveni and the Antae actually had a single name in the remote past; for they were both called Sporoi in olden times". He described them as barbarians, who lived under democracy, believe in one god, "the maker of lightning" Perun , to whom they made sacrifice. They lived in scattered housing, and constantly changed settlement. In war, they were mainly foot soldiers with small shields and battle axes, lightly clothed, some entering battle naked with only genitals covered. Their language is "barbarous" that is, not Greek , and the two tribes are alike in appearance, being tall and robust, "while their bodies and hair are neither very fair or blond, nor indeed do they incline entirely to the dark type, but they are all slightly ruddy in color. And they live a hard life, giving no heed to bodily comforts The Slavs emerged from obscurity when the westward movement of Germans in the 5th and 6th centuries CE thought to be in conjunction with the movement of peoples from Siberia and Eastern Europe: Huns, and later Avars and Bulgars started the great migration of the Slavs, who settled the lands abandoned by Germanic tribes fleeing the Huns and their allies: After a military movement even the Peloponnese and Asia Minor were reported to have Slavic settlements. This early Slavic polity probably did not outlive its founder and ruler, but it was the foundation for later Slavic states on its territory. The oldest of them was Carantania; others are the Principality of Nitra and the Moravian principality see under Great Moravia. In this period, there were West Slavic tribes and states such as the Balaton Principality. The First Bulgarian Empire was founded in , and the Slavic language Old Church Slavonic became the main and official language of the empire in Bulgaria was instrumental in the spread of Slavic literacy and Christianity to the rest of the Slavic world. Modern era As of , there were only three free Slavic states in the world: In the entire Austro-Hungarian Empire of approximately 50 million people, about 23 million were Slavs. The Slavic peoples who were, for the most part, denied a voice in the affairs of the Austria-Hungary, were calling for national self-determination. Because of the vastness and diversity of the territory occupied by Slavic people, there were several centers of Slavic consolidation. In the 19th century, Pan-Slavism developed as a movement among intellectuals, scholars, and poets, but it rarely influenced practical politics and did not find support in some Slavic nations. Pan-Slavism became compromised when the Russian Empire started to use it as an ideology justifying its territorial conquests in Central Europe as well as subjugation of other Slavic ethnic groups such as Poles and Ukrainians, and the ideology became associated with Russian imperialism. Lee estimates that, by the end of World War II in , the Russian population was about 90 million fewer than it could have been otherwise. A notable political union of the 20th century that covered most South Slavs was Yugoslavia, but it ultimately broke apart in the s along with the Soviet Union. The word "Slavs" was used in the national anthem of Yugoslavia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia , later Serbia and Montenegro As of now, Kazakhstan has the largest Slavic minority population with most being Russians Ukrainians, Belarusians and Poles are present as well but in much smaller numbers. Pan-Slavism Pan-Slavism, a movement which came into prominence in the midth century, emphasized the common heritage and unity of all the Slavic peoples. The main focus was in the Balkans where the South Slavs had been ruled for centuries by other empires: The Russian Empire used Pan-Slavism as a political tool; as did the Soviet Union, which

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gained political-military influence and control over most Slavic-majority nations between and and retained a hegemonic role until the period â€”

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Chapter 7 : THE SLAVS Early History CIVILIZATION Slavic DVORNIK Balkans BALKAN Slav | eBay

In this period, there existed central Slavic groups and states such as the Balaton Principality, but the subsequent expansion of the Magyars and Romanians, as well as the Germanisation of Austria, separated the northern and southern Slavs.

Montenegro joining the alliance is seen as a historic shift from East to West for the country and one that is likely to have long-term ripple effects throughout the region. Despite having a small army of only 2, soldiers, what Montenegro is contributing in exchange for NATO protection is extremely valuable to the organisation. The memory of the war and the losses suffered continue to constitute a significant influencer and some Montenegrins are still highly sceptical of both the alliance and the future this move will bring for the country. Another significant influencer is the cultural connection to Russia, coupled with the gratitude for their financial help that some Montenegrins continue to feel. In , Russia accounted for one-third of the foreign direct investment in Montenegro, and this investment was largely concentrated in beachside real estate and development deals that Moscow had been building for a decade. The warning did not go ignored, and Montenegro soon saw a significant decrease in the number of Russian tourists coming to their seaside resorts. The simpler reality was that the opposition was not convincing enough to win and with the recently-opened trial to investigate the accusations that it was Russian forces who organised the attempted coup, it remains to be seen if anti-NATO sentiments will be strong enough to have an impact at the next election. With the Western Balkans being neglected by the European Union, Russia has been taking advantage of a window of opportunity to exert and even increase its influence on the politics of the region. Although Serbia is and has always been the main country of interest and its most reliable ally, Russia has sought to maintain involvement in the region wherever it could. Macedonian President Gjorge Ivanov rushed to meet President Putin after finally allowing the Social Democrats to form a government last month, and Bosnia-Herzegovina finds itself consistently needing to tread carefully due to Russian support for the tension-fuelling endeavours of its Republika Srpska. With understandably more positive memories of the NATO intervention, Kosovo is where the security organisation finds its most pro-American ally in the region. In Kosovo, Russia also has more of an indirect interest, as it sees the non-Slavic, largely Muslim Balkan country merely as an instrument that it can use in its relationship with Serbia. The support that Serbia enjoys in the Security Council is something that the West will have a tough time replacing and it would be better off trying to make it less necessary. With Russia becoming more active, and the European Union becoming less involved, a need for the reassertion of alternatives is increasingly being felt in the region. As long as the European Union continues stalling its expansion in the Balkans, Moscow will continue to support pro-Russian parties in the countries of the region, who will in turn attempt to maintain the internal political tensions. Russia is also likely to concentrate most of its attention on Serbia from now on, as Serbia is dependent on Russian gas, and the latter can successfully use this dependence against them. This leverage that Russia has over Serbia also impacts the likelihood that its relationship with NATO will change significantly. Although a future where Serbia is likely to become surrounded by NATO countries exists, with Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo and Macedonia constant in their desire to become members, and the rest of its neighbours already part of the alliance, it will be a while before Serbia moves forward from occasional military exercises with the organisation. Kosovo, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, however, all have their internal battles to fight first and it will be some time before they are ready for full membership of the North Atlantic organisation. Similarly, Serbia has an easier time keeping peace both internally and externally by treading the fine line between the West and the East. Despite the centuries-old ties and shared Orthodox and Slavic culture, the Western Balkans are not a top priority for Moscow. This, coupled with what must be hoped to be a temporary disinterest on the part of the European Union, means that there is room for alternatives in the region and stronger engagement with and on the part of NATO, regardless of how far it goes, will bring nothing but

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benefits to both sides and Europe as a whole. Montenegrin Army soldiers Source:

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Chapter 8 : South Slavs - Infogalactic: the planetary knowledge core

By that time, the Slavs had a solid presence in the Balkans and other regions in central and eastern Europe. CULTURAL DIVERGENCE OF THE SLAVS Early in the Middle Age, the Slavs occupied a large region, which encouraged the emergence of several independent Slav states.

Antiquity Illyrians and Thracians Archaeological evidence indicates that the Balkans were populated well before the Neolithic Period New Stone Age; about 10, years ago. At the dawn of recorded history, two Indo-European peoples dominated the area: The Thracians were advanced in metalworking and in horsemanship. They intermingled with the Greeks and gave them the Dionysian and Orphean cults, which later became so important in classical Greek literature. The Illyrians were more exclusive , their mountainous terrain keeping them separate from the Greeks and Thracians. Thracian society was tribal in structure, with little inclination toward political cohesion. In what was to become a persistent phenomenon in Balkan history, unity was brought about mostly by external pressure. The Persian invasions of the 6th and 5th centuries bce brought the Thracian tribes together in the Odrysian kingdom, which fell under Macedonian influence in the 4th century bce. The Illyrians, ethnically akin to the Thracians, originally inhabited a large area from the Istrian peninsula to northern Greece and as far inland as the Morava River. During the 4th century bce they were pushed southward by Celtic invasions, and thereafter their territory did not extend much farther north than the Drin River. Illyrian society, like that of the Thracians, was organized around tribal groups who often fought wars with one another and with outsiders. Under the Celtic threat they established a coherent political entity, but this too was destroyed by Macedonia. Thereafter the Illyrians were known mainly as pirates who disturbed the trade of many Greek settlements on the Adriatic coast. The Romans were also affected and took police action , annexing much of Illyrian territory in the early 3rd century bce. In the Roman Empire The Romans were different from other major conquerors of the Balkans in that they first arrived in the west. Later attacks were launched from the southeast as well, so that by the 1st century ce the entire peninsula was under Roman control. At the height of Roman power, the Balkan peoples were the most united of any time in their history, with a common legal system, a single ultimate arbiter of political power, and absolute military security. The northwestern part of the peninsula, including Dalmatia along the Adriatic coast as well as Pannonia around the Danube and Sava rivers, became the province of Illyricum. What is now eastern Serbia was incorporated into Moesia , which reached farther eastward between the Balkan Mountains and the Danube all the way to the Black Sea. The southeastern part of the peninsula was ruled as Thrace , and the southern part was brought into Macedonia. The Romans largely regarded the Danube River as their northern frontier, but in the 2nd and 3rd centuries their authority was extended northward into Dacia , in what is now western Romania. Dacia had been the home of a people closely related to the Thracians. The Dacians had suffered invasion by a number of peoples, including the Scythians , a mysterious people probably of Iranian origin who were absorbed into the resident population. In the 3rd century bce they managed to contain Macedonian pressure from the south, but in later years they were much less able to fend off Celtic invaders from the northwest. By the 1st century ce a substantial Dacian state extended as far west as Moravia and threatened Roman command of the Danube in the Balkans. The extension of the Dacian state and Dacian raids across the river into Moesia prompted the emperor Trajan in the first decade of the 2nd century to march into Dacia, obliterate the Dacian state and Dacian society, and establish a Roman colony that lasted until barbarian incursions forced a withdrawal back across the Danube beginning in In the imperial capital was moved to Byzantium, so that any tribe intent on attacking the seat of Roman power and opulence would thenceforth move through the Balkans rather than into Italy. In Christianity became the official religion, and in the empire was divided in two. The dividing line ran through the Balkans: Illyricum went to the western sector under Rome; the remainder went to the eastern half and was ruled from Byzantium by this time named Constantinople. This deep and long-lasting division did little to alleviate the barbarian incursions of the times.

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The 5th century saw devastation by, among others, the Alani, the Goths, and the Huns. Most of these invaders soon left or were assimilated, but such was not to be the case with the Slavs, who first arrived in the 6th century. The Slavs were settlers and cultivators rather than plunderers and within years had become a powerful factor in the region. They separated into four main groups: Slovenes, Croats, Serbs, and Bulgarians the last being a Turkic tribe, the Bulgars, that was eventually absorbed by Slavs who had already settled in the eastern Balkans. Although the Bulgars established their own state, the Slavs acknowledged the suzerainty of the emperor in Constantinople. In the second half of the 9th century, Christianity was adopted by the Bulgarians and the Serbs, both of whom chose the Byzantine rather than Roman variant of the new religion. The Albanians, isolated behind their mountain chains, were not much affected by either branch of Christianity. The divisions and competition between Rome and Constantinople intensified, with the two communities separating irrevocably in 1054. The dividing line of 1054 was thus reinforced: The Orthodox east Within the Orthodox world two monks, Cyril and Methodius, devised an alphabet that enabled their disciples to translate religious texts into Slavonic. This new alphabet enabled the establishment of a liturgical and literary language of the Balkans, but it also meant that, with Greek remaining in use in commerce and in the administration of the Byzantine Empire, the Orthodox world no longer had a common language that functioned as Latin did in the Catholic world. The lack of a universal language developed in part from a political assumption established at the very beginning of the Orthodox Christian world: Therefore, whenever a state separated from the Byzantine Empire, the impulse was for an accompanying church to be established. This association of state and church was intensified by the fear of invasion by non-Christians, a fear shared by state and church and ruler and ruled. Ruler and ruled were much less united, however, when social tensions arose—especially when, as was frequently the case, these tensions found expression in support for religious heresies. Any sign of independent thinking within the church was persecuted as a danger to temporal as well as spiritual power, and this hindered the development of those forms of intellectual exchange that later proved vital to the flowering of intellectual life in the West—Catholic Croatia-Slavonia and Dalmatia included. Orthodox Monasteries Take a journey to an isolated monastery on top of a remote hillside. There were recurrent conflicts between Constantinople and the first Bulgarian empire until the latter was crushed in the early 11th century. Although reinvigorated by its victory, the Byzantine Empire soon faced further threats. Some years later the threat came from Western crusaders, who descended upon and seized the imperial capital, holding it until 1204. They also divided the empire into small fiefdoms, most of which lasted little longer than their first rulers. The Crusades had two profound effects upon the Balkans. In the first place the experience of Norman rule greatly intensified the hatred of the Eastern Orthodox against Westerners and Catholics. Second, the weakening of the empire allowed the Venetians to assume domination of seaborne trading in the eastern Mediterranean. The loss of both Anatolia and maritime supremacy deprived the empire of essential reserves of manpower, food, and wealth—losses that it could replenish only in its Balkan possessions. In the late 12th century, attempts to levy higher taxes led the Bulgarians to revolt and establish a second empire, but this was soon enfeebled by costly wars and by the inability of the ruling Asen dynasty to control local notables. He is also thought to have pondered the seizure of Constantinople, though by the time of his death in 1343 he had taken no positive action toward securing that goal. The Catholic west Political stability and unity were no more apparent among the Catholic Balkan Christians than among the Orthodox. The Croats established their own kingdom in the 10th century under Tomislav but in 1102 agreed to become part of the Hungarian monarchy. Hungary had already established its authority as early as the 11th century in Transylvania, where it introduced both Szeklers, a Hungarian-speaking people, and German-speaking Saxons. To the east the kingdoms of Walachia and Moldavia did not emerge until the 14th century; their preoccupations were less with the Turks than with the Hungarians and the Mongols. The Ottomans Conquest and rule While the various Balkan states fought among themselves for domination in the area, a new danger appeared in the south. This was the beginning of their conquest of the Balkan Peninsula—a process that took more than a century. Serbia fell after the Battle of Kosovo in 1389, Bulgaria in 1454, Constantinople in 1453, Bosnia in 1463, Herzegovina in 1482, and Montenegro in 1499. The conquest

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was made easier by divisions among the Orthodox peoples and by the even deeper rift between the Western and Eastern Christians. Although the Albanians under Skanderbeg frustrated the Ottomans for a time 1688, the Ottomans marched ever northward. The Ottomans now controlled much of central as well as southeastern Europe, but in the northern and western areas their power was much diluted. Transylvania, Moldavia, and Walachia acknowledged the suzerainty of the sultan but managed their own internal affairs as did Montenegro, which was too mountainous to subdue while the trading centre of Ragusa modern Dubrovnik, Croatia remained independent both de facto and de jure. The western periphery, including Croatia, was still open to the intellectual storms generated by the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, which did not much affect the central Orthodox areas. In these central areas the Ottoman conquest brought complete social and political revolution. The old aristocracy almost everywhere was removed from power, and it frequently was destroyed. The main exceptions were Bosnia and Albania, where many nobles converted to Islam and retained their land. In Bosnia the Bogomils, equally persecuted by Orthodoxy and Catholicism, had religious as well as material reasons for conversion. In almost all areas the Ottomans introduced the timar system, based on previous Byzantine practices. The peasants worked the land and thus generated income for the spahis, though in the first centuries of Ottoman rule taxation and other levies were usually lighter and more regular than they had been under Christian rule. The Ottoman authorities seldom exerted pressure on Christians to convert to Islam, though there were fiscal and legal benefits in doing so. Administratively, the empire was divided into millets, each millet consisting of a single religious denomination. The religious leaders were made responsible for the collection of state taxes and for the maintenance of order within the religious community. Most Balkan Christians, being Orthodox, were members of the millet headed by the Greek patriarch in Constantinople. Despite the horrors of such separation, there is evidence that children who rose high in the imperial service favoured their native areas. Immediately thereafter the Austrians invited the Serbs, who had been their recent allies, to settle in the border areas of the Habsburg lands as frontier guards; in return, the Serbs were allowed religious freedom. Meanwhile, the Ottomans suffered further defeats throughout the 18th century. This attitude was pervasive: Most of these regulations were evaded by corruption and bribery. At the same time, there was increasing trading in office, not least in tax farming. Under this system the right to collect taxes in a given area could be purchased from a government agency or from government officials. The government determined the amount of tax owed by each individual tax farmer directly to the government, and tax collectors were free to take as much as they could from the taxpayers and pocket the difference. Inevitably the burden of these increased costs was passed down to the peasant and to poor artisans in the towns. In Moldavia and Walachia the local nobility had adopted Greek culture, and it was partly through them that Greek influence was extended throughout the Orthodox church in the 18th century, leading to the abolition of the separate Serbian patriarchate and of the autocephaly of the Bulgarian church. The subsequent appointment of Greek bishops and even priests in non-Greek areas caused great resentment; this was exacerbated by the increased trafficking in church offices during the century, which once again passed the costs of purchasing favours down the system until they fell ultimately on poor villagers and townspeople. In the last two decades of the 18th century, these factors combined with further encroachment by Austria and Russia to produce a virtual collapse of central governmental authority in the Ottoman Balkans. In some instances these warlords provided some stability, but in most cases they exploited their subjects ruthlessly. Frustration over the weakness of central government rather than over its overbearing presence produced a Serbian uprising of 1690, the first successful Christian revolt against Ottoman rule. Page 1 of 3.

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Chapter 9 : Slavs - Wikipedia

Independent Slavic states appeared in the Balkans. An appeal for western European assistance did not help the Byzantines. Crusaders, led by Venetian merchants, sacked Constantinople in

World Wars[edit] Austro-Hungarian troops executing Serbian civilians, Serbia lost about , people during the war, a quarter of its pre-war population. As a result of the war, almost all remaining European territories of the Ottoman Empire were captured and partitioned among the allies. Ensuing events also led to the creation of an independent Albanian state. Bulgaria insisted on its status quo territorial integrity, divided and shared by the Great Powers next to the Russo-Turkish War 1878 in other boundaries and on the pre-war Bulgarian-Serbian agreement. Bulgaria was provoked by the backstage deals between its former allies, Serbia and Greece, on the allocation of the spoils at the end of the First Balkan War. At the time, Bulgaria was fighting at the main Thracian Front. Bulgaria marks the beginning of Second Balkan War when it attacked them. The Serbs and the Greeks repulsed single attacks, but when the Greek army invaded Bulgaria together with an unprovoked Romanian intervention in the back, Bulgaria collapsed. The Ottoman Empire used the opportunity to recapture Eastern Thrace , establishing its new western borders that still stand today as part of modern Turkey. That caused a war between the two countries which—through the existing chains of alliances—led to the First World War. The Ottoman Empire soon joined the Central Powers becoming one of the three empires participating in that alliance. The next year Bulgaria joined the Central Powers attacking Serbia, which was successfully fighting Austro-Hungary to the north for a year. The participation of Greece in the war three years later, in 1917, on the part of the Entente finally altered the balance between the opponents leading to the collapse of the common German-Bulgarian front there, which caused the exit of Bulgaria from the war, and in turn the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, ending the First World War. Fascist Italy expanded the war in the Balkans by using its protectorate Albania to invade Greece. Yugoslavia immediately disintegrated when those loyal to the Serbian King and the Croatian units mutinied. The two countries were partitioned between the three Axis allies, Bulgaria, Germany and Italy, and the Independent State of Croatia , a puppet state of Italy and Germany. During the occupation the population suffered considerable hardship due to repression and starvation, to which the population reacted by creating a mass resistance movement. They left behind a region largely ruined as a result of wartime exploitation. Cold War[edit] During the Cold War , most of the countries on the Balkans were governed by communist governments. Greece became the first battleground of the emerging Cold War. The Truman Doctrine was the US response to the civil war , which raged from 1946 to 1949. This civil war, unleashed by the Communist Party of Greece , backed by communist volunteers from neighboring countries Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia , led to massive American assistance for the non-communist Greek government. With this backing, Greece managed to defeat the partisans and, ultimately, remained the only non-communist country in the region. However, despite being under communist governments, Yugoslavia and Albania fell out with the Soviet Union. Yugoslavia, led by Marshal Josip Broz Tito — , first propped up then rejected the idea of merging with Bulgaria and instead sought closer relations with the West, later even spearheaded, together with India and Egypt the Non-Aligned Movement. Albania on the other hand gravitated toward Communist China , later adopting an isolationist position. As the only non-communist countries, Greece and Turkey were and still are part of NATO composing the southeastern wing of the alliance. Serbia in turn declared the dissolution of the union as unconstitutional and the Yugoslavian army unsuccessfully tried to maintain status quo. In the ensuing 10 years armed confrontation, gradually all the other Republics declared independence, with Bosnia being the most affected by the fighting. State entities on the former territory of Yugoslavia , From the dissolution of Yugoslavia six republics achieved international recognition as sovereign republics, but these are traditionally included in Balkans: In 1992, while under UN administration, Kosovo declared independence according to the official Serbian policy, Kosovo is still an internal autonomous region. In July 2010, the International Court of Justice , ruled that the declaration of

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independence was legal. With the dissolution of Yugoslavia an issue emerged over the name under which the former federated republic of Macedonia would internationally be recognized, between the new country and Greece. Being the Macedonian part of Yugoslavia see Vardar Macedonia , the federated Republic under the Yugoslav identity had the name Republic of Macedonia on which it declared its sovereignty in Greece, having a large region see Macedonia also under the same name opposed to the usage of this name as an indication of a nationality. The issue is currently under negotiations after a UN initiation. In , the European Union decided to start accession negotiations with candidate countries; Turkey , and Macedonia were accepted as candidates for EU membership. In , Montenegro started accession negotiations with the EU. In , Albania is an official candidate for accession to the EU. In , Serbia is expected to start accession negotiations with the EU. Montenegro joined in June Most of the republics are parliamentary , excluding Romania and Bosnia which are semi-presidential. The states from the former Eastern Bloc that formerly had planned economy system and Turkey mark gradual economic growth each year, only the economy of Greece drops for and meanwhile it was expected to grow in On political, social and economic criteria the divisions are as follows: Territories members of the European Union: Albania and Macedonia Territories with " potential candidates " status for EU membership: Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo.