KEY HISTORICAL EVENTS

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914 precipitated the First World War. In the winter of 1915–16 the Serbian army was forced to retreat to Corfu, where the government aimed at a centralized, Serb-run state. But exiles from Croatia and Slovenia wanted a South Slav federation. This was accepted by the victorious Allies as the basis for the new state. The Croats were forced by the pressure of events to join Serbia and Montenegro on 1 Dec. 1918. From 1918–29 the country was known as the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

A constitution of 1921 established an assembly but the trappings of parliamentarianism could not bridge the gulf between Serbs and Croats. The Croat peasant leader Radić was assassinated in 1928; his successor, Vlatko Maček, set up a separatist assembly in Zagreb. On 6 Jan. 1929 the king suspended the constitution and established a royal dictatorship, redrawing provincial boundaries without regard for ethnicity. In Oct. 1934 he was murdered by a Croat extremist while on an official visit to France.

During the regency of Prince Paul, the government pursued a pro-fascist line. On 25 March 1941 Paul was induced to adhere to the Axis Tripartite Pact. On 27 March he was overthrown by military officers in favour of the boy king Peter. Germany invaded on 6 April. Within ten days Yugoslavia surrendered; king and government fled to London. Resistance was led by a royalist group and the communist-dominated partisans of Josip Broz, nicknamed Tito. Having succeeded in liberating Yugoslavia, Tito instituted a Soviet-type constitution. He was too independent for Stalin, who sought to topple him. But Tito made a rapprochement with the west and it was the Soviet Union under Khrushchev which had to extend the olive branch in 1956. Yugoslavia evolved its ‘own road to socialism’. Collectivization of agriculture was abandoned; and Yugoslavia became a champion of international ‘non-alignment’. A collective presidency came into being with the death of Tito in 1980.

Dissensions in Kosovo between Albanians and Serbs, and in parts of Croatia between Serbs and Croats, reached crisis point after 1988. On 25 June 1991 Croatia and Slovenia declared independence. Fighting began in Croatia between Croatian forces and Serb irregulars from Serb-majority areas of Croatia. On 25 Sept. the UN Security Council imposed a mandatory arms embargo on Yugoslavia. Slovenia and Croatia declared their independence from the Yugoslav federation on 8 Oct, after a three-month moratorium agreed at EU peace talks on 30 June had expired. After 13 ceasefires had failed, a fourteenth was signed on 23 Nov. under UN auspices. Fighting, however, continued. On 15 Jan. 1992 the EU recognized Croatia and Slovenia as independent states. Bosnia-Herzegovina was recognized on 7 April 1992 and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 8 April 1993. A UN delegation began monitoring the ceasefire on 17 Jan. and the UN Security Council on 21 Feb. voted to send a 14,000-strong peace-keeping force to Croatia and Yugoslavia. On 27 April 1992 Serbia and Montenegro created a new federal republic of Yugoslavia. On 30 May, responding to further Serbian military activities in Bosnia and Croatia, the UN Security Council voted to impose sanctions. In mid-1992 NATO committed air, sea and eventually land forces to enforce sanctions and protect humanitarian relief operations in Bosnia. Following the Bosnian-Croatian-Yugoslav (Dayton) agreement all UN sanctions were lifted in Nov. 1995.

1 Dec. 1918. From 1918–29 the country was known as the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

Državna Zajednica Srbija i Crna Gora
(State Community of Serbia and Montenegro)

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Državna Zajednica Srbija i Crna Gora
(State Community of Serbia and Montenegro)

Capital: Belgrade
Population projection, 2010: 10·50m.
GDP per capita: not available
GNI per capita: $930

1410

B. Turner (Ed.), The Statesman’s Yearbook 2005
© Palgrave Macmillan, a division of Macmillan Publishers Limited 2004
In 1998 unrest in Kosovo, with its largely Albanian population, led to a bid for outright independence. Violence flared resulting in what a US official described as ‘horrendous human rights violations’, including massive shelling of civilians and destruction of villages. A US-mediated agreement, accepted in principle by President Slobodan Milošević, allowed negotiations to proceed and lifted the immediate threat of NATO air strikes. The sticking point on the Serbian side was the international insistence on having 28,000 NATO-led peacemakers in Kosovo to keep apart the warring factions. Meanwhile, the scale of Serbian repression in Kosovo persuaded the NATO allies to take direct action. On the night of 24 March 1999 NATO aircraft began a bombing campaign against Yugoslavian military targets. Further Serbian provocation in Kosovo caused hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. On 9 June after 78 days of air attacks NATO and Yugoslavia signed an accord on the Serb withdrawal from Kosovo, and on 11 June NATO’s peacekeeping force, KFOR, entered Kosovo.

The general election held on 24 Sept. 2000 resulted in a victory for the opposition democratic leader Vojislav Koštunica, but President Milošević demanded a second round of voting. A strike by miners at the Kolubara coal mine on 29 Sept. led to a relatively peaceful revolution centred on Belgrade on 5 Oct. On 6 Oct. Slobodan Milošević accepted defeat. He was arrested on 1 April 2001 and on 28 June he was handed over to the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague.

On 14 March 2002 Serbia and Montenegro agreed to remain part of a single entity called Serbia and Montenegro, thus relegating the name Yugoslavia to history. The agreement was ratified in principle by the federal parliament and the republican parliaments of Serbia and Montenegro on 9 April 2002. The new union came into force on 4 Feb. 2003. Most powers in this loose confederation are divided between the two republics. After 4 Feb. 2006 Serbia and Montenegro will have the right to vote for independence. The final status of Kosovo, which is legally part of Serbia, remains unresolved.

TERRITORY AND POPULATION

Serbia and Montenegro is bounded in the north by Hungary, northeast by Romania, east by Bulgaria, south by Macedonia and Albania, and west by the Adriatic Sea, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. Area, 102,173 sq. km. Population (mid-2001), 10,651,690 (5,370,754 females). Population density (2001), 104·2 per sq. km. In 2001 an estimated 51·6% of the population lived in urban areas.

The UN gives a projected population for 2010 of 10·50m.

In Feb. 2003 the new confederation of Serbia and Montenegro came into being: this comprised the two republics of Montenegro and Serbia, and the two provinces of Kosovo and Metohija, and Vojvodina within Serbia. The confederal capital is Belgrade (Beograd); some capital functions, including the Supreme Court, will be sited in Podgorica. Populations (2001 estimates) of principal towns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Population (2001)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgrade</td>
<td>1,581,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novi Sad</td>
<td>266,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niš</td>
<td>248,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kragujevac</td>
<td>180,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podgorica</td>
<td>168,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subotica</td>
<td>142,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zrenjanin</td>
<td>130,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pančevo</td>
<td>122,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Šmederevo</td>
<td>116,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cačak</td>
<td>114,794</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 1991 census was not carried out in Kosovo and Metohija. 1991 estimated population: Priština, 155,499; Prizren 92,303; Peć 68,163; Kosovska Mitrovica, 64,323.

Ethnic groups at the 1991 census: Serbs, 6,504,048; Albanians, 1,714,768; Montenegrins, 519,766; Hungarians, 344,147; Muslims, 336,025; Gypsies, 143,519; Croats, 111,650; Slovaks, 66,863; Macedonians, 47,118; Romanians, 42,364; Bulgarians, 26,922; Valachians, 17,810; Turks, 11,263. At the 1991 census, 361,452 nationals worked abroad.

Refugees and internally displaced persons are estimated at about 600,000.

The official language is Serbian, the eastern variant (Croatian is the western) of Serbo-Croat. Serbian is written in the Cyrillic alphabet.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

2001 (including Kosovo and Metohija): live births, 130,194; deaths, 113,063; marriages, 57,165; divorces, 8,723. 2001 rates (per 1,000 population): births, 12·2;