Yugoslavia: A Concise History

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Leslie Benson

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For James and David,
and in memory of
Marija ('Mis'), Ivan and Bora Milojević,
their grandparents and uncle

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Map 8 is based on the map in F. Singleton, *A Short History of the Yugoslav Peoples*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985 (Fig. 4), reproduced by kind permission.

Maps 9, 10 and 11 are based on maps in John B. Allcock, Marko Milivojević and John J. Horton (eds), *Conflict in the Former Yugoslavia: An Encyclopedia*, published by ABC-CLIO: Denver, CO; Santa Barbara, CA; Oxford, 1998 (map 1, p. xxii; map 3, p. xxv; map 9, p. xxxi), reproduced by kind permission.

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Notes on Serbo-Croatian Language

Croatian and Serbian are nowadays the national languages of two sovereign states, but linguistically they are one, created by political design during the nineteenth century (see Chapter 1). The South Slavs spoke three major dialects of a common tongue: štokavian, čakavian and kajkavian, terms derived from the variant interrogative pronoun (što?, ča? and kaj?) meaning 'what?'. The Vienna Agreement of 1850 between Serb and Croat scholars adopted the štokavian dialect as the foundation of a common Serbo-Croatian language with two separate but equal varieties, which became the standard language of Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro. This speech community is bounded to the north-west by Slovenia, where the kajkavian dialect forms the basis of the modern standard language, and to the south-east by Macedonia, where the national language of the Slav inhabitants is close kin to standard Bulgarian. The čakavian dialect now survives only as an attenuated vernacular in the remoter island regions of Dalmatia.

Apart from the aesthetically and politically very sensitive question of the two different alphabets, the differences between the Serbian and Croatian varieties are linguistically quite minor. The main one is the way in which they signal the varying quantity (long or short) of the letter *e*. Thus, for example, the 'ekavian' (eastern/Serbian) and 'ijekavian' (western/Croatian) variants of the word 'river' are 'reka' and 'rijeka'. The 'ekavian' form is normally written in Cyrillic script, but can be transliterated exactly using the modified Latin alphabet adopted in Croatian orthography.

Serbo-Croatian is completely regular in pronunciation, and there are no silent letters. Eight Serbo-Croatian consonants do not feature in English, and four consonants appear identical but are pronounced differently. They are:

č	<i>ch</i> in 'church'
ć	<i>t</i> in 'mixture'
dž	<i>j</i> in 'jam'
dj	<i>d</i> in 'duke'
š	<i>sh</i> in 'shoe'
ž	<i>s</i> in 'treasure'

lj	<i>ll</i> in 'million'
nj	<i>n</i> in 'new'
c	<i>ts</i> in 'Tsar'
h	<i>ch</i> in Scots-English 'loch'
j	<i>y</i> in 'yet'
r	<i>r</i> in Scots-English 'person', always sounded

Of the remaining consonants it need only be pointed out that *g* is always hard (as in 'gag'), and so is *s* (as in 'sack'). The English letters *w*, *x* and *y* are absent. The vowels in Serbo-Croatian are sounded as follows:

<i>a</i>	<i>a</i> in 'father'
<i>e</i>	<i>e</i> in 'pet'
<i>i</i>	<i>i</i> in 'machine'
<i>o</i>	<i>o</i> in 'hot'
<i>u</i>	<i>u</i> in 'rule'

Maps

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Glossary

Ausgleich 'Compromise', of 1867 between Vienna and Budapest that created the Dual Monarchy within the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

AVNOJ (Antifašističko Veće Narodnog Oslobodjenja Jugoslavije) 'Anti-fascist Council for the National Liberation of Yugoslavia.

Ban Vice-regal governor, especially associated with Croatia.

Banovina Vice-regal province.

Bosniak Self-appellation of the Bosnian Muslims.

četa A guerrilla band, hence četnik.

četnik A member of the band – see also hajduk.

Chetniks (Četnici) Serbian nationalist fighters during World War II.

hajduk Bandit and leader of resistance to Ottoman rule in Serbia during the nineteenth century.

Muslim–Croat Federation A joint entity within Bosnia-Herzegovina, created by the Dayton Agreements (1995). The Serb entity is Republika Srpska.

Nagodba 'Agreement' between the Hungarians and Croats in 1868 on a measure of autonomy for Croatia.

NDH (Nezavisna Država Hrvatska) Independent State of Croatia, puppet regime under Ante Pavelić established by the Axis occupiers in April 1941.

Obznana 'Proclamation' outlawing the Communist Party in 1921.

Old Serbia The name for Macedonia and Kosovo in the first Yugoslavia.

Old Kingdom Serbia within the frontiers established in 1878.

Partizans (Partizani) Communist-led resistance fighters during World War II.

prečani Serbs Literally those Serbs living 'on the other side' of the River Drina from the Old Kingdom, under Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman rule.

Republika Srpska The Serb entity within the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina established by the Dayton Agreements – normally appears in its Serbian form so as to avoid confusion with the Republic of Serbia.

Ustashas (Ustaše) 'Insurgents', fascist followers of Ante Pavelić in the Independent State of Croatia

vilayet Ottoman administrative district.

VMRO/IMRO Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization.

zadruga Communal form of land ownership based on extended families.

Chronology of Events

1 December 1918	Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes proclaimed
28 June 1921	Constituent Assembly adopts Vidovdan Constitution
20 June 1928	Shootings in the Assembly lead to the death of Radić
6 January 1929	King Aleksandar suspends Vidovdan Constitution. Kingdom of Yugoslavia comes into being on 3 October
November 1932	'Zagreb Theses' signal strengthening opposition to dictatorship
9 October 1934	King Aleksandar assassinated in Marseille. Prince Pavle becomes Regent
May–June 1935	Elections fail to give the government party a convincing mandate. Stojadinović appointed premier
August 1937	Josip Broz Tito becomes General Secretary of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia (CPY)
October 1937	Bloc of National Agreement forms a united opposition
March 1938	Austria incorporated into the Third Reich
September 1938	Munich agreement between Chamberlain and Hitler
December 1938	Stojadinović's poor showing in elections leads to his resignation
15 March 1939	Germany invades Czechoslovakia
3 September 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany
October 1940	Italy invades Albania
6 April 1941	Luftwaffe bombs Belgrade. Yugoslavia surrenders 17 April
10 April 1941	Independent State of Croatia (Nezavisna Država Hrvatska – NDH) founded
8 September 1943	Italy surrenders

29 November 1943	The Anti-fascist Council for the Peoples' Liberation of Yugoslavia (AVNOJ) proclaims itself a future government of Yugoslavia
31 January 1946	Constitution establishing the Federative Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia (FNRJ)
28 April 1947	Five Year Plan adopted
28 June 1948	Fifth Congress of the CPY learns of Yugoslavia's expulsion from Cominform
November 1952	Sixth Congress renames the Party as the League of Communists of Yugoslavia (LCY), and announces a programme of reform
January 1953	New Constitution. Djilas expelled from Party
October 1956	Hungarian revolution crushed by Red Army
April 1958	LCY Seventh Congress
April 1963	New Constitution. The state is renamed the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
December 1964	LCY Eighth Congress endorses market reforms
August 1965	Market reforms implemented
July 1966	Brioni Plenum dismisses Ranković
March 1969	LCY Ninth Congress
1 December 1971	Purges of republican leaderships begin, and extend to all levels of the political bureaucracy
January 1974	New Constitution confirms the powers of the republics won during the reform years
May 1974	LCY Tenth Congress
June 1978	LCY Eleventh Congress
May 1980	Death of Tito. Collective Presidency installed
March 1981	Riots break out in Kosovo
June 1982	LCY Twelfth Congress
August 1983	Death of Ranković
April–May 1986	Kučan and Milošević elected to lead their republican League of Communist organizations
July 1986	LCY Thirteenth Congress
October 1986	Memorandum of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts is leaked to a Belgrade evening newspaper, attacking the 'genocide' of the Serbs in Kosovo
Autumn 1987	Yugoslavia rocked by 'Agrokomerc' fraud
September 1987	Milošević ousts 'liberal' opposition within the Serbian party organization

Spring 1988	Tensions between the Yugoslav People's Army and the Slovenes erupt in protests with the arrest of the 'Ljubljana Four'
October 1988	Autonomous federal status of Vojvodina abolished by a new Serbian republican constitution
March 1989	Autonomous federal status of Kosovo surrendered by the provincial assembly in Priština, amid a strong show of armed force.
28 June 1989	Serious riots, shootings and thousands of arrests Milošević addresses a million Serbs at the 600th anniversary of Kosovo Field, and warns of 'armed struggles' to come
December 1989	Hyperinflation hits the Yugoslav economy
January 22 1990	LCY Fourteenth Congress abandoned after the Slovenian delegates walk out
February 1990	Serbian Democratic Party founded, representing the Serbs in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina
April 1990	Multi-party elections in Croatia and Slovenia
July 1990	Milošević announces that the Serbian League of Communists will from now on be known as the Socialist Party of Serbia
November–December 1990	Multi-party elections in Bosnia, Montenegro and Serbia
9 March 1991	Huge anti-government demonstrations in Belgrade
25 June 1991	Army moves into Slovenia to restore federal authority but is forced to withdraw after only ten days
8 October 1991	Slovenia and Croatia declare independence. War in Croatia
December 1991–April 1992	Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina are all recognized as independent states by the EU and the United States
27 April 1992	Communist Yugoslavia ceases to exist. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia proclaimed, comprising Serbia and Montenegro
April 1992	Full-scale war breaks out in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Sarajevo comes under years of siege

2 January 1993	Vance–Owen Peace Plan, rejected by Bosnian Serbs
November 1993	Mostar falls to Croatian forces
April 1994	Contact Group formed, superseding Vance–Owen
Summer 1995	Combined Croat–Bosniak offensives roll Serbs back
July 1995	Massacre of Bosnian Muslims at Srebrenica
14 December 1995	Dayton Agreements end war in Bosnia-Herzegovina
April–May 1996	Mass demonstrations against government in Serbia
3 November 1996	Opposition coalition 'Zajedno' contests elections. Milošević refuses to concede losses, triggering mass protests which last for months
Spring 1997	Increasing activity by the Kosovo Liberation Army
March 1998	Šešelj joins government. Serbian reprisals in Kosovo escalate the conflict
February 1999	West brings Serbs and Kosovars to Rambouillet, to engineer a peace agreement. Negotiations break down
24 March 1999	NATO launches airstrikes against targets in Kosovo and Serbia, in a campaign of 78 days of continuous bombing
10 June 1999	Serbia begins withdrawing its forces from Kosovo

Map 1 The growth of Serbia, 1817–1913

Map 2 The military frontier of Austria and Hungary

Map 3 The Slovene lands

Map 4 Yugoslavia in relation to Austria-Hungary

Map 5 The territorial formation of Yugoslavia, 1913-19

Map 6 The administrative boundaries of Yugoslavia, 1929-41

Map 7 The dismemberment of Yugoslavia, 1941

Map 8 Yugoslavia 1945-91: boundaries of the republics and of the autonomous provinces within Serbia

* Declared by Serbia and Montenegro in April 1992, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is not recognized internationally as being sole successor of the former Yugoslav Federation.

Map 9 The former Yugoslavia and its successor republics
in their regional context

Map 10 Distribution of peoples in the former Yugoslavia, 1991

Map 11 Dayton Peace Agreement territorial dispensation, inter-entity boundary line and I/SFOR operational zones, 1995-8