

Chapter 1 : NationStates | The United Kingdom of Croatia and Serbia

Serbia established a diplomatic mission in Vukovar, Croatia on 5 February , twenty days after the end of the reintegration process of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sylvania into Croatia, which was the end of the Croatian War of Independence.

Print this map Present day Croatia was first inhabited during the prehistoric age by Neanderthals, as evident by fossils discovered in the northern reaches of the country. Roman survivors of this invasion retreated towards the coastline, and founded the modern city of Dubrovnik. Croats arrived soon thereafter, and were organized into two dukedoms. The northern part of the country fell under the duchy of Pannonian Croatia, while the south became the duchy of Littoral Croatia. After the Battle of Gvozd Mountain towards the end of the 11th century, the kingdom became unified with Hungary , and fell under the rule of Coloman. Croatia remained an autonomous kingdom over the next four centuries under Hungarian rule, but with the Hungarians came the introduction of feudalism. And in , the union between the two countries dissolved. After the Hungarians were defeated by Ottoman forces during the Battle of Mohacs, the Croatian assembly appointed the Habsburgs as their new rulers, provided they ensure protection against the Ottoman Empire. This prompted the Habsburgs to urge Orthodox Bosnians and Serbs to aid in the Croatian Military Frontier, which peaked the already set-in-motion Serb migration into this region. By the 19th century, the Illyrian movement an advocacy for the unity of all Serbs began to gain momentum, and because of its popularity, Croatian replaced Latin as the official language in Croatia declared its independence on October 29, , and made the decision to join together with Slovenia and Serbia to form the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Under the new constitution a unitary state was proposed, and Croatia lost their autonomy as a country. This, of course, did not sit well with the people of the nation, and a movement to restore their freedom began swiftly under the guidance of the Croatian Peasant Party HSS. Tensions mounted and grew worse as the president of HSS, Stjepan Radic, was assassinated in , prompting King Alexander to completely void the constitution, and announced a new royal dictatorship. At the end of the war, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was formed, and Communistic rule was put into place. However, in the goals of the movement were accomplished, as Yugoslavia ratified the constitution, granting more freedom to the individual republics. In , Croatia officially declared their independence from Yugoslavia, which instantly sparked a war against Serbia and Croatia. For the next couple of years, as the country recovered from the war, they set their sights on improving their economic conditions. Today, Croatia maintains a thriving tourism industry. With medieval castles and ancient architecture punctuating the Dalmatian coastline, and the interior capital city of Zagreb replete with museums and theater halls, the Croatian experience is certainly timeless.

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An overview of some of the open issues between Croatia and Serbia. Relations between Croatia and Serbia are of great importance not just for the two countries, but for the whole of Southeast Europe. While Slovenia and Croatia could have occasionally been called friends, that is impossible to say for Serbia and Croatia, at least since the early 90s. What follows is a short overview of the history of their relations and current open issues. Of course, the key event for relations between Croatia and Serbia is the war. In Croatia, it is called the Homeland War, while Serbia claims that it was an uprising of Serbs who lived in Croatia and who felt threatened by the new Croatian post-communist authorities which came to power in 1991. However, they did not manage to break Croatian resistance and, after Croatia was internationally recognized as an independent state in January 1992, there was little doubt how the war would end. The only remaining part of Croatia under Serb control the Danube region was peacefully reincorporated into Croatia in 1995. This is the context in which it is necessary to analyze relations between Croatia and Serbia, since virtually all open issues are connected with the war and its consequences. The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1992. Serbia was at the time part of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which consisted of Serbia and Montenegro, but for the next few years the relations remained almost non-existent. That changed in 1997, when new governments came to power in both countries. The first steps in mutual cooperation taken were done in the field of the economy and trade, which is by far the best developed field of cooperation even today. However, political relations remained lukewarm at best. Successive presidents, prime ministers, foreign ministers and other politicians in both countries would occasionally invest some effort into improving relations, but any progress would soon be at least partially erased by an incident, public pressure, election campaign or some unforeseen event. That is the reason why the list of open issues has only grown longer in the last 20 years. Here are some of the major ones. War Crimes Of course, everybody agrees in principle that all war crimes must be punished and war criminals held responsible. However, to agree who is a war criminal and who should conduct trials is something completely different. For a while, the war crimes issue was under the purview of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in the Hague. But, its results were not particularly impressive and it is currently winding down its operations anyway. So, the question is who should try alleged war criminals and who should be considered to be a war criminal? It is hard to imagine that even a fraction of all war crimes committed during the war could ever be investigated, let alone successfully tried, and with each passing year the chances for war crimes to be punished are diminishing, even in cases where the fact that the major war crimes were committed is not in doubt for example, in Vukovar. It has used the law to arrest several Croatian war veterans for alleged crimes. Croatia has protested strongly against such actions and has threatened that it would not allow Serbia to continue with accession negotiations with the European Union unless the law is changed. However, so far it had to relent under international pressure and allow Serbia to open several chapters in the negotiations. While at the moment the issue is not in the focus of attention, there is no doubt that any potential arrest of a Croatian war veteran by Serbia would again bring this issue to the forefront. Operation Storm After Croatia in 1995 launched Operation Storm and liberated a major part of occupied territories, hundreds of thousands of local Serbs who lived in the Krajina region at the time left and went to Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Most of them have not returned; many have already died while other have settled elsewhere. Serbia claims that Croatia forced the Serbs to leave, calling it a genocide and ethnic cleansing, and demanding that the Croatian military and political leadership at the time should be held responsible. On the other hand, Croatia claims that it had every right to liberate its own territory and that Serbs left in an effort organized by their local authorities, prior to the arrival of Croatian military and police. Every year, Croatia marks 5 August as Victory Day. The festivities in Knin are one of the main events in the Croatian political calendar, with highest state officials and representatives of virtually all political parties attending. Connected with this issue is also the question of property of Serbs who left for Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Some of their houses were burnt during

and after the Storm, and some were settled by Croat refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The question of ownership and compensation in such cases is still open and unlikely to be solved anytime soon. Missing persons One other consequence of war are missing persons, people who surely died during the war, but whose remains have not yet been found. There are about 1, such persons on both sides of the conflict. Many of them were victims of mass killings and are buried in still undiscovered mass graves. The families of the missing persons are demanding from the governments to invest more effort in locating the graves, but as the years pass by, discoveries are becoming less and less frequent. Genocide Lawsuits Croatia filed a genocide lawsuit against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which then consisted of Serbia and Montenegro in . With the transformation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia into Serbia and Montenegro and the dissolution of that country in , Serbia was considered its legal successor. On the other hand, Serbia filed a countersuit charging Croatia with genocide in . Both lawsuits had a financial aspect, seeking compensation of damages. In February , the International Court of Justice ruled that neither Serbia nor Croatia had proved sufficient evidence that either side committed genocide, thereby dismissing both cases. While the genocide lawsuits have now been largely forgotten, at the time they were considered to be a major political issue, which greatly influenced the relations between the two countries. Although the lawsuits have been rejected, arguments about who and when committed genocide against whom continue to this day and will surely continue in the future as well. Property issues During the 45 years of Yugoslavia, it was usual for federal republics to invest their funds in projects in other parts of the country. Therefore, after the dissolution of Yugoslavia, one of the key issues was what to do with property which remained on the territories of other republics, as well as what to do with the joint federal property. All the republics took part in lengthy negotiations, trying to get as many of the valuable properties as possible. However, the agreement which was eventually signed has still not been fully implemented, so many open questions remain. For example, Croatia is seeking the return of petrol stations which were owned by Croatian companies but were located in Serbia, as well as the funds it invested in electrical power plants in Serbia. On the other hand, Serbia wants to discuss its own investments in the oil pipeline which is located in Croatia, as well as numerous hotel resorts which Serbian companies had on the Croatian coast. There are many other similar examples. National minorities Despite wartime migrations, there are still substantial communities of Serbs living in Croatia and Croats living in Serbia. According to the latest census, there are about , Serbs living in Croatia, which is 4. Before the war, there were almost , Serbs . On the other hand, there are 58, Croats living in Serbia 0. In , in Serbia there were 97, Croats 1. The status and rights of their respective national minorities represent another important issue for both countries. For example, Croatia claims that Serbia is not fulfilling its obligations with respect to the right to education in Croatian language, while Serbia often protests about the right of Serbs in Croatia to have signs written in Cyrillic script on public buildings in areas in which they represent a significant proportion of the population particularly in Vukovar. There are also many other aspects of this problem, with regards to cultural, financial, political and other rights. Still, the situation now is certainly much better on both sides than it was during the war, and hopefully it will continue to improve. Border The issue of border between the two countries does not have anything directly to do with the war. It is more a consequence of the river Danube, which represents part of the border, changing its course with time, which leaves an open question of whether the border moves with it or not. Croatia claims that the border should follow an old course of the river, while Serbia wants the border to follow the middle of the current course. While a perhaps logical solution would be for the two countries to exchange these pieces of land, the problem is that Croatia has about 10, hectares of land on the Serbian side of the Danube, while Serbia has just 1, hectares on the Croatian side. Any compromise about borders is always difficult, but when it comes to the border with Serbia, it is absolutely impossible. Since the border area was occupied during the Homeland War and was only returned to Croatian jurisdiction after seven years, in , the pressure from the public and the media would be hard to resist. Currently, Croatia controls its side of the border, and Serbia its. There is allegedly a joint commission to solve this question, but it is not known whether it has ever met and it is certain that there has been no significant progress. Occasionally, politicians say they might ask an international tribunal to arbitrate, but it is more likely that the current situation with the border will not change anytime soon. EU negotiations Serbia is currently conducting accession negotiations with the European Union. Croatia

is already a member, and it is occasionally using its veto right to blackmail Serbia into submission on certain issues. However, since influential European countries, particularly Germany, want to bring Serbia closer to the EU and farther away from Russia, Croatia always finds itself under pressure to abandon its attempts and allow the negotiations to proceed. There have been several such situations so far, and Croatia would always have to embarrassingly relent without achieving anything of significance. And, with the future of the European Union seemingly in doubt at the moment, the question is whether it will ever be able to use its position to gain any advantage in its jostling with Serbia. Arms race More than twenty years after the war ended, lately there are worrying signs. While Serbia is probably more focused on the issue of Kosovo, its breakaway former province which declared independence, the potential for a possible conflict in the future does exist, although chances for anything more serious fortunately seem distant, at least for now. Serbia has intensified its military cooperation with Russia and expects to receive new fighter jets and other weaponry soon, while Croatia is considering possible acquisition of fighter jets from one of its NATO partners. Also, there is increasing talk in the two countries about the possible return of military conscription and mandatory military training. Although a full-scale war seems unlikely, given that Croatia is part of NATO and both countries have dilapidated armies at the moment, given the unstable global context, not even the worst scenario can be fully excluded. Bosnia and Herzegovina Bosnia and Herzegovina is squeezed between Croatia and Serbia, and any trouble in their relations always has grave consequences for it as well, particularly since both Croats and Serbs are constituent peoples of Bosnia together with Bosniaks. The effects of the s war in Bosnia can still be felt, and the country is deeply dysfunctional. It is divided into two entities, one dominated by Serbs and another which is shared by Bosniaks and Croats with Bosniaks being dominant, although Croats are supposed to be equal in rights. The story about Bosnia could itself merit a whole article or rather a book , but what has to be said is that it is impossible to know what will happen even in the near future, given the possibility that the Serb part of the country might try to secede and that great powers might decide to turn their focus to the region. The First World War started in Sarajevo, so nothing is impossible. While certain problems exist with all the neighbours, Serbia is number one for Croatia when it comes to the significance of open issues. Since it is unlikely they will be resolved anytime soon, the best option seems to be to hope they will not get any worse.

Chapter 3 : Croatiaâ€™Serbia relations - Wikipedia

The prevailing view in Croatia and of most international law experts, including both international courts ICTY and ICJ, is that the war was an international conflict, between the rump Yugoslavia and Serbia against Croatia, supported by Serbs in Croatia.

See Article History Alternative Titles: It is a small yet highly geographically diverse crescent-shaped country. Its capital is Zagreb , located in the north. Although these regions were ruled for centuries by various foreign powers, they remained firmly Western-oriented in culture , acquiring a legacy of Roman law , the Latin alphabet , and western European political and economic traditions and institutions. A part of Yugoslavia for much of the 20th century, Croatia suffered considerably from the disintegration of that federation in the early s. The European trajectory of Croatia was finally realized in when it joined the European Union. Croatia Hrvatska is an ancient nation, yet a very young nation state. Once a formidable kingdom under Tomislav in the tenth century, a naval power in the sixteenth and seventeenth, and an awakening national entity in the nineteenth, it had to endure a thousand years of foreign meddling, subjugation, incursions, and outright wars before being recognized in as a distinct entity. Land The upper arm of the Croatian crescent is bordered on the east by the Vojvodina region of Serbia and on the north by Hungary and Slovenia. The body of the crescent forms a long coastal strip along the Adriatic Sea , and the southern tip touches on Montenegro. Within the hollow of the crescent, Croatia shares a long border with Bosnia and Herzegovina , which actually severs a part of southern Croatia from the rest of the country by penetrating to the Adriatic in a narrow corridor. Croatia Physical features of Croatia. Relief Croatia is composed of three major geographic regions. In the north and northeast, running the full length of the upper arm of the Croatian crescent, are the Pannonian and para-Pannonian plains. To the north of Zagreb , the Zagorje Hills, fragments of the Julian Alps now covered with vines and orchards, separate the Sava and Drava river valleys. To the west and south of the Pannonian region, linking it with the Adriatic coast, is the central mountain belt, itself part of the Dinaric Alps. The karst plateaus of this region, consisting mostly of limestone , are barren at the highest elevations; lower down, they are heavily forested. The highest mountain in Croatia, Dinara 6, feet [1, metres] , is located in the central mountain belt. The third geographic region, the Croatian littoral, is composed of the Istrian Peninsula in the north and the Dalmatian coast extending south to the Gulf of Kotor. Wedged between the Dinaric Alps to the east and the Adriatic Sea to the west, its 1, miles 1, km of coastline are fringed by more than 1, islands and islets. Leo de Wys Inc. The Drava enters Croatia from Slovenia and forms all but a small section of the border with Hungary before joining the Danube , which in turn forms most of the border between Croatia and the Vojvodina province of Serbia. The Kupa, which forms part of the frontier between Slovenia and Croatia, and the Una River, which meanders along part of the border between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, both flow into the Sava. In Dalmatia the Krka and Cetina rivers are of particular importance because of their hydroelectric potential and because they flow into the Adriatic Sea. In addition, a great deal of water circulates in underground rivers and pools in the karstic regions of the central mountain belt and the littoral. These waters account for many of the unique geologic formations and the picturesque landscape of central and western Croatia. Soils The Pannonian and para-Pannonian plains are enriched with alluvial soil deposited by the Sava and Drava rivers. The soil of the central mountainous belt is rather poor but offers some cultivable land in the fields and meadows and some grazing land in the plateaus. The Croatian littoral is mostly mountainous and barren, with rocky soil and poor agricultural land. Climate Two main climatic zones dominate Croatia. The Pannonian and para-Pannonian plains and the mountain regions are characterized by a continental climate of warm summers and cold winters. The central mountain regions of Lika and Krbava have slightly cooler summers and cold winters, with a milder climate in the valleys. Considerable rainfall, turning to snow in winter, is characteristic of the region. The Dalmatian coast, Istria, and the islands have a mild Mediterranean climate. In southern Dalmatia, where the sirocco winds known there as the jugo bring a moderating influence from Africa, summers are sunny, warm, and dry, and winters are rainy. In the north the winters are drier and colder as a result of the cold northeast wind known as the bora bura. In the summer the

mistral wind has a cooling effect on the coast and the islands. Rainfall is moderate and occurs mainly in the winter. On the Dalmatian coast, grapes and olives are grown to produce wine and oil, while Istria is dominated by firs, and Slavonia has many oak forests. In terms of animal life, lizards are found on the coast, while wolves and even bears can be found in the inland forests. Hares, foxes, boars, wildcats, and mouflons wild sheep also inhabit Croatia. Sea life in the Adriatic is rich as well, with many coral reefs and underwater caves serving as habitats. Croats constitute about nine-tenths of the population. Serbs make up the largest minority group; however, their proportion fell dramatically as a result of the war of independence from more than one-tenth of the population before the war to less than half that figure in 1995. It has been estimated that the number of Croats living outside the borders of Croatia is comparable to the number living inside the country. Many ethnic Croats reside in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where Croats have lived since the Slavs first migrated to the western Balkan Peninsula in the 6th and 7th centuries ce. Although there has traditionally been a yearning for unification with Croatia among the Croats of Herzegovina a region contiguous to Dalmatia, this sentiment has not generally been shared by Croats within Croatia or even by Croats in Bosnia. Many of the Serbs in Croatia are descendants of people who migrated to the border areas of the Holy Roman Empire between the 16th and 18th centuries, following the Ottoman conquest of Serbia and Bosnia. Dubrovnik Market in Dubrovnik, Croatia. A small minority of people are nonreligious or atheist. Bosniaks constitute most of the Muslim population. Religious affiliation Zagreb Cathedral of St. Croatian is quite similar to Serbian and Bosnian, but political developments since the collapse of Yugoslavia have encouraged the three ethnic groups to emphasize the differences between their languages. The clearest distinction between the Croatian and Serbian variants of what was previously called the Serbo-Croatian language is the script, with Croatian written in the Latin alphabet and Serbian in the Cyrillic. Distinctions of grammar and pronunciation also occur, as do more striking differences in vocabulary, which result partly from differential historical patterns of foreign domination. Another linguistic distinction, reflecting the legacies of history as well as the effects of geography, can be heard in the colourful medley of regional dialects and subdialects that survive to this day. The standard Croatian literary language, based on the Shtokavian dialect, emerged in the second half of the 19th century as a result of an effort to unite all South Slavs. Although all three major branches of Serbo-Croatian Shtokavian, Chakavian, and Kajkavian were spoken by Croats as they still are today, the Shtokavian dialect was the most widely heard in Croatian regions of eastern Slavonia, the Adriatic littoral from Makarska to Dubrovnik, and Herzegovina, as well as Montenegro and Serbia. It was therefore adopted by leading Croatian national intellectuals of the 19th century. Settlement patterns More than half of the population resides in urban areas, particularly in the upper arm of the country and along the Adriatic coast. Settlement is relatively sparse in the central mountainous area. There is also a smaller concentration of Serbs in Slavonia, although this area was particularly hard-hit by anti-Serb ethnic cleansing during the 1995 war.

Chapter 4 : Croatian War of Independence - Wikipedia

The Serbian government supported Serb separatists in Croatia, mobilized the Yugoslav Army against Croatia, and endorsed Serbian paramilitaries from Serbia going to war against Croatia. Croats' dislike was much stronger for the Serbian separatists in Croatia than for Serbs in Serbia itself.

Ina Vukic - Croatia: As the subject is complex an article can hardly give it detail justice but it is hoped that this post with links inserted for further references will bring the knowledge of facts closer to those who wish to understand and know more. I am grateful to two readers of this blog who helped me a great deal to put this article together in order for it to be published as soon as possible. Croatia was, and still is, the hottest piece of geographic real estate in Europe. Croatia is the gateway between north, south, east and west in Europe. Smaller powers also coveted Croatian territory, for instance, Serbia and Venice and later the Italian state. Croatia was continually trying to not only reclaim historical territory, but also gain equal legal and political footing with both Austria and Hungary, joining either one or the other in internal political struggles; with either Austria or Hungary aligning with political actors within Croatia, to and include the Serb minority, whom the Austrians began settling in Croatia without Croatian consent beginning in 1527, who over the centuries were used as a political hammer against Croats by both the Austrians and Hungarians. The first Yugoslavia was the end objective outlined by the state of Serbia which entailed the domination of Croatia and Croats by Serbia, outlined in by Serbian Minister of the Interior Ilja Garasanin. Croats in the first Yugoslavia were second class citizens in an occupied country. Serbian state sponsored violence and terrorism enforced nationalist Serbian policies, which were economically exploitive of Croatia. This state terrorism culminated with the assassination of the pacifist Croatian politician Stjepan Radic , Croatian Peasant Party head, in Parliament while in session in 1928. The repression became worse, leading to over 30,000 political arrests of mostly Croats, and, the emigration of tens of thousands of Croats over the next decade. With the rise of Adolf Hitler, Western powers were looking to keep Germany in check in the 1930s. They looked to the now renamed Kingdom of Yugoslavia to do so. However the Croatian question was still festering. Greater Serbian nationalists, who were not just the voting majority amongst Serbs, but the secret police and military heads, derided it. Their pathological hatred of the Agreement was the main factor for supporting the British sponsored anti-Axis coup in following the treaty between Yugoslavia and Germany. With the German invasion, Serbian gendarmes and Yugoslav Army forces, as well as local Chetnik bandits who were operating in Croatia since began massacring Croats and Muslims while fleeing the advancing Germans the first massacre taking place in Bjelovar, before the Independent State of Croatia was even declared. Except for communist partisans, Croats welcomed the fall of Yugoslavia they all had every reason to. It must be noted that not a single Western agent or politician offered the Croats any statehood or recognition prior to, or during WWII. Yugoslavia was a failed economic model. The lavish credits from the West and USSR, which also payed Tito to stay neutral was poorly reinvested into the Yugoslav economy, which was run by unqualified Communists who were mostly given positions due to party membership, not technical knowledge of anything. This failed economic model was compounded by the failed political model, which led to the inevitable failure of the state. The one-party system was backwards, as were its leaders. The political system Tito led mimicked that of the Austro-Hungarians before him a carrot and stick approach playing various nations and or minorities off of each other to maintain a status quo of power. Yugoslavia was no longer important because the USSR was fading into oblivion. Credits were not being pumped into it, but were being called. This caused a domino effect within the painted rust that was the entirely mismanaged and gravely grafted Yugoslav economy which was now faced with paying off lavish loans with an economy that could not even theoretically meet even the most generous payment plans. It was in this context of Serbian nationalist hysteria, fully flamed, supported and repeated by the Serbian Orthodox Church, Serbian media, Serbian Communists inside Serbia and outside of it in neighbouring Croatia , and Serbian intelligentsia, that Slobodan Milosevic rose to power. No one will beat you ever. Milosevic was an opportunist. He sought to centralize Yugoslavia and basically create a Serboslavia using legal and quasi-legal means. Non-Serbs met this with political opposition. While there was

opposition to his racist, neo-apartheid policy in Kosovo by certain US Senators, there was no real action by the US or by the UN to punish Milosevic and Serbia in the late 90s and early 2000s. So the media narrative in the west was not the facts-on-the-ground: The reason is manifold. With the imminent fall of Communism, amongst many Western governments and intelligence agencies were WWII veterans – all had a subliminal fear of an eventually united Germany, and saw Yugoslavia as some sort of a bulwark against it despite it being crushed by Germany, and the advance of the Soviet forces into Yugoslavia being the only reason the Partisans won WWII. There was also the age old geopolitical factors that were combined with this, namely, traditional Russian, French, Dutch, US and especially UK support for Serbia and Yugoslavia whom they all saw Serbs as a guardians of. Then there was the mythical fairy tale narrative that many opinion makers in left media and academia had about multi-ethnic Socialist Self-Managing Yugoslavia as if the economy was sustainable, and as if the government was not repressive and had not been engaging in spying and murdering its own citizens at home and abroad for 45 years. Finally, there were personal interests involved, namely, that of Yugoslav Ambassador Lawrence Eagleburger and his colleague in the Bush Sr. This is something that the late and extremely great Dr. Jerry Blaskovich wrote extensively about in his book. Croats and other non-Serbs were expelled from its territory in a violent campaign of ethnic cleansing. Heavy fighting in the second half of 1991 witnessed the shelling of the ancient city of Dubrovnik, and the siege and destruction of Vukovar by Serb forces. Serb occupied and ethnically cleansed of non-Serbs areas of Croatia – Croatian authorities were determined to assert authority over their own territory, and used its resources to develop and equip its armed forces. In the summer of 1991, the Croatian military undertook two major offensives Operations Flash and Storm to regain liberate all but a pocket of its territory known as Eastern Slavonia. In a major self-imposed exodus of August 1991, tens of thousands of Serbs fled the Croatian advance to Serb-held areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina and further to Serbia. The war in Croatia effectively ended in Autumn of 1991 Croatia eventually re-asserted its authority over the entire territory, with Eastern Slavonia reverting to its rule in January following a peaceful transition under UN-administration. An additional sick and elderly Croats were killed by Serb police, paramilitary and civilians in areas occupied by Serbian terrorists during the UN presence – not a single investigation was launched by Serb authorities. Croats are barred from returning, and Serbs repeatedly refuse peace negotiations that stipulate non-Serbs returning. In reply the Croatian rebel Serbs launched a rocket attack on Zagreb, the Croatian capital. Milan Martić, Croatian Serb leader of rebel Serb forces, ordered the shelling of Zagreb, killing six people and wounding many. This liberating offensive captured in days a region that Serb rebels had held for 4 years. Most of this Serb-occupied area was taken in a 3-day offensive. Croatian Operation Storm 5 August Photo: General Ante Gotovina, centre right: From the time of this reintegration Croatia has been faced with a different kind of war – the transition into democracy from the communist Yugoslavia totalitarian regime. Battles are and have been many in this sphere, often strewn with misinformation and anti-Croatian propaganda within Croatia and internationally. With truth and justice gaining their rightful place it will arrive eventually but not without determined pursuits of both, by all who truly want it.

Chapter 5 : Map Of Croatia And Serbia - www.nxgvision.com

Croatia and Serbia have been fined several times because of violence and racist behaviour involving their fans. Tight security will be in place, including stricter border controls and on all transport routes into Zagreb, police said.

In Croatia, the regional branch of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, the League of Communists of Croatia, had lost its ideological potency. The rhetoric was approved by the Serbian political leadership, and accused the Croatian leadership of being "blindly nationalistic" when it objected. At the congress, Serbian delegates accused the Croatian and Slovene delegates of "supporting separatism, terrorism and genocide in Kosovo". The game erupted into violence between the Croatian and Serbian fans and between the police. Local Serb politicians opposed the new constitution. In , Croats represented An even greater proportion of those posts had been held by Serbs in Croatia earlier, which created a perception that the Serbs were guardians of the communist regime. Teritorijalna obrana TO, would henceforth be replaced by a centrally directed system of defense. The republics would lose their role in defense matters and their TOs would be disarmed and subordinated to JNA headquarters in Belgrade, but the new Slovenian government acted quickly to retain control over their TO. The Serb Assembly declared "sovereignty and autonomy of the Serb people in Croatia". The Croatian government sent police forces to police stations in Serb-populated areas to seize their weapons. Among other incidents, local Serbs from the southern hinterlands of Croatia, mostly around the city of Knin, blocked roads to tourist destinations in Dalmatia. This incident is known as the "Log Revolution". The Serbs felled pine trees or used bulldozers to block roads to seal off towns like Knin and Benkovac near the Adriatic coast. Croatian government property throughout the region was increasingly controlled by local Serb municipalities or the newly established "Serbian National Council". An insidious plan has been drawn up to destroy Yugoslavia. Stage one is civil war. Stage two is foreign intervention. Then puppet regimes will be set up throughout Yugoslavia. Without him, we could not be proposing this. The success of the Partisan movement led to the JNA basing much of its operational strategy on guerrilla warfare, as its plans normally entailed defending against NATO or Warsaw Pact attacks, where other types of warfare would put the JNA in a comparatively poor position. That approach led to maintenance of a Territorial Defense system. Before the war the JNA had, regular troops, including 70, professional officers. The fighting in Slovenia brought about a great number of desertions, and the army responded by mobilizing Serbian reserve troops. Approximately, evaded the draft, and the new conscripts proved an ineffective fighting force. The JNA resorted to reliance on irregular militias. The Croatian military was in a much worse state than that of the Serbs. In the early stages of the war, lack of military units meant that the Croatian Police force would take the brunt of the fighting. The Croatian National Guard Croatian: Zbor narodne garde, the new Croatian military, was formed on 11 April, and gradually developed into the Croatian Army Croatian: Hrvatska vojska by Weaponry was in short supply, and many units were either unarmed or were equipped with obsolete World War II-era rifles. The Croatian Army had only a handful of tanks, including World War II-surplus vehicles such as the T, and its air force was in an even worse state, consisting of only a few Antonov An-2 biplane crop-dusters that had been converted to drop makeshift bombs. After general mobilization was instituted in October, the size of the army grew to 60 brigades and 37 independent battalions by the end of the year.

Chapter 6 : Tensions between Croatia and Serbia rise over refugees | News | Al Jazeera

Relations between Croatia and Serbia are of great importance not just for the two countries, but for the whole of Southeast Europe. While Slovenia and Croatia could have occasionally been called friends, that is impossible to say for Serbia and Croatia, at least since the early s.

It is important to enter and exit Serbia using the same passport. If you lose your U. You cannot enter Serbia using an expired or previously-reported lost U. Immigration authorities will deny you entry and return you to your point of embarkation. Hotels or similar accommodation will do this for you. If you are staying at a private residence, you will need to register in person at the nearest police station. If you wish to stay in Serbia longer than 90 days during any day period, you must apply for a temporary residence permit from the local police with jurisdiction over where you are staying in Serbia. You cannot apply for a residence permit outside of Serbia. All application documents require an apostille stamp from the government office where you got the document. To learn more about apostilles and other official documents, please see the Notarial and Authentication Services page. Special Guidance for Kosovo: Serbia will not grant entry to travelers who try to enter Serbia from Kosovo without first having previously entered Serbia from another recognized crossing and obtaining a Serbian entry stamp. A traveler who arrives in Belgrade by air and drives directly to Kosovo not through a third country will be permitted to re-enter Serbia from Kosovo. Travelers who fly or drive into Kosovo from a third country and plan to also travel by land to Serbia must first exit Kosovo and enter Serbia via either the Serbia-Macedonia or the Serbia-Montenegro border. Safety and Security Credible information indicates terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks in Europe. European governments are taking action to guard against terrorist attacks; however, all European countries remain potentially vulnerable to attacks from transnational terrorist organizations. February 17 the date of the independence of Kosovo , March 24 the beginning of the NATO bombing campaign , and ethnic Serb holidays such as St. Wins or losses in sporting events can also trigger violence, especially matches between rival teams. As a safety precaution due to xenophobic violence, the following sylvans and clubs have been declared off-limits for U. Plastic night club Splav Slep Mr. Stefan Braun night club Demonstrations: Demonstrations by political parties, unions, and other groups are common in Serbia, and may become violent. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can quickly turn violent. There is often a heavier than usual police presence near demonstrations, and traffic may slow or stop until well after the demonstration ends. Pick-pocketing, purse snatchings, residential burglaries, and other crimes of economic motivation regularly occur. Most crimes happen because people let their guard down. Unlocked cars, valuable items left in plain sight such as money, jewelry, and electronics , open gates, and open garage doors make attractive targets for thieves. Violent crime in Serbia is most often associated with organized crime activities, but can also be the result of xenophobia. Tourists are not often the targets of violent crime, but killings associated with organized crime have occurred in places where tourists gather such as hotels, restaurants, shops, and busy streets. Tourists should pay attention to taxi meters and listed fares as taxi drivers may try to scam foreigners and charge higher rates. If you or someone you know becomes the victim of a crime in Serbia, you should contact the local police. Local authorities are responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes.

Chapter 7 : Serbia International Travel Information

ISIS wasn't the only target in the recent U.S. airstrikes in Syria. The U.S. also attacked a group of Al-Qaeda veterans and bomb makers referred to as The Kh.

The Croatian claim corresponds to the red line, while the Serbian claim corresponds to the course of Danube. Under Serbian control, claimed by Croatia Under Croatian control though not claimed by Croatia or Serbia The Croatiaâ€™Serbia border dispute entails competing claims regarding the border at several points along the Danube River valley shared by the two countries. The opinion was rendered at the request of Serbia. Prior to the ruling, Serbia asserted that the borders were subject to change following the breakup of Yugoslavia and the independence of Croatia. Shots were also fired at a Croatian patrol boat after it attempted to approach the vessel carrying the prefect and the mayor. There were no casualties, but the passengers and crew of the civilian boat were arrested. Plans for construction of a port in Apatin, on a piece of territory claimed by Croatia, added fuel to the dispute. The request was denied by the EU. The island is accessible to organised transport by boats sailing from Vukovar. No border controls are involved in the process. The Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs has rejected these claims, stating that the differing border claims between Serbia and Croatia do not involve terra nullius , and are not subject to occupation by a third party. The rest of Sylvania was transferred to the Habsburg Monarchy through the Treaty of Passarowitz in The transferred territories were organised within the monarchy into the Kingdom of Slavonia , with its eastern border established at the Danube, and the defensive belt of Military Frontier stretching along the Sava River, governed directly from Vienna. A year later Serbian Vojvodina was abolished and replaced by the crown land of the Voivodeship of Serbia and Temes Banat , which ceded Sylvania back to the Kingdom of Slavonia. The territory of southern Baranja was ceded to the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes on the premise that it formed a natural hinterland of the city of Osijek. Under Serbian control, claimed by Croatia The first general outline of the post borders of Croatia was made by the Anti-Fascist Council for the National Liberation of Yugoslavia on 24 February The commission identified three sets of disputed territories. In case of Ilok, the decision was specified to be provisional until authorities are consolidated on either side of the boundary, when the issue would be reexamined. After Croatia refused the request, the Serbian authorities turned to the federal government. No further changes to the border were agreed upon.

Chapter 8 : Croatia to Serbia - 5 ways to travel via train, bus, and night train, and car

Croatia and Serbia's national animal is the Lizard. Croatia and Serbia is ranked , nd in the world and 5, th in the South Pacific for Largest Gambling Industry, scoring on the Kelly Criterion Productivity Index.

Watch our founder Lisbeth Kirk explain the reasons in this 30 seconds video. A ceremony was held in a Serbian cemetery near Glina for 59 unidentified people killed during operation Storm. Eric Maurice About , Serbs fled or were expelled from the region, which had been "ethnically cleansed" of Croats four years before. To commemorate the liberation, a giant Croatian flag was raised on Knin fortress in the presence of the military chiefs, acting prime minister Tihomir Oreskovic and president Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic. Outside the official ceremony a Serbian flag was burnt and a group of 20 men in black uniforms marched through the centre of Knin shouting "Za dom spremni! The burning of the flag saw an official note of protest from Belgrade to the Croatian government. Victims and veterans At the same time, Serbian prime minister Aleksandar Vucic, presided over a ceremony for Serbian war refugees, near Belgrade, criticising the Croatian celebrations. They celebrate a victory, but what is their victory? His foreign minister, Ivica Dacic also protested against the "ethically pure" remark by Grabar-Kitarovic. Two decades after the end of the war, wounds are still open between Croatia and Serbia, but also, between Croats and Serbs in Croatia. On Saturday 6 August , the small town of Glina, 80 kilometers east of Zagreb, was also celebrating its liberation in A few kilometres from there, in a small cemetery on a wooden hill, about 50 Serbs held a ceremony for 59 people whose bodies were exhumed there last year The victims, all civilians, were presumably victims of air bombing of a military and civilian column fleeing to Bosnia during operation Storm. None have yet been identified. He said that the burning of the Serbian flag in Knin the day before had "frightened many" and that "the Knin celebration showed that hate is dominating Croatia". But he said Serbs and Croats had an "obligation" to cooperate for "peace, reconciliation, sanctioning war criminals and turning towards the future". Worsening relations The controversy between Zagreb and Belgrade over operation Storm is the latest episode of worsening relations in recent months. In September, the previous Croatian centre-left government closed the border with Serbia for several days to force Serbia to redirect refugees to Hungary. In both Croatia and Serbia the far right has been getting stronger, nationalistic reinterpretations of WWII being both the cause and the result of that process. In Serbia, Draza Mihailovic, the leader of the Chetniks, the Serb royalist forces which collaborated with Hitler and Mussolini, was rehabilitated in court last year. He had been sentenced to death for war crimes in In Croatia last month, a court annulled a sentence against Alojzije Stepinac. A Catholic bishop, Stepinac was sentenced to 16 years in prison for treason and collaboration with the Oustacha regime. In reaction Belgrade sent a note of protest to Zagreb. The operation Storm celebration in Knin illustrated the atmosphere in Croatia just over a month ahead of a snap general election on 11 September. Triumphalist political speeches dominated the stage, with some requesting the "lustration of the communists". Meanwhile the streets of the city were flooded with all kinds of Ustasha symbols, from shirts with the symbol "U" to black military uniforms. An arms race between the two countries could be starting, as several times in recent months representatives of both governments spoke of the necessity to buy arms to "protect" themselves. Croatia and Serbia "are going back to 19th century," Serbian historian Latinka Perovic said in a recent interview for Radio Free Europe.

Chapter 9 : Croatiaâ€™Serbia border dispute - Wikipedia

In , Croatia officially declared their independence from Yugoslavia, which instantly sparked a war against Serbia and Croatia. Largely due to economic reasons, Serbia was against Croatia's separation from Yugoslavia, and the Croatian War of Independence raged until the summer of