[Template:Distinguish](/wiki/Template:Distinguish" \o "Template:Distinguish) [Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses) [Template:Pp-semi](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Serbia** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en), [Template:Lang-sr](/wiki/Template:Lang-sr), [Template:IPA-sh](/wiki/Template:IPA-sh)), officially the **Republic of Serbia** ([Template:Lang-sr](/wiki/Template:Lang-sr)), is a [sovereign state](/wiki/Sovereign_state) situated at the crossroads between [Central](/wiki/Central_Europe) and [Southeast Europe](/wiki/Southeast_Europe), covering the southern part of the [Pannonian Plain](/wiki/Pannonian_Plain) and the central [Balkans](/wiki/Balkans). Serbia is [landlocked](/wiki/Landlocked_country) and borders [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary) to the north; [Romania](/wiki/Romania) and [Bulgaria](/wiki/Bulgaria) to the east; [Macedonia](/wiki/Republic_of_Macedonia) to the south; and [Croatia](/wiki/Croatia), [Bosnia](/wiki/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina), and [Montenegro](/wiki/Montenegro) to the west; it also claims a border with [Albania](/wiki/Albania) through the [disputed](/wiki/Political_status_of_Kosovo) territory of [Kosovo](/wiki/Kosovo). The capital of Serbia, [Belgrade](/wiki/Belgrade), is one of the largest cities in Southeast Europe. Serbia numbers around 7 million residents.[[1]](#cite_note-1) Following the [Slavic migrations](/wiki/Slavic_migrations) to the Balkans from the 6th century onwards, Serbs established several [states](/wiki/Principality_of_Serbia_(medieval)) in the early Middle Ages. The [Serbian Kingdom](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Serbia_(medieval)) obtained recognition by Rome and [Constantinople](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire) in 1217; it reached its peak in 1346 as a relatively short-lived [Serbian Empire](/wiki/Serbian_Empire). By the mid-16th century, the entire modern-day Serbia was annexed by the [Ottomans](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire), [at times interrupted](/wiki/Ottoman–Habsburg_wars) by the [Habsburg Empire](/wiki/Habsburg_Empire), which [started expanding](/wiki/Ottoman–Habsburg_wars) towards [Central Serbia](/wiki/Central_Serbia) since the end of the 17th century, while maintaining foothold in [northern Serbia](/wiki/Vojvodina). In the early 19th century, the [Serbian Revolution](/wiki/Serbian_Revolution) established the [nation-state](/wiki/Principality_of_Serbia) as the region's first [constitutional monarchy](/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy), which subsequently [expanded its territory](/wiki/Balkan_wars).[[2]](#cite_note-2) Following [disastrous casualties](/wiki/Serbian_Campaign_of_World_War_I) in [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I), and the subsequent unification of the Habsburg crownland of [Vojvodina](/wiki/Vojvodina) with [Serbia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Serbia), the country co-founded [Yugoslavia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Serbs,_Croats_and_Slovenes) with other South Slavic peoples, which would exist in various political formations until the [Yugoslav Wars](/wiki/Yugoslav_Wars) of the 1990s, which had devastating effects for the region. As a result, Serbia formed a [union with Montenegro](/wiki/Serbia_and_Montenegro) in 1992, which broke apart in 2006, when Serbia again became an independent country. In 2008 the parliament of [Kosovo](/wiki/Kosovo), Serbia's southern province with an Albanian ethnic majority, declared independence, with mixed responses from the international community.

Serbia is a member of the [UN](/wiki/United_Nations), [CoE](/wiki/Council_of_Europe), [OSCE](/wiki/Organization_for_Security_and_Co-operation_in_Europe), [PfP](/wiki/Partnership_for_Peace), [BSEC](/wiki/Organization_of_the_Black_Sea_Economic_Cooperation), and [CEFTA](/wiki/Central_European_Free_Trade_Agreement). As a [membership candidate](/wiki/Accession_of_Serbia_to_the_European_Union),[[3]](#cite_note-3) Serbia is currently negotiating [its EU accession](/wiki/Accession_of_Serbia_to_the_European_Union).[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) The country is acceding to the [WTO](/wiki/World_Trade_Organization)[[6]](#cite_note-6) and is a militarily [neutral](/wiki/Neutrality_(international_relations)) state. Serbia is an upper-middle income economy[[7]](#cite_note-7) with dominant service sector, followed by the industrial sector and agriculture. The country ranks high in [Social Progress Index](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Social_Progress_Index) (45th)[[8]](#cite_note-8) as well as [Global Peace Index](/wiki/Global_Peace_Index) (46th),[[9]](#cite_note-9) relatively high in [Human Development Index](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Human_Development_Index) (66th).[[10]](#cite_note-10) and an [economically](/wiki/Index_of_economic_freedom) moderately free country (77th).[[11]](#cite_note-11)

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## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[thumb|left|250px|Relief map of Serbia.](/wiki/File:Relief_map_of_Serbia.png)

Located at the crossroads between Central[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13) and Southern Europe, Serbia is found in the [Balkan peninsula](/wiki/Balkan_peninsula) and the [Pannonian Plain](/wiki/Pannonian_Plain). Serbia lies between latitudes [41°](/wiki/41st_parallel_north) and [47° N](/wiki/47th_parallel_north), and longitudes [18°](/wiki/18th_meridian_east) and [23° E](/wiki/23rd_meridian_east). The country covers a total of 88,361 km2 (including Kosovo), which places it at [113th](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_outlying_territories_by_area) place in the world; with Kosovo excluded, the total area is 77,474 km2,<ref name=cia\_profile/> which would make it 117th. Its total border length amounts to 2,027 km (Albania 115 km, Bosnia and Herzegovina 302 km, Bulgaria 318 km, Croatia 241 km, Hungary 151 km, Macedonia 221 km, Montenegro 203 km and Romania 476 km).<ref name=cia\_profile/> All of Kosovo's border with Albania (115 km), Macedonia (159 km) and Montenegro (79 km)<ref name=cia\_kosovo>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> are under control of the Kosovo border police.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Serbia treats the 352 km long border between Kosovo and Central Serbia as an "administrative line"; it is under shared control of Kosovo border police and Serbian police forces, and there are 11 crossing points.[[15]](#cite_note-15) The [Pannonian Plain](/wiki/Pannonian_Basin) covers the northern third of the country (mainly Vojvodina and [Mačva](/wiki/Mačva)) while the easternmost tip of Serbia extends into the [Wallachian Plain](/wiki/Wallachian_Plain). The terrain of central part of the country, with the region of [Šumadija](/wiki/Šumadija) at its heart, consists chiefly of hills traversed by the rivers. Mountains dominate the southern third of Serbia. [Dinaric Alps](/wiki/Dinaric_Alps) stretch in the west and the southwest following the flow of the rivers [Drina](/wiki/Drina) and [Ibar](/wiki/Ibar_(river)). [Carpathian Mountains](/wiki/Carpathian_Mountains) and [Balkan Mountains](/wiki/Balkan_Mountains) stretch in north–south direction in the eastern Serbia.[[16]](#cite_note-16) Ancient mountains in the southeast corner of the country belong to [Rilo-Rhodope Mountain](/wiki/Rhodopes) system. Elevation ranges from the [Midžor](/wiki/Midžor) peak of the Balkan Mountains at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) (highest peak in Serbia, excluding Kosovo) to the lowest point of just [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) near the Danube river at [Prahovo](/wiki/Prahovo).[[17]](#cite_note-17) Including Kosovo the highest point is [Đeravica](/wiki/Đeravica), Prokletije (2.656 m), the largest lake is the [Đerdap Lake](/wiki/Đerdap_Lake) ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)) and the longest river passing through Serbia the [Danube](/wiki/Danube) ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)).

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:2014_Yvette_storm,_15_May_2014.jpg)[Yvette storm 2014](/wiki/2014_Southeast_Europe_floods). The climate of Serbia is under the influences of the landmass of Eurasia and [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean) and [Mediterranean Sea](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea). With mean January temperatures around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and mean July temperatures of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), it can be classified into [humid subtropical climate](/wiki/Humid_subtropical_climate).[[18]](#cite_note-18) In the north, the climate is more continental, with cold winters, and hot, humid summers along with well distributed rainfall patterns. In the south, summers and autumns are drier, and winters are relatively cold, with heavy inland snowfall in the mountains.

Differences in elevation, proximity to the Adriatic Sea and large river basins, as well as exposure to the winds account for climate variations.[[19]](#cite_note-19) Southern Serbia is subject to Mediterranean influences.[[20]](#cite_note-20) However, the Dinaric Alps and other mountain ranges contribute to the cooling of most of the warm air masses. Winters are quite harsh in the [Pešter](/wiki/Pešter) plateau, because of the mountains which encircle it.[[21]](#cite_note-21) One of the climatic features of Serbia is [Košava](/wiki/Košava_(wind)), a cold and very [squally](/wiki/Squall) southeastern wind which starts in the [Carpathian Mountains](/wiki/Carpathian_Mountains) and follows the [Danube](/wiki/Danube) northwest through the [Iron Gate](/wiki/Iron_Gate_(Danube)) where it gains a [jet effect](/wiki/Mountain_jet) and continues to [Belgrade](/wiki/Belgrade) and can spread as far south as [Niš](/wiki/Niš).<ref name=AMS>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The average annual air temperature for the period 1961–1990 for the area with an altitude of up to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The areas with an altitude of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) have an average annual temperature of around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of altitude around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[22]](#cite_note-22) The lowest recorded temperature in Serbia was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on 13 January 1985, [Karajukića Bunari](/wiki/Karajukića_Bunari) in Pešter, and the highest was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), on 24 July 2007, recorded in [Smederevska Palanka](/wiki/Smederevska_Palanka).<ref name=autogenerated1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Serbia is one of few European countries with *very high risk* exposure to the natural hazards (earthquakes, storms, floods, droughts).[[23]](#cite_note-23) It is estimated that potential floods, particularly in areas of Central Serbia, threaten over 500 larger settlements and an area of 16,000 square kilometers.[[24]](#cite_note-24) The most disastrous were the [floods in May 2014](/wiki/2014_Southeast_Europe_floods), when 57 people died and a damage of over a 1.5 billion euro was incited.[[25]](#cite_note-25)

### Hydrology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

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Almost all of Serbia's rivers drain to the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea), by way of the Danube river. The [Danube](/wiki/Danube), the second largest European river, passes through Serbia with 588 kilometers (21% of its overall length) and represents the largest source of fresh water. It is joined by its biggest tributaries, the [Great Morava](/wiki/Great_Morava) (longest river entirely in Serbia with 493 km of length), [Sava](/wiki/Sava) and [Tisza](/wiki/Tisza) rivers.[[26]](#cite_note-26) One notable exception is the [Pčinja](/wiki/Pčinja_(river)) which flows into the [Aegean](/wiki/Aegean_Sea). [Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

Due to configuration of the terrain, natural lakes are sparse and small; most of them are located in the lowlands of Vojvodina, like the aeolian lake [Palić](/wiki/Palić_lake) or numerous [oxbow lakes](/wiki/Oxbow_lake) along river flows (like [Zasavica](/wiki/Zasavica_(river)) and [Carska Bara](/wiki/Carska_Bara)). However, there are numerous [artificial lakes](/wiki/Artificial_lake), mostly due to hydroelectric dams, the biggest being [Đerdap (Iron Gates)](/wiki/Iron_Gate_(Danube)) on the Danube with 163 km2 on the Serbian side (a total area of 253 km2 is shared with Romania) as well as the deepest (with maximum depth of 92 m); [Perućac](/wiki/Perućac) on the Drina, and [Vlasina](/wiki/Vlasina_Lake). The largest waterfall, [Jelovarnik](/wiki/Jelovarnik), located in Kopaonik, is 71 m high.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Abundance of relatively unpolluted surface waters and numerous underground natural and mineral water sources of high [water quality](/wiki/Water_quality) presents a chance for export and economy improvement; however, more extensive exploitation and production of bottled water began only recently.

### Environment[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Gyps_fulvus_-_Unsplash.jpg) [griffon vulture](/wiki/Griffon_vulture) is protected species in Serbia. With 29.1% of its territory covered by forest, Serbia is considered to be a middle-forested country, compared on a global scale to world forest coverage at 30%, and European average of 35%. The total forest area in Serbia is 2,252,000 hа (1,194,000 hа or 53% are state-owned, and 1,058,387 hа or 47% are privately owned) or 0.3 ha per inhabitant.[[28]](#cite_note-28) The most common trees are oak, beech, pines and firs.

Serbia is a country of rich ecosystem and species diversity – covering only 1.9% of the whole European territory Serbia is home to 39% of European vascular flora, 51% of European fish fauna, 40% of European reptile and amphibian fauna, 74% of European bird fauna, 67% European mammal fauna.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Its abundance of mountains and rivers make it an ideal environment for a variety of animals, many of which are protected including wolves, lynx, bears, foxes and stags.

Mountain of [Tara](/wiki/Tara_(mountain)) in western Serbia is one of the last regions in Europe where bears can still live in absolute freedom.[[30]](#cite_note-30) Serbia is also home to about 380 species of bird, including the imperial eagle, the great bustard, the corn crake and the Madagascar pochard. In [Carska Bara](/wiki/Carska_Bara), there are over 300 bird species on just a few square kilometers.[[31]](#cite_note-31) [Uvac Gorge](/wiki/Uvac) is considered one of the last habitats of the [griffon vulture](/wiki/Griffon_vulture) in Europe.[[32]](#cite_note-32) There are 377 [protected areas of Serbia](/wiki/List_of_protected_natural_resources_in_Serbia), encompassing 4,947 square kilometers or 6.4% of the country. The "Spatial plan of the Republic of Serbia" states that the total protected area should be increased to 12% by 2021.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Those protected areas include 5 national parks ([Đerdap](/wiki/Đerdap_National_Park), [Tara](/wiki/Tara_(mountain)), [Kopaonik](/wiki/Kopaonik), [Fruška Gora](/wiki/Fruška_Gora) and [Šar Mountain](/wiki/Šar_Mountain)), 15 [nature parks](/wiki/Nature_park), 15 "landscapes of outstanding features", 61 nature reserves, and 281 natural monuments.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Air pollution is a significant problem in [Bor](/wiki/Bor,_Serbia) area, due to work of large copper mining and smelting complex, and [Pančevo](/wiki/Pančevo) where oil and petrochemical industry is based.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Some cities suffer from water supply problems, due to mismanagement and low investments in the past, as well as water pollution (like the pollution of the [Ibar River](/wiki/Ibar_River) from the [Trepča](/wiki/Trepča_Mines) [zinc](/wiki/Zinc)-lead combinate, affecting the city of [Kraljevo](/wiki/Kraljevo), or the presence of natural [arsenic](/wiki/Arsenic) in underground waters in [Zrenjanin](/wiki/Zrenjanin)).

Poor waste management has been identified as one of the most important environmental problems in Serbia and the [recycling](/wiki/Recycling) is a fledgling activity, with only 15% of its waste being turned back for reuse.[[34]](#cite_note-34) The [1999 NATO bombing](/wiki/NATO_bombing_of_Yugoslavia) caused serious damage to the environment, with several thousand tons of toxic chemicals stored in targeted factories and refineries released into the soil and water basins.

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

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### Prehistory[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|100px|](/wiki/File:Vinca_clay_figure_02.jpg)[Vinča culture](/wiki/Vinča_culture) figure, 4000–4500 BC. Archeological evidence of [Paleolithic](/wiki/Paleolithic) settlements on the territory of present-day Serbia are scarce. A fragment of a human jaw, was found in [Sićevo](/wiki/Sićevo) (Mala Balanica) and believed to be up to 525,000—397,000 years old.[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[36]](#cite_note-36) In 1091, the [Vukanović dynasty](/wiki/Vukanović_dynasty) established the [Serbian Grand Principality](/wiki/Serbian_Grand_Principality), based in [Raška](/wiki/Raška_(region)) (*Rascia*).<ref name=Corovic2VII/> The two-halves were reunited in 1142.[[47]](#cite_note-47)[thumb|250ox|left|Coronation of](/wiki/File:Paja_Jovanović-Krunisanje_Cara_Dušana.jpg) [Stefan Dušan](/wiki/Stefan_Dušan) as Emperor of Serbs and Greeks in 1346

In 1166, [Stefan Nemanja](/wiki/Stefan_Nemanja) assumed the throne, marking the beginning of a prospering Serbia, henceforth under the rule of the [Nemanjić dynasty](/wiki/Nemanjić_dynasty).[[48]](#cite_note-48) Nemanja's son [Rastko](/wiki/Saint_Sava) (posth. *Saint Sava*), gained [autocephaly](/wiki/Autocephaly) for the [Serbian Church](/wiki/Serbian_Orthodox_Church) in 1217 and authored [the oldest known constitution](/wiki/Zakonopravilo), and at the same time [Stefan the First-Crowned](/wiki/Stefan_the_First-Crowned) established the [Serbian Kingdom](/wiki/Serbian_Kingdom_(medieval)).[[49]](#cite_note-49) Medieval Serbia reached its peak during the reign of [Stefan Dušan](/wiki/Stefan_Dušan), who took advantage of the [Byzantine civil war](/wiki/Byzantine_civil_war_of_1341–1347) and doubled the size of the state by conquering territories to the south and east at the expense of Byzantium, reaching as far as the [Peloponnese](/wiki/Peloponnese), also being crowned Emperor of Serbs and Greeks along the way. [thumb|right|250ox|](/wiki/File:Central_and_Eastern_Europe_around_950_AD.png)[Principality of Serbia](/wiki/Principality_of_Serbia_(medieval)) around 950

The [Battle of Kosovo](/wiki/Battle_of_Kosovo) against the rising [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) in 1389 marks a turning point and is considered as a beginning of the [fall of the medieval Serbian state](/wiki/Fall_of_the_Serbian_Empire). The magnate families [Lazarević](/wiki/Lazarević_dynasty) and [Branković](/wiki/Branković_dynasty) ruled the suzerain [Serbian Despotate](/wiki/Serbian_Despotate) afterwards (in the 15th and 16th centuries). After the fall of [Constantinople](/wiki/Constantinople) to the Ottomans in 1453 and the [Siege of Belgrade](/wiki/Siege_of_Belgrade_(1456)), the [Serbian Despotate](/wiki/Serbian_Despotate) fell in 1459 following the siege of the provisional capital of [Smederevo](/wiki/Smederevo). By 1455, central Serbia was completely conquered by the Ottoman Empire.[[50]](#cite_note-50) After repelling Ottoman attacks for over 70 years, [Belgrade](/wiki/Belgrade) finally fell in 1521, opening the way for Ottoman expansion into Central Europe. [Vojvodina](/wiki/Vojvodina), as a part of [Habsburg Empire](/wiki/Habsburg_Empire), resisted Ottoman rule until well into the 16th century.

### Ottoman and Habsburg rule[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|150px|left|](/wiki/File:Serbia02.png)[Principality of Serbia](/wiki/Principality_of_Serbia), the [Habsburg Vojvodina](/wiki/Voivodeship_of_Serbia_and_Banat_of_Temeschwar) and [Ottoman-held south](/wiki/Ottoman_Serbia) around 1850 After the loss of independence to the [Kingdom of Hungary](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Hungary) and the Ottoman Empire, Serbia briefly regained sovereignty under [Jovan Nenad](/wiki/Jovan_Nenad) in the 16th century. Three Habsburg invasions and numerous rebellions constantly challenged Ottoman rule. One famous incident was the [Banat Uprising](/wiki/Banat_Uprising) in 1595, which was part of the [Long War](/wiki/Long_War_(Ottoman_wars)) between the Ottomans and the [Habsburgs](/wiki/Habsburgs).[[51]](#cite_note-51) The area of modern Vojvodina endured a century-long Ottoman occupation before being ceded to the [Habsburg Empire](/wiki/Habsburg_Empire) at the end of the 17th century under the [Treaty of Karlowitz](/wiki/Treaty_of_Karlowitz).

In all Serb lands south of the rivers Danube and Sava, the nobility was eliminated and the peasantry was [enserfed](/wiki/Serfdom) to Ottoman masters, while much of the clergy fled or were confined to the isolated monasteries. Under the Ottoman system, Serbs, as Christians, were considered an [inferior class](/wiki/Rayah) of people and subjected to heavy taxes, and a small portion of the Serbian populace experienced [Islamisation](/wiki/Islamisation). The Ottomans abolished the Serbian patriarchate (1459), but reestablished it in 1557, providing for limited continuation of Serbian cultural traditions within the empire.[[52]](#cite_note-52)[[53]](#cite_note-53)[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Serbmigra.jpg)[Great Migrations of the Serbs](/wiki/Great_Migrations_of_the_Serbs) known as the Great Exodus, refers mainly to two [large migrations](/wiki/Human_migrations) of Serbs from the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) to the [Habsburg Monarchy](/wiki/Habsburg_Monarchy).

As the [Great Serb Migrations](/wiki/Great_Serb_Migrations) depopulated most of southern Serbia, the Serbs sought refuge across the Danube River in [Vojvodina](/wiki/Vojvodina) to the north and the [Military Frontier](/wiki/Military_Frontier) in the west, where they were granted rights by the Austrian crown under measures such as the *Statuta Wallachorum* of 1630. The ecclesiastical center of the Serbs also moved northwards, to the Metropolitanate of [Sremski Karlovci](/wiki/Sremski_Karlovci), as the [Patriarchate of Peć](/wiki/Patriarchate_of_Peć) was once-again abolished by the Ottomans in 1766.[[54]](#cite_note-54) Following several petitions, the [Holy Roman Emperor](/wiki/Holy_Roman_Emperor) [Leopold I](/wiki/Leopold_I,_Holy_Roman_Emperor) formally granted Serbs who wished to leave the right to their autonomous crownland.[[55]](#cite_note-55) In 1717–1739, [Austrian Empire](/wiki/Austrian_Empire) regained the rule in [Central Serbia](/wiki/Central_Serbia) and formed the "[Kingdom of Serbia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Serbia_(1718–1739))". Apart from Vojvodina and [Northern Belgrade](/wiki/Zemun) which were absorbed into the Habsburg Empire, Central Serbia was also included into the Austrian territory in 1688–1692 and 1788–1793.

### Revolution and independence[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Karađorđe_at_Mišar.jpg)[Battle of Mišar](/wiki/Battle_of_Mišar), a high point of [Serbian Revolution](/wiki/Serbian_Revolution) in 1806, with a decisive Serbian victory over the [Ottomans](/wiki/Ottomans)

The [Serbian Revolution](/wiki/Serbian_Revolution) for independence from the Ottoman Empire lasted eleven years, from 1804 until 1815.[[56]](#cite_note-56) The revolution comprised two separate uprisings which gained autonomy from the Ottoman Empire that eventually evolved towards full independence (1835–1867).[[57]](#cite_note-57)[[58]](#cite_note-58) During the [First Serbian Uprising](/wiki/First_Serbian_Uprising), led by Duke [Karađorđe Petrović](/wiki/Karađorđe_Petrović), Serbia was independent for almost a decade before the Ottoman army was able to reoccupy the country. Shortly after this, the [Second Serbian Uprising](/wiki/Second_Serbian_Uprising) began. Led by [Miloš Obrenović](/wiki/Miloš_Obrenović), it ended in 1815 with a compromise between Serbian revolutionaries and Ottoman authorities.[[59]](#cite_note-59) Likewise, Serbia was one of the first nations in the Balkans to abolish [feudalism](/wiki/Feudalism).[[60]](#cite_note-60) The Convention of Ackerman in 1826, the Treaty of Adrianople in 1829 and finally, the [Hatt-i Sharif](/wiki/Hatt-i_Sharif), recognized the [suzerainty](/wiki/Suzerainty) of Serbia. The first Serbian Constitution was adopted on 15 February 1835.[[61]](#cite_note-61)[[62]](#cite_note-62) Following the clashes between the Ottoman army and Serbs in Belgrade in 1862, and under pressure from the [Great Powers](/wiki/Great_Powers), by 1867 the last Turkish soldiers left the Principality, making the country *de facto* independent. By enacting a new constitution without consulting the Porte, [Serbian diplomats](/wiki/Jovan_Ristic) confirmed the *de facto* independence of the country. In 1876, Serbia declared war on the Ottoman Empire, proclaiming its unification with [Bosnia](/wiki/Bosnia_(region)).

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:The_May_Assembly_1848_in_Sremski_Karlovci.jpg)[May Assembly](/wiki/May_Assembly) in 1848, [Sremski Karlovci](/wiki/Sremski_Karlovci), led to foundation of [Serbian Vojvodina](/wiki/Serbian_Vojvodina)

The formal independence of the country was internationally recognized at the [Congress of Berlin](/wiki/Congress_of_Berlin) in 1878, which formally ended the [Russo-Turkish War](/wiki/Russo-Turkish_War_(1877–1878)); this treaty, however, prohibited Serbia from uniting with Bosnia by placing the latter under [Austro-Hungarian](/wiki/Austria-Hungary) occupation, alongside the occupation of [Sanjak of Novi Pazar](/wiki/Sanjak_of_Novi_Pazar).[[63]](#cite_note-63) From 1815 to 1903, the Principality of Serbia was ruled by the [House of Obrenović](/wiki/House_of_Obrenović), save for the rule of Prince [Aleksandar Karađorđević](/wiki/Alexander_Karađorđević,_Prince_of_Serbia) between 1842 and 1858. In 1882, Serbia became a [Kingdom](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Serbia), ruled by [King Milan I](/wiki/Milan_I_of_Serbia). The [House of Karađorđević](/wiki/House_of_Karađorđević), descendants of the revolutionary leader Karađorđe Petrović, assumed power in 1903 following the [May Overthrow](/wiki/May_Overthrow). In the north, the [1848 revolution in Austria](/wiki/Revolutions_of_1848_in_the_Habsburg_areas) led to the establishment of the autonomous territory of [Serbian Vojvodina](/wiki/Serbian_Vojvodina); by 1849, the region was transformed into the [Voivodeship of Serbia and Banat of Temeschwar](/wiki/Voivodeship_of_Serbia_and_Banat_of_Temeschwar).

### Balkan Wars, World War I and the First Yugoslavia[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

In the course of the [First Balkan War](/wiki/First_Balkan_War) in 1912, the [Balkan League](/wiki/Balkan_League) defeated the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) and captured its [European territories](/wiki/Treaty_of_London,_1913), which enabled territorial expansion into [Raška](/wiki/Raška_(region)) and Kosovo. The [Second Balkan War](/wiki/Second_Balkan_War) soon ensued when Bulgaria turned on its former allies, but was defeated, resulting in the [Treaty of Bucharest](/wiki/Treaty_of_Bucharest_(1913)). In two years, Serbia enlarged its territory by 80% and its population by 50%;[[64]](#cite_note-64) it also suffered high casualties on the eve of World War I, with around 20,000 dead.[[65]](#cite_note-65) Austria-Hungary became wary of the rising regional power on its borders and its potential to become an anchor for unification of all South Slavs, and the relationship between the two countries became tense.

[thumb|upright|left|](/wiki/File:NikolaPasic--serbiaherpeopleh00petruoft.png)[Nikola Pašić](/wiki/Nikola_Pašić), Prime Minister during World War I

The [assassination](/wiki/Assassination_in_Sarajevo) of [Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria](/wiki/Archduke_Franz_Ferdinand_of_Austria) on 28 June 1914 in [Sarajevo](/wiki/Sarajevo) by [Gavrilo Princip](/wiki/Gavrilo_Princip), a member of the [Young Bosnia](/wiki/Young_Bosnia) organization, led to Austria-Hungary declaring war on Serbia.[[66]](#cite_note-66) In defense of its ally Serbia, [Russia](/wiki/Russian_Empire) mobilized its troops, which resulted in Austria-Hungary's ally [Germany](/wiki/German_Empire) declaring war on Russia. The retaliation by Austria-Hungary against Serbia activated a series of [military alliances](/wiki/Military_alliance) that set off a chain reaction of war declarations across the continent, leading to the outbreak of World War I within a month.[[67]](#cite_note-67) Serbia won the first major battles of World War I, including the [Battle of Cer](/wiki/Battle_of_Cer) and [Battle of Kolubara](/wiki/Battle_of_Kolubara) – marking the first [Allied](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_I) victories against the [Central Powers](/wiki/Central_Powers) in World War I.[[68]](#cite_note-68) Despite initial success, it was eventually overpowered by the Central Powers in 1915. Most of its army and some people retreated into exile to Greece and [Corfu](/wiki/Corfu), where they recovered, regrouped and returned to the [Macedonian front](/wiki/Macedonian_front_(World_War_I)) to lead a final breakthrough through enemy lines on 15 September 1918, liberating Serbia and defeating the Austro-Hungarian Empire and [Bulgaria](/wiki/Bulgaria).[[69]](#cite_note-69) Serbia, with its [campaign](/wiki/Serbian_Campaign_(World_War_I)), was a major Balkan Entente Power[[70]](#cite_note-70) which contributed significantly to the Allied victory in the Balkans in November 1918, especially by helping France force Bulgaria's [capitulation](/wiki/Capitulation_(surrender)).[[71]](#cite_note-71) Serbia was classified as a *minor Entente power*.[[72]](#cite_note-72) Serbia's casualties accounted for 8% of the *total* Entente military deaths; 58% (243,600) soldiers of the Serbian army perished in the war.[[73]](#cite_note-73) The total number of casualties is placed around 700,000,[[74]](#cite_note-74) more than 16% of Serbia's prewar size,[[67]](#cite_note-67) and a majority (57%) of its overall male population.[[75]](#cite_note-75)[[76]](#cite_note-76)[[77]](#cite_note-77) As the Austro-Hungarian Empire collapsed, the territory of Syrmia united with Serbia on 24 November 1918, followed by [Banat, Bačka and Baranja](/wiki/Banat,_Bačka_and_Baranja) a day later, thereby bringing the entire Vojvodina into the Serb Kingdom. On 26 November 1918, the [Podgorica Assembly](/wiki/Podgorica_Assembly) deposed the [House of Petrović-Njegoš](/wiki/House_of_Petrović-Njegoš) and united Montenegro with Serbia. On 1 December 1918, Serbian Prince Regent [Alexander of Serbia](/wiki/Alexander_I_of_Yugoslavia) proclaimed the [Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes](/wiki/Kingdom_of_the_Serbs,_Croats,_and_Slovenes) under King [Peter I of Serbia](/wiki/Peter_I_of_Serbia).

King Peter was succeeded by his son, Alexander, in August 1921. Serb centralists and Croat autonomists clashed in the parliament, and most governments were fragile and short-lived. [Nikola Pašić](/wiki/Nikola_Pašić), a conservative prime minister, headed or dominated most governments until his death. King Alexander changed the name of the country to Yugoslavia and changed the internal divisions from the 33 [oblasts](/wiki/Oblasts) to nine new [banovinas](/wiki/Subdivisions_of_the_Kingdom_of_Yugoslavia). The effect of Alexander's dictatorship was to further alienate the non-Serbs from the idea of unity.[[78]](#cite_note-78)[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Kralj_aleksandar1.jpg)[King Alexander I of Yugoslavia](/wiki/Alexander_I_of_Yugoslavia) Alexander was assassinated in [Marseille](/wiki/Marseille), during an official visit in 1934 by [Vlado Chernozemski](/wiki/Vlado_Chernozemski), member of the [IMRO](/wiki/Internal_Macedonian_Revolutionary_Organization). Alexander was succeeded by his eleven-year-old son [Peter II](/wiki/Peter_II_of_Yugoslavia) and a regency council was headed by his cousin, [Prince Paul](/wiki/Prince_Paul_of_Yugoslavia). In August 1939 the [Cvetković–Maček Agreement](/wiki/Cvetković–Maček_Agreement) established an autonomous [Banate of Croatia](/wiki/Banate_of_Croatia) as a solution to Croatian concerns.

### World War II and the Second Yugoslavia[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|German soldiers escorting people from Kragujevac and its surrounding area](/wiki/File:German_Soldierss_arresting_in_1941_people_in_Kragujevac.jpg) [to be executed](/wiki/Kragujevac_massacre).

In 1941, in spite of Yugoslav attempts to remain neutral in the war, the [Axis powers](/wiki/Axis_powers) invaded Yugoslavia. The territory of modern Serbia was divided between Hungary, Bulgaria, Independent State of Croatia and Italy (greater Albania and Montenegro), while the remaining part of Serbia was placed under [German Military administration](/wiki/Military_Administration_in_Serbia), with Serbian puppet governments led by [Milan Aćimović](/wiki/Milan_Aćimović) and [Milan Nedić](/wiki/Milan_Nedić). The occupied territory was the scene of a civil war between [royalist Chetniks](/wiki/Chetniks) commanded by [Draža Mihailović](/wiki/Draža_Mihailović) and [communist partisans](/wiki/Partisans_(Yugoslavia)) commanded by [Josip Broz Tito](/wiki/Josip_Broz_Tito). Against these forces were arrayed Axis auxiliary units of the [Serbian Volunteer Corps](/wiki/Serbian_Volunteer_Corps_(World_War_II)) and the [Serbian State Guard](/wiki/Serbian_State_Guard). [Draginac and Loznica massacre](/wiki/Loznica) of 2,950 villagers in Western Serbia in 1941 was the first large execution of civilians in occupied Serbia by [Germans](/wiki/Nazi), with [Kragujevac massacre](/wiki/Kragujevac_massacre) and [Novi Sad Raid](/wiki/Novi_Sad_Raid) of Jews and Serbs by Hungarian fascists being the most notorious, with over 3,000 victims in each case.[[79]](#cite_note-79)[[80]](#cite_note-80)[[81]](#cite_note-81) After one year of occupation, around 16,000 [Serbian Jews](/wiki/Serbian_Jews) were murdered in the area, or around 90% of its pre-war Jewish population. Many concentration camps were established across the area. [Banjica concentration camp](/wiki/Banjica_concentration_camp) was the largest concentration camp, with primary victims being Serbian Jews, Roma, and Serb political prisoners.<ref name=JewishHeritage>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link)</ref>

The Axis [puppet state](/wiki/Puppet_state) of the [Independent State of Croatia](/wiki/Independent_State_of_Croatia) committed large-scale persecution and genocide of Serbs, Jews, and [Roma](/wiki/Romani_people).[[82]](#cite_note-82) The estimate of the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](/wiki/United_States_Holocaust_Memorial_Museum) indicates that between 320,000 and 340,000 ethnic Serb residents of Croatia, Bosnia and northern Serbia were murdered during the [Ustaše genocide campaign](/wiki/Ustaše);[[83]](#cite_note-83) the same figures are supported by the Jewish Virtual Library.[[84]](#cite_note-84) Official Yugoslav sources used to estimate more than [Template:Formatnum:700000](/wiki/Template:Formatnum:700000) victims, mostly Serbs.[[85]](#cite_note-85) The Jasenovac memorial so far lists 82,085 names killed at the [this concentration camp](/wiki/Jasenovac_concentration_camp) alone,[[86]](#cite_note-86) out of around 100,000 estimated victims (75% of whom were of Serbian origin).[[87]](#cite_note-87) Out of roughly 1 million casualties in all of Yugoslavia up until 1944,[[88]](#cite_note-88)[[89]](#cite_note-89) around 250,000 were citizens of Serbia of different ethnicities.[[90]](#cite_note-90) [thumb|upright|President of](/wiki/File:Stevan_Kragujevic,_Elizabeth_II_i_Josip_Broz_Tito,1972,_u_Beogradu.jpg) [Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia](/wiki/Socialist_Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia) [Josip Broz Tito](/wiki/Josip_Broz_Tito) with [Elizabeth II](/wiki/Elizabeth_II), [Belgrade](/wiki/Belgrade), 1972.

The [Republic of Užice](/wiki/Republic_of_Užice) was a short-lived liberated territory established by the [Partisans](/wiki/Yugoslav_Partisans) and the first liberated territory in World War II Europe, organized as a military mini-state that existed in the autumn of 1941 in the west of [occupied Serbia](/wiki/Serbia_under_German_occupation). By late 1944, the [Belgrade Offensive](/wiki/Belgrade_Offensive) swung in favour of the partisans in the civil war; the partisans subsequently gained control of Yugoslavia.[[91]](#cite_note-91) Following the Belgrade Offensive, the [Syrmian Front](/wiki/Syrmian_Front) was the last major military action of World War II in Serbia.

The victory of the Communist Partisans resulted in the abolition of the monarchy and a subsequent constitutional referendum. A [one-party state](/wiki/One-party_state) was soon established in Yugoslavia by the [League of Communists of Yugoslavia](/wiki/League_of_Communists_of_Yugoslavia), between 60,000 and 70,000 people were killed in Serbia during the communist takeover.[[92]](#cite_note-92) All opposition was suppressed and people deemed to be promoting opposition to socialism or promoting separatism were imprisoned or executed for sedition. Serbia became a [constituent republic](/wiki/Constituent_state) within the [SFRY](/wiki/Socialist_Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia) known as the [Socialist Republic of Serbia](/wiki/Socialist_Republic_of_Serbia), and had a republic-branch of the federal communist party, the [League of Communists of Serbia](/wiki/League_of_Communists_of_Serbia). Serbia's most powerful and influential politician in Tito-era Yugoslavia was [Aleksandar Ranković](/wiki/Aleksandar_Ranković), one of the "big four" Yugoslav leaders, alongside Tito, [Edvard Kardelj](/wiki/Edvard_Kardelj), and [Milovan Đilas](/wiki/Milovan_Đilas).[[93]](#cite_note-93) Ranković was later removed from the office because of the disagreements regarding Kosovo's [nomenklatura](/wiki/Nomenklatura) and the unity of Serbia.[[93]](#cite_note-93) Ranković's dismissal was highly unpopular amongst Serbs.[[94]](#cite_note-94) Pro-decentralization reformers in Yugoslavia succeeded in the late 1960s in attaining substantial decentralization of powers, creating substantial autonomy in Kosovo and Vojvodina, and recognizing a [Yugoslav Muslim](/wiki/Muslims_by_nationality_(term)) nationality.[[94]](#cite_note-94) As a result of these reforms, there was a massive overhaul of Kosovo's nomenklatura and police, that shifted from being Serb-dominated to ethnic Albanian-dominated through firing Serbs on a large scale.[[94]](#cite_note-94) Further concessions were made to the ethnic Albanians of Kosovo in response to unrest, including the creation of the [University of Pristina](/wiki/University_of_Pristina_(1969–1999)) as an [Albanian language](/wiki/Albanian_language) institution.[[94]](#cite_note-94) These changes created widespread fear amongst Serbs of being treated as [second-class citizens](/wiki/Second-class_citizen).[[95]](#cite_note-95)

### Breakup of Yugoslavia and political transition[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Territories_controlled_by_the_Republic_of_Srpska_and_Republic_of_Serbian_Krajina_in_1993.png)[Federal Republic of Yugoslavia](/wiki/Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia) and territories of Serb breakaway states ([Republika Srpska](/wiki/Republika_Srpska) and [Republika Srpska Krajina](/wiki/Republika_Srpska_Krajina)) during the [Yugoslav wars](/wiki/Yugoslav_wars) (1991–95).

In 1989, [Slobodan Milošević](/wiki/Slobodan_Milošević) rose to power in Serbia. Milošević promised a reduction of powers for the autonomous provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina, where his allies subsequently took over power, during the [Anti-bureaucratic revolution](/wiki/Anti-bureaucratic_revolution).[[96]](#cite_note-96) This ignited tensions with the communist leadership of the other republics, and awoke nationalism across the country that eventually resulted in the [Breakup of Yugoslavia](/wiki/Breakup_of_Yugoslavia), with [Slovenia](/wiki/Slovenia), [Croatia](/wiki/Croatia), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](/wiki/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina), [Macedonia](/wiki/Republic_of_Macedonia) and [Kosovo](/wiki/Kosovo) declaring independence.[[97]](#cite_note-97) Serbia and Montenegro remained together as the [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia](/wiki/Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia) (FRY).

Fueled by ethnic tensions, the [Yugoslav Wars](/wiki/Yugoslav_Wars) erupted, with the most severe conflicts taking place in [Croatia](/wiki/War_in_Croatia) and [Bosnia](/wiki/Bosnian_War), where ethnic Serb populations opposed independence from Yugoslavia. The FRY remained outside the conflicts, but provided logistic, military and financial support to Serb forces in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In response, the UN imposed [sanctions](/wiki/International_sanctions) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in May 1992,[[98]](#cite_note-98) which led to political isolation and the collapse of the economy.

Multiparty democracy was introduced in Serbia in 1990, officially dismantling the one-party system. Critics of Milošević claimed that the government continued to be authoritarian despite constitutional changes, as Milošević maintained strong political influence over the state media and security apparatus.[[99]](#cite_note-99)[[100]](#cite_note-100) When the ruling [Socialist Party of Serbia](/wiki/Socialist_Party_of_Serbia) refused to accept its defeat in municipal elections in 1996, Serbians engaged in [large protests](/wiki/1996–1997_protests_in_Serbia) against the government. [thumb|right|Burned and destroyed Serbian houses in](/wiki/File:Downtown_Vista_with_Ruins_of_Serb_House_Destroyed_in_2004_Pogrom_-_Prizren_-_Kosovo.jpg) [Prizren](/wiki/Prizren) during the [2004 unrest in Kosovo](/wiki/2004_unrest_in_Kosovo).

Between 1998 and 1999, peace was broken again, when the situation in Kosovo worsened with continued clashes between Yugoslav security forces and the Albanian guerilla [Kosovo Liberation Army](/wiki/Kosovo_Liberation_Army). The confrontations led to the short [Kosovo War](/wiki/Kosovo_War), which ended in withdrawal of Serbian forces from Kosovo and the establishment of [UN administration](/wiki/UNMIK) of the province.[[101]](#cite_note-101)After [presidential elections](/wiki/Yugoslavian_general_election,_2000) in September 2000, opposition parties accused Milošević of [electoral fraud](/wiki/Electoral_fraud). A campaign of [civil resistance](/wiki/Civil_resistance) followed, led by the [Democratic Opposition of Serbia](/wiki/Democratic_Opposition_of_Serbia) (DOS), a broad coalition of anti-Milošević parties. This culminated on 5 October when half a million people from all over the country congregated in Belgrade, compelling Milošević to concede defeat.[[102]](#cite_note-102) The [fall of Milošević](/wiki/Overthrow_of_Slobodan_Milošević) ended Yugoslavia's [international isolation](/wiki/International_isolation). Milošević was sent to the [International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia](/wiki/International_Criminal_Tribunal_for_the_former_Yugoslavia). The DOS announced that FR Yugoslavia would seek to join the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union). In 2003, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was renamed [Serbia and Montenegro](/wiki/Serbia_and_Montenegro); the EU opened negotiations with the country for the [Stabilization and Association Agreement](/wiki/Stabilization_and_Association_Agreement). Serbia's political climate remained tense and in 2003, the prime minister [Zoran Đinđić](/wiki/Zoran_Đinđić) was [assassinated](/wiki/Assassination_of_Zoran_Đinđić) as result of a plot originating from circles of organized crime and former security officials.

On 21 May 2006, Montenegro held a referendum to determine whether to end its union with Serbia. The results showed 55.4% of voters in favor of independence, which was just above the 55% required by the referendum. On 5 June 2006, the [National Assembly of Serbia](/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Serbia) declared Serbia to be the legal successor to the former state union.[[103]](#cite_note-103) The province of Kosovo unilaterally declared independence from Serbia on 17 February 2008. Serbia immediately condemned the declaration and continues to deny any statehood to Kosovo. The declaration has sparked varied responses from the international community, some welcoming it, while others condemned the unilateral move.[[104]](#cite_note-104) [Status neutral talks](/wiki/Belgrade-Pristina_negotiations) between Serbia and Kosovo-Albanian authorities are held in [Brussels](/wiki/Brussels), mediated by the EU.

In April 2008 Serbia was invited to join the [Intensified Dialogue](/wiki/Intensified_Dialogue) programme with [NATO](/wiki/NATO) despite the diplomatic rift with the alliance over Kosovo.[[105]](#cite_note-105) Serbia officially applied for membership in the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) on 22 December 2009,[[106]](#cite_note-106) and received candidate status on 1 March 2012, following a delay in December 2011.[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[107]](#cite_note-107) Following a positive recommendation of the [European Commission](/wiki/European_Commission) and [European Council](/wiki/European_Council) in June 2013, negotiations to join the EU commenced in January 2014.[[108]](#cite_note-108)