

# MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT

## Europe

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### Country Snapshot

**Country Name:**

Bosnia and Herzegovina (*Republika Bosnia i Herzegovina*)

**Population:**

4,025,476 (2005 est.)

**Government Type:**

Emerging Federal Democratic Republic

**Capitol:**

Sarajevo

**Geography:**

- Located in southeastern Europe
- Borders Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro, and the Adriatic Sea
- Landmass roughly the size of West Virginia
- Hot summers and cold winters
- Danger of destructive earthquakes
- Terrain full of mountains and valleys

**Picture of Flag:****Official Language(s):**

- Bosnian
- Croatian
- Serbian

**People Groups:**

- Bosnian Muslims (officially known as “Bosniaks” since 1994) (48%)
- Serbs (37.1%)
- Croats (14.3%)

- Other (.6%)

**Major Religion:**

Muslim (40%)

**Other Religions:**

- Orthodox (31%)
- Roman Catholic (15%)
- Other (14%)

Information taken from <http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/bk.html> and [http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761563626/Bosnia\\_and\\_Herzegovina.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761563626/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina.html)

## Basic Facts

### Demographics

In 2005 the estimated population of Bosnia and Herzegovina (usually in this profile referred to as “Bosnia”) was 4,025,476 with a positive population growth rate of 0.44%. An ethnically diverse country, the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina is 48% *Bosniak*, 37.1% Serb, and 14.3% Croat. The other 0.6% of the population is made up of various ethnic groups including Roma (Gypsy) and Turks. (estimates from 2000)

In 2003 45% of the population of Bosnia lived in cities or towns. The largest city is the capitol, *Sarajevo*.

Bosnia is one of the most ethnically diverse of the former Soviet Republics. Before the civil war of the 1990s Bosnia’s rural population typically lived in concentrations of each ethnic group. These concentrations were scattered randomly all over the country. The *Bosniak* (Muslim) population resided primarily in the central, eastern, and far western parts of the country. Serbian communities separated those Muslim communities. Croat clusters were typically found on Bosnia’s northern and southwestern borders with Croatia, as well as few pockets in central Bosnia.

Many of the campaigns of the war were focused at pushing some ethnic groups from areas claimed by another group. By the end of the war, the population was almost totally segregated. Serbian forces had succeeded in removing all non-Serbs from Serbian-claimed land in eastern and northern Bosnia. Croat forces had also removed all non-Croats from their lands in the southwestern portion of the country. Finally, most non-Muslims had voluntarily left Muslim-controlled lands in northwestern Bosnia.

The war also affected the ethnic landscape of the cities. Bosnia’s largest cities, which had mixed populations before the war became almost totally homogenous. For example, *Banja Luka*, a city in northern Bosnia that was 55% Serb in 1991, was almost 100% Serb by 1993.

Now *Banja Luka* is the capital of the Serb Republic. *Mostar*, a city in southern Bosnia, was 34% Croat, 35% Bosniak, 19% Serb, and 10% “other” in 1991. By 1995 the city was divided in half with the western part of the city almost purely Croat and the eastern part almost purely *Bosniak*. *Sarajevo*, the country’s capital, provides a final example. The 1995 *Dayton peace* accord provided for an ethnically united Sarajevo. However, by 1996 Sarajevo’s population was over 90% *Bosniak* and to this day *Bosniak* authorities discourage non-Bosniaks from settling in the city.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2868.htm>  
[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761563626/Bosnia\\_and\\_Herzegovina.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761563626/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina.html)

## Language

The government of Bosnia recognizes three official languages—Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian. The primary language is the Bosnian dialect of the Serbo-Croatian language. This is the language associated with *Bosniaks*. Serbian and Croatian are also spoken by some. Serbo-Croatian (“Bosnian”) is a Slavic language (specifically South Slavic), similar to other South Slavic languages like Bulgarian, Macedonian, and Slovenian.

While most people living in Bosnia speak “Bosnian,” Serbians and Croats also include their own elements. Serbs speak “Bosnian” but use the Cyrillic alphabet. Croats and Bosnians use the Latin alphabet but Croats have recently resurrected many archaic words from their past to make their language more distinctive.

One of Bosnia’s primary tourism websites explains what seems a confusion of languages by saying, “There are three 'official' languages spoken in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian. For the local people there is a great importance attached to the name of the language. For practical purposes, they are one and the same.”<sup>1</sup>

Many people in Bosnia are English-speakers (both adults and young people). In most Bosnian cities and most Bosnian youth will have at least some grasp of English. Also, because many Bosnian refugees fled to Germany during the civil war and have now returned, there are many German speakers in Bosnia, as well. English and German are taught in most Bosnian schools.

*Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life*, Timothy L. Gall, Editor  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2868.htm>  
<http://www.bhtourism.ba/eng/language.wbsp>

## Society/Culture

Before Bosnia’s civil war the urban population of Bosnia aspired to a standard of living similar of western European countries. Bosnia’s city-dwellers were also growing more comfortable with ethnic diversity and there were signs of increasing ethnic intermingling in residence, occupation, and relationships, including marriage. Bosnia’s rural population was less well-off and continued to be more ethnically segregated.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bhtourism.ba/eng/language.wbsp>, accessed May 23, 2006

The war affected city life much more than rural life. Previously ethnically-mixed cities became almost totally homogenous and the standards of living fell dramatically. In pre-war Bosnian cities many women held jobs outside of the home. With the collapse of the economy and the unavailability of jobs, many women became housewives and mothers. Finally, many *Bosniak* women have adopted Islamic styles of dress that were rare in cities before the war.

Bosnia's culture to some degree has much in common with the culture of the United States. Bosnia's three primary ethnic groups have lived in close proximity for hundreds of years and have assimilated many aspects of the other's cultures. However, each ethnic group maintains its own religious and cultural practices. The result is that it is difficult to say what cultural traits or practices are "Bosnian" and which belong to one of Bosnia's ethnic groups.

*Bosniaks* are a South Slav people ethnically similar to Croats and Serbs. They are, however, set apart by their adherence to Islam. The *Bosniak* people's conversion to Islam during the Ottoman Empire constitutes a large part of their history and further distinguishes them from the Serb and Croat compatriots.

Serbs, also a South Slav people, have culture and language that have been heavily influenced by the Muslim Turkish culture of the Ottoman Empire. The Serbian Orthodox Church (the national church of Serbs) has become a key element of Serbian culture. Along with their use of the Cyrillic alphabet, their devotion to the Serbian Orthodox Church culturally distinguishes Bosnia's Serbs from the Croat and *Bosniak* populations.

Croats, also a South Slav people, claim national identity on the basis of their separate history and their Roman Catholic faith. Their language is almost identical to the Serbian language but seeks to distinguish itself by the use of Latin characters and the recent resurrection of archaic Croatian words.

Like most European cultures, the heart of Bosnian culture has always been the family unit. In recent times, much more emphasis is placed on the immediate family than on the larger extended family. Gender roles are very evident in Bosnian households. Some women work outside the home (although not as many as in pre-war Bosnia) but mostly are always busy in the home. Men separate themselves from the affairs of the home and rarely do any sort of housework. Arranged marriages, common in the past, have almost totally disappeared.

Bosnians celebrate many holidays each year, although the celebration of these holidays largely depends on nationality since Catholic, Orthodox, and Muslim occasions are all recognized as public holidays in Bosnia.

Bosniak, Serb, and Croat Holidays:

- May 1, May Day
- November 25, National Day

Bosniak (Muslim) Holidays:

- January 1, New Year

- March 1, Independence Day (celebrated only in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- 1<sup>st</sup> of Muharram, Muslim New Year
- 12<sup>th</sup> of Rabe'ul-Awwal, Prophet's (Muhammad's) Anniversary
- 10<sup>th</sup> of Hajj, Eid ul-Adha
- 1<sup>st</sup> of Shawwal, Eid ul-Fitr (conclusion of the month of Ramadan)

#### Serb (Orthodox) Holidays:

- January 7, Christmas
- January 9, Republic Day (only in the Republika Srpska)
- January 14, Orthodox New Year
- Easter
- May 6, St. George's Day
- June 28, St. Vitus' Day
- July 12, St. Peter's Day
- August 2, St. Elijah's Day
- August 28, Assumption of Mary
- September 21, Nativity of the Virgin Mary
- November 8, St. Demetrius' Day

#### Croat (Roman Catholic) Holidays:

- Easter
- August 15, Assumption of Mary
- September 8, Nativity of the Virgin Mary
- November 1, All Saints Day
- November 2, All Souls Day
- December 25, Christmas

As part of former Yugoslavia, Bosnia was well-known as the republic with the widest variety of folk costumes. Those costumes are rarely seen today except in isolated rural areas. Most of the people living in Bosnia's cities wear Western style clothes while more traditional dress is more restricted to rural areas. Muslim women do not usually wear full head or body coverings. If they do subscribe to Muslim dress codes they will most likely dress modestly and wear a head scarf.

Bosnian food is similar to other Central European countries but shows signs of Middle Eastern influence. Dishes where mixtures of lamb, pork, and beef are grilled with onions and served on pita bread are common. Bosnian stew (*Bosnianki lonac*), a slow-cooked mixture of meat and vegetables, is one of Bosnia's regional specialties. Turkish dishes like *kebabs*, *burek* (meat or vegetable-filled pastry), and *baklava* (a sweet dessert pastry) are widely available. Pizza is hugely popular, although cooked a bit differently than most western-style pizzas (with an egg cooked into the middle), and is eaten with fork and knife, not with hands.

Bosnians differ little from other Western cultures in matters of recreation. They enjoy watching television, listening to music, reading, going to the movies, playing games, etc. Bosnians also love the outdoors and spend a lot of time hiking, hunting, mountain climbing, skiing, swimming, and fishing. On any given evening in villages, towns or cities many Bosnians will be found engaging in the most traditional form of recreation—*korzo*, a very simple practice of people walk along the main street(s) of town, stopping to visit with friends, and often stopping for a cup of coffee in the *kafana* (coffeehouse).

[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761563626/Bosnia\\_and\\_Herzegovina.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761563626/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina.html)  
*One Europe, Many Nations: A Historical Dictionary of European National Groups*, James B. Minahan  
*Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life*, Timothy L. Gall, Editor

## Literacy

Bosnia and Herzegovina reports a literacy rate of 94.6%. Male literacy is reported as 98.4% while female literacy is quite a bit lower at 91.1%. Bosnia's youth literacy rate is remarkably higher than its overall rate, reported at 99.6% in 2004. (Youth literacy is defined as the percentage of people from age 15 to 24 who can read and write (with comprehension) a short, simple statement regarding everyday life.)

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/bk.html>  
[http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator\\_detail.cfm?IndicatorID=41&Country=BA](http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator_detail.cfm?IndicatorID=41&Country=BA)

## Land/Geography

Bosnia and Herzegovina is located in south central Europe in the western Balkans. It borders Croatia to the north and southwest and Serbia and Montenegro to the east. Bosnia and Herzegovina is primarily mountainous (located in the Dinaric Alps). The northern part of the country is heavily forested while the southern portion contains flatter areas of fertile soil. It almost borders the Adriatic Sea to the south but has only 12 miles of coastline. In size Bosnia and Herzegovina is similar to West Virginia.

Southern Bosnia and Herzegovina has a Mediterranean climate with warm summers and mild, rainy winters. The more northern inland part of the country also has warm summers but its winters are much colder. At higher elevations the summers are very short and the winters can be very long and harsh. The average temperatures for Sarajevo (in the northern, inland of the country) are 68 degrees F in July and 30 degrees F in January.

The capital city is Sarajevo, located in the central eastern part of the country. Other major cities are *Banja Luka*, *Tuzla*, and *Mostar* (the capital of Herzegovina).

Bosnia and Herzegovina is susceptible to frequent, destructive earthquakes. The most recent earthquake, recorded on March 16, 2006, registered 3.2 on the Richter scale.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosnia>  
[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761563626/Bosnia\\_and\\_Herzegovina.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761563626/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina.html)  
[http://www.classbrain.com/art\\_cr/publish/bosnia\\_herzegovina\\_geography.shtml](http://www.classbrain.com/art_cr/publish/bosnia_herzegovina_geography.shtml)  
*Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*, "Europe", 10th edition  
[http://neic.usgs.gov/neis/last\\_event/world\\_bosnia\\_and\\_herzegovina.html](http://neic.usgs.gov/neis/last_event/world_bosnia_and_herzegovina.html)

## History

### The Early Periods

The earliest residents of Bosnia, the *Illyrians*, began settling in the region in the late centuries BC. They were of Indo-European ancestry and are considered by many as the ancestors of modern-day Albanians. Celtic migrations in the 4th and 3rd century BCE displaced many Illyrian tribes from their former lands, but some Celtic and Illyrian tribes mixed. Concrete historical evidence for this period is scarce, but overall it appears that the region was populated by a number of different peoples speaking distinct languages. Conflict between the Illyrians and Romans started in 229 BCE, but Rome would complete its annexation of the region only in 9 CE.

In the Roman period, Latin-speaking settlers from all over the Roman Empire settled among the Illyrians and Roman soldiers were encouraged to retire in the region. A definite early history of this region is difficult to discern but it appears that in its earliest years the land that is today known as Bosnia and Herzegovina would have been populated by numerous peoples of distinct cultures and languages. By 9 AD Bosnia was part of the Roman Empire and the Latin-speaking/Roman population began to grow.

As Rome's power began to wane, the land came under heavy attack from nomadic Goths, Alans, Huns, and Avars. Slavic peoples began to move into the area in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. They settled and soon absorbed the peoples, languages, and cultures that already existed. In the 7<sup>th</sup> century there was another immigration of Slavic tribes, the Serbs and the Croats. The Serbs settled in what is now south-central Serbia and the Croats in the northwest of present-day Croatia.

Bosnia was first mentioned by that name in a document from 958. Bosnia's land was absorbed and divided up many times as surrounding kingdoms and empires competed for power during the early medieval period.

Eventually, however, Bosnia gained the foundation for an independent state under *Ban Kulin* in 1180. *Ban Kulin*, presided over nearly three decades of peace and stability during which he strengthened the country's economy through treaties with Dubrovnik and Venice. His rule also marked the beginning of a controversy concerning the Bosnian Church, an indigenous Christian sect considered heretical by both the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches. In response to Hungarian attempts to use church politics regarding the issue as a way to reclaim sovereignty over Bosnia, Kulin held, in 1203, a council of local church leaders to renounce the heresy. Despite this, Hungarian ambitions remained unchanged long after Kulin's death in 1204, waning only after an unsuccessful invasion in 1254.

Bosnian history until the early 14th century was marked by the power struggle between the families of *Šubić* and *Kotromanić*. *Stjepan II Kotromanić* became *ban* in 1322 and brought this conflict to an end. By the time of his death in 1353, Stjepan II had succeeded in

annexing territories to the north and west, as well as Zahumlje and parts of Dalmatia. This state was expanded in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. Kotromanić also gained control of *Hum* (later called Herzegovina) in 1326 and united the two countries.

Stjepan was succeeded by his nephew *Tvrtko* who, following a prolonged struggle with nobility and inter-family strife, gained full control of the country in 1367. Under *Tvrtko*, Bosnia grew in both size and power, finally becoming an independent kingdom in 1377. Under the reign of *Stephen Tvrtko* (1359-1391) Bosnia became the most powerful of the Slavic Balkan states. After *Tvrtko's* death in 1391, however, Bosnia's power began to decline.

### **The Ottoman Empire Period**

The Ottoman Empire had already started its conquest of Europe and posed a major threat to the Balkans throughout the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Finally, after decades of political and social instability, Bosnia officially fell in 1463. Herzegovina followed in 1482, with a Hungarian-backed reinstated "Bosnian Kingdom" being the last to succumb in 1527.

Bosnia and Herzegovina remained under Ottoman control for over 400 years. The Ottoman conquest of Bosnia marked a new era in the country's history and introduced tremendous political and cultural changes in the region. Although the kingdom had been crushed and its high nobility executed, the Ottomans nonetheless allowed for the preservation of Bosnia's identity by incorporating it as an integral province of the Ottoman Empire with its historical name and territorial integrity - a unique case among subjugated states in the Balkans. The Ottomans introduced a number of key changes in the territory's socio-political administration; including a new landholding system, a reorganization of administrative units, and a complex system of social differentiation by class and religious affiliation.

The four centuries of Ottoman rule also had a drastic impact on Bosnia's population make-up. Bosnia's population changed several times as a result of the empire's conquests, frequent wars with European powers, migrations, and epidemics. A native Slavic-speaking Muslim community emerged and eventually became the largest of the ethno-religious groups (mainly as a result of a gradually rising number of conversions to Islam). At the same time, a significant number of Sephardic Jews arrived following their expulsion from Spain in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The Bosnian Christian communities also experienced major changes. The Bosnian Catholic population, including the Franciscans, although protected by official imperial decree, suffered persecution and their numbers dwindled. The Orthodox churches in Bosnia, initially confined to Herzegovina and Podrinje, spread throughout the country during this period. These churches experienced relative prosperity until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The schismatic Bosnian Church during this period disappeared altogether.

During the Ottoman rule, the many Bosnians who changed to Islam mostly converted for the benefits they received. As Ottoman authority began to crumble in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Bosnian (Muslim) elite were determined to completely overthrow their control. The last



years of Ottoman Bosnia were marked by continuous revolts, either the Muslim elite against the Ottomans or the Christian peasant minority against the Muslim elite.

### **The Austro-Hungarian Period**

In 1878, after the Ottoman Empire was conquered by Russia, Bosnia was given to the Austro-Hungarian Empire as a colony. After being suppressed by the Ottomans for almost half a century this annexation was not well-received. It took 82,000 soldiers four months to subdue the resistance of the people of Bosnia. In 1908 Austria-Hungary officially annexed Bosnia, squelching the hopes of some Serbs that they could convince Bosnia to become part of the Kingdom of Serbia. Serbia viewed Bosnians as “Islamicized Serbs.” Croatia, who also desired to annex Bosnia, called Bosnians “Muslim Croats.” According to many, the South Slavs (including Bosnians, Serbs, and Croats,) were all one nation and should be unified as such. This idea is called the “Yugoslav Idea” (“Yugoslavia” means “land of the South Slavs”) and appealed to many Bosnians, particularly many in the younger population, from each population segment (Muslims, Serbs, and Croats).

The tensions in this region soon exploded and the effects of that explosion were felt globally. On June 28, 1914 a young Bosnian Serb (*Gavrilo Princip*, a professed “Yugoslav”) shot and killed Archduke *Francis Ferdinand* (the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary) and his wife while they were visiting Sarajevo. A month later Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, igniting World War I. Surprisingly, during the war most Bosnian Serbs, Croats, and Muslims remained loyal to Austria-Hungary.

As World War I came to a close and the Austro-Hungary Empire was dismantled, Bosnia-Herzegovina became part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes was renamed Yugoslavia in 1929. The new state was ruled by Serbian government. All political parties were suppressed from 1929 to 1934 but most of them remained in operation, only underground. These political parties were all ethnic nationalist parties.

### **World War II Period**

Nazi Germany invaded Yugoslavia in April 1941. The country was dismembered and portioned off to its various Axis allies in the region. Bosnia-Herzegovina was occupied by the Nazi-sponsored Independent State of Croatia (*Nezavisna Drzava Hrvatska*, or NDH in Serbo-Croatian). NDH was run by the *Ustase*, a Croat fascist terrorist group. The Nazi rule over Bosnia led to widespread persecution, murder, and near-total annihilation of the Jewish population, while the NDH Croatian state also specifically persecuted the country's Serbs. The *Ustase* attempted to kill all of the NDH's Serbs (almost 2 million of them) as well as any Jews or Gypsies living in the region. Many Serbs themselves took up arms and joined the Chetniks; a Serb nationalist and royalist resistance movement that both conducted guerrilla warfare against the occupying forces and committed numerous atrocities against chiefly Bosnian Muslim civilians in regions under their control.

Starting in 1941, Yugoslav communists under the leadership of Josip Broz Tito organized their own multi-ethnic resistance group, the “partisans,” who fought against both Axis and

Chetnik forces. On November 25, 1943 the Anti-Fascist Council of National Liberation of Yugoslavia with Tito at its helm held a founding conference and reestablished Bosnia and Herzegovina as a republic within the Yugoslavian federation. Military success eventually prompted the Allies to support the Partisans, and the end of the war resulted in the establishment of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with the constitution of 1946 officially making Bosnia and Herzegovina one of six constituent republics in the new state.

## The Yugoslavian Period

As World War II came to a close in Europe (1945), the Partisans were already well on their way to reestablishing Yugoslavia under Communist control. The new Yugoslavia was a federal state consisting of six republics. Five of the republics were homelands for specific ethnic groups—Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Macedonians, and Montenegrins. Bosnia, the sixth republic, and was appointed to be the joint homeland of its intermingled Serbs, Muslims, and Croats. *Tito* remained the head of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia (known as the *League of Communists of Yugoslavia*, or *LCY*, after 1952).

For the next 45 years, Bosnia was part of *Tito's* Yugoslavia, a state was at first a faithful copy of the authoritarian, rigidly Communist Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) under Joseph Stalin. *Tito* broke with Stalin in 1948 and Yugoslavia experienced a process of relaxation and decentralization. Greater power was given to the republics, including Bosnia, and their own Communist leaderships. Economic experiments with “market socialism” and “socialist self-management” were introduced. The political changes involved establishing of party and state positions among Bosnia’s three constituent peoples. Bosnia’s branch of the *LCY* proved to be more repressive and opposed to reforms of the Communist system than party branches in most of the other republics. In 1968 the Muslims were fully recognized as Yugoslavia’s sixth official national group. Bosnia remained under *Tito's* control until his death in 1980

Yugoslavia was in economic crisis at the time of *Tito's* death and *Tito's* successors, leaders of the various republics, could not agree on the best way to solve the problem. These power struggles eventually led to internal strife among the residents of each republic, especially in Slovenia and Croatia. Serbian president *Slobodan Milošević's* rise to power in the mid 1980s only heightened these tensions. *Milosevic* embraced Serb nationalism and aggressively campaigned for restored Serbian control of Yugoslavia. *Milošević* reigned as president of the republic of Serbia from 1989 to 1997 and president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY, now Serbia and Montenegro) from 1997 to 2000. He was widely blamed for inciting and backing Serb forces and atrocities in Croatia and Bosnia.

In early 1998 *Milošević* sent Yugoslav military forces into Kosovo to join Serbian police in suppressing an ethnic Albanian separatist group, the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). In the months that followed, hundreds of people were killed and more than 200,000 left homeless. Only after, intense diplomatic pressure and a threat of NATO air strikes in October 1998 did *Milošević* agreed to a withdrawal his forces and to negotiations aimed at restoring autonomy to Kosovo. He did not honor the agreement, and fighting resumed.

Under renewed international pressure, Milošević's government and ethnic Albanian representatives (including KLA leaders) participated in internationally sponsored negotiations at Rambouillet, France, in February and March 1999. Milošević, however, rejected a peace plan that called for placing a NATO security force in Kosovo. In late March NATO began air strikes against targets throughout the FRY and assaults on ethnic Albanians, many of them also fleeing the NATO bombing, intensified. The UN estimated that nearly 640,000 people were forced from Kosovo between March 1998 and April 1999. In late May the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) unsealed an indictment accusing Milošević and four other senior Yugoslav officials of committing war crimes in Kosovo. Milošević's trial before the ICTY began in February 2002, and Milošević became the first head of state ever to be tried for war crimes. He was found dead in his cell on March 11, 2006 in the UN war crimes tribunal's detention centre, located in the Scheveningen section of The Hague. Autopsies soon established that Milošević had died of a heart attack

During this period, the region experienced the ascension of a strong Bosnian political elite. Although they worked within the communist system, politicians such as *Džemal Bijedić*, *Branko Mikulić* and *Hamdija Pozderac* reinforced and protected the sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their efforts proved key during the turbulent period following Tito's death in 1980, and supplied some of the early steps towards Bosnian independence. The republic, however, could not escape the increasingly nationalistic climate of the time. The fall of communism and the start of the break-up of Yugoslavia resulted in the loss of potency of the old communist doctrine of tolerance and created an opportunity for nationalist elements in the society to spread their influence.

### **The Period of Independence**

Slovenia and Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia in 1991. The secession of these republics led to a 10-day war between Slovenia and Yugoslavia (Yugoslavia lost). Even worse, a six month-long Serb-Croat civil war erupted. At the end of that war 30% of Croatia was under Serb control and was to remain under this authority until 1995.

Serbia gave evidence of its intention to gain total control of Yugoslavia. In the face of this threat, Bosnia (as well as Macedonia) began pushing for independence. Bosnia's Serbian population resisted any possibility of becoming a minority in an independent Bosnian state. The Croat population did not want to be stuck in a Muslim-majority state if the Serbian population did indeed pull out. The Croat Community of Herzeg-Bosnia was declared in November 1991 and in January 1992 the Bosnian Serb legislature declared independence as the *Serb Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina*. Serbia and Croatia were recognized by the international community in January 1992. Bosnia's parliament, despite opposition from Bosnia's Serbs who wanted Bosnia to remain part of Yugoslavia, voted to secede from Yugoslavia in March 1992 and was granted international recognition on *April 6, 1992*.

Civil war erupted the same week Bosnia received international recognition. The lines were clearly drawn, with Bosnian Serbs (armed by Serbia) fighting against Bosnian Muslims and Croats. In May 1992 Serbia and Montenegro united and declared themselves the *Federal Republic of Yugoslavia* (FRY). By that summer, Serb forces controlled 70% of Bosnia.

Serbian forces lay siege to Sarajevo and, in the territories they controlled, they began killing or expelling non-Serbs, a process called “ethnic cleansing”.

By mid-1992 Croatia had annexed the Croat Community of Herzeg-Bosnia. Desiring control of central Bosnia and Muslim portions of *Mostar* (the capitol of the Herzegovina region), the Croats attacked their former allies, Bosnian Muslims. *Mostar* resisted Croatian attacks and the Bosnian army, consisting primarily of Bosnian Muslims, held its own in central Bosnia. Both the Bosnian and Croat armies massacred residents of contested territories, carrying out their own form of “ethnic cleansing.”

The region drew wide-spread attention and there were international efforts to bring peace and resolution. There were peace conferences held in Lisbon, London, and Geneva in 1992 and 1993. All proposals were rejected, however. The UN began to impose economic sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1993 and established “safe areas” for Bosnian Muslims, who officially became known as *Bosniaks* in 1994. These “safe areas,” however, were not safe and the “peace” was often violated. The most notorious of these violations was in *Srebrenica*. In July 1995 Bosnian Serb troops overpowered UN peacekeeping forces in Srebrenica and executed 8,000 *Bosniak* men and boys, burying them in mass graves.

In March 1994, with pressure from the United States, the Bosniak-Croat war ended and Bosnia and Croatia signed an agreement, forming the *Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina*. The war in Bosnia came to a final end only in late 1995. Factors that contributed to this cessation of war included: hard-nosed diplomacy headed by U.S. assistant secretary of state Richard Holbrooke, the defeat of Serbian forces in western Bosnia by united Bosniak-Croatian forces, and NATO’s massive air attack on Bosnian Serb positions. After three weeks of intensive negotiations in the United States, the warring parties signed a peace accord in November 1995 at an U.S. Air Force base near Dayton, Ohio. The *Dayton Peace Accord* was signed in Paris in December of that year. The war in Bosnia had claimed about 200,000 lives and displaced almost half of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina (approximately 2.3 million people).

The *Dayton Accord* equally divided Bosnia and Herzegovina into two *Entities*, the *Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Bosniak-Croat) and the *Bosnian Serb Republika Srpska*. The division was mostly based on the boundaries that had been drawn during the war. The line that separates the two is called the Inter-Entity Boundary Line (IEBL). The Agreement also dictated a new Bosnian constitution, provided for internationally organized elections, and included provisions for the safe return of refugees to their homes. United Nations Peacekeeping Forces and NATO troops maintained strong a strong presence in the country. NATO troops were the last to pull out in December 2004.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), a UN war crimes tribunal that had been established in May 1993 at The Hague, the Netherlands, began work in 1996. All of the warring parties were guilty of war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and forming internment camps.

Ethnic divisions still remained strong between *Bosniaks*, Croats, and Serbs after the war. The causes and the outcomes of the war were/are widely disagreed upon. *Bosniaks* almost unanimously see the war as a case of Serbian aggression against what could have been a peaceful, multi-ethnic Bosnian state. The vast majority of Serbs, however, admit to no aggression on their part. Rather, they see the war as a necessary effort to protect the Serbian people who would have had to live under the probable oppression of a Bosnian state. Bosnian Croats typically find themselves caught in the middle of these two views, agreeing that the war was caused by Serbian aggression but also agreeing that a Bosnian state would have infringed upon the rights of Croats living there.

In July 2000, the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina issued a decision recognizing *Bosniaks*, Croats, and Serbs as equals throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. This decision was formally recognized by the political parties of both Entities in March 2002. Peaceful political elections have taken place in Bosnia and Herzegovina since the end of the war, the most recent national election held in October 2002. Its next national election is scheduled for October 2006.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2868.htm>  
[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761563626/Bosnia\\_and\\_Herzegovina.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761563626/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina.html);  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosnia\\_and\\_Herzegovina#History](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina#History)

## Government

Bosnia declared its independence from Yugoslavia in 1992, desiring a Bosnian state. It operated under a modified version of the current Yugoslav constitution. That constitution provided for a bicameral legislature and a government headed by a prime minister and a collective presidency (made up of one representative from each of Bosnia's three ethnic groups). In the early days the Bosnian government was dominated by *Bosniaks* but during the civil war the Croats and Serbs established their own governments and ignored the authority of the Bosnian government.

Bosnia drafted a new constitution as part of the *Dayton Peace Agreement*. This new constitution outlined a government very similar to the one in the old constitution—a three-member presidency and a bicameral legislature. The constitution also recognizes Bosnia as one state composed of two *Entities*, the Serb Republic (covering 49% of Bosnia's total area) and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (covering 51%). Bosnia's central government has very little authority and all powers not expressly given to the central government belong to the governments of the Entities. The Entities control their own finances, health care, education, and other social services.

A third level of political subdivisions, after the federal government and the Entities, are cantons. The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has ten cantons, each with their own government that is subject to the laws of the Federation.

Finally, a fourth level of political division are municipalities. Bosnia and Herzegovina has 137 municipalities, 74 in the Federation and 63 in the *Republika Srpska*. Each municipality has its own government and is usually based around a significant city in the area. In the

Federation, each canton consists of several municipalities. Cities also have their own governments.

In 2000 the *Brcko federal district* was created in the north of the country out of land from both of the Entities. This district officially belongs to both Entities but is governed by neither and functions under a decentralized system of local government. This district is considered the model for future restructuring of Bosnia and Herzegovina's political subdivisions.

The government of Bosnia has three branches:

### **Presidency**

The Presidency in Bosnia is equally shared among three members (one *Bosniak*, one Serbian, and one Croatian). Each member is elected for a 4-year term by direct elections and the chairmanship of the Presidency rotates every six months. Decisions are to be made by consensus but there is a provision for the nullification of a non-unanimous decision by the Entity whose representative is outvoted.

The Presidency's duties include:

- foreign policy
- appointing ambassadors
- representing Bosnia and Herzegovina in international organizations
- negotiating and denouncing/ratifying treaties
- carrying out the decisions of the Parliament
- proposing, with the help of the Council of Ministers, the annual budget to the parliamentary Assembly
- reporting on the expenditures of the Presidency
- commanding the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- performing any other duties that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Entities assigns to it

The Council of Ministers (the presidential advisory council) is responsible for things such as defense, intelligence, foreign policy, trade relations, customs, monetary policy, immigration, miscellaneous financial matters, refugee and asylum policies, international and inter-Entity criminal law enforcement, communications, transportation, air traffic control, and other matters determined by the Entities. The Chair of the Council of Ministers is appointed by the Presidency and approved by the House of Representatives. The Chair is then responsible for appointing other ministers, including a Foreign Minister, Minister of Defense, etc.

### **Legislature**

The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina is made up of two legislative houses, the House of Peoples and the House of Representatives.

The House of Peoples consists of 15 representatives. Ten of the delegates come from the Federation (5 Croats and 5 Bosniaks) and five are Serbs from the Republika Srpska. Nine

members constitute a quorum if at least three representatives from each group are present. These delegates are not popularly elected. Federation representatives are chosen by the House of Peoples of the Federation and the Republika Srpska National Assembly chooses the delegates from the Republika Srpska.

The House of Representatives consists of 42 directly-elected members, 2/3 from the Federation and 1/3 from the Republika Srpska.

## **Judiciary**

The Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the ultimate authority in all legal matters. There are nine members, four of whom are chosen by the House of Representatives of the Federation, two chosen by the Assembly of the Republika Srpska, and three by the President of the European Court of Human Rights (with input from the Presidency). The primary responsibility of the court is to mediate disputes that arise between the Entities or between the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina and an Entity. It also has appellate jurisdiction. Both of the Entities also have lower court systems for their territories.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2868.htm>

[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761563626/Bosnia\\_and\\_Herzegovina.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761563626/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina.html)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosnia>

## **Economy**

Bosnia was one of the least economically developed republics of former Yugoslavia. Its economy depended on mining, forestry, agriculture, and some manufacturing. Bosnia exported large amounts of specialty agricultural products but was forced to import more than half of its food. The civil war began soon after Bosnia had declared its independence from Yugoslavia, completely crushing the newly independent economy.

When the war broke out in 1992 Bosnia's inflation rate was already 120%. During the war it rose to over 1000%. Unemployment was at 30% in 1992 and rose to 75% by 1995. Also during the war prices soared as the standard of living took a dive. About 45% of Bosnia's industrial plants, including 75% of its oil refineries were damaged, plundered, or completely destroyed.

Economic recovery has been slow. Bosnia's GDP grew at a rate of 20-30% from 1995 to 1998. This growth, however, was almost totally driven by international aid. In 1998 the GDP was estimated at \$6 billion, still below its pre-war level. The unemployment rate dropped from 75% to 42% by 1998. Industries experiencing the greatest growth include construction, trade, and services. However, the big industrial companies that dominated Bosnia's prewar economy have still not recovered. Corrupt political leaders and a thriving black market also contribute to Bosnia's slow economic recovery.

Not only is Bosnia's economy attempting to recover from a devastating civil war but it is still struggling to escape the grips of Communism as well. As part of Communist Yugoslavia, Bosnia's economy was controlled by the state. After declaring independence Bosnia had no



time to privatize its economy before the war hit. Today 90% of Bosnia's registered firms are in private hands but the big conglomerates are still owned by the state.

Economically speaking things aren't all bad. Bosnia has one of the best banking systems of any of the former Yugoslavian republics. Its currency, the Bosnian Mark (BAM) is also very stable, fixed to the Euro at 1:0.51. In 2004 yearly inflation was at an all-time low of 1.1% and Bosnia's international debt was down to \$2 billion, the smallest amount owed by any of the former Yugoslav countries. Finally, Bosnia's GDP is growing at a rate of 5%.

Bosnia still receives large amounts of international reconstructive assistance (in 2001 it received an estimated \$650 million) but the amounts are declining and will continue to decline in coming years. Whether Bosnia's economy is prepared for that no one knows. Unemployment is still hovering around the 45% mark and 25% of the population lives below the poverty level.

[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761563626/Bosnia\\_and\\_Herzegovina.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761563626/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina.html)  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosnia>  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2868.htm>

## Christian History

By the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century Christianity had been introduced to the region that is now called Bosnia-Herzegovina. As part of the Roman Empire, the territory of Bosnia was fertile ground for the growth of Christianity.

Roman Catholicism, introduced to the region by missionaries from Rome in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, did not begin to develop until the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Catholicism was widely accepted in Croatia, as well as by Bosnian Croats. Bosnia and the surrounding countries were frequented by missionaries from Rome throughout the Middle Ages. Hungary also conducted a crusade in Bosnia from 1235-1241 after convincing the Pope that the Catholic Church in Bosnia was full of heresy. In actuality, however, Hungary was more concerned with bullying its smaller neighbor than with improving Bosnia's spiritual condition. Today approximately 17.2% of Bosnia's population is Roman Catholic and nearly all of Bosnia's Roman Catholics are Croats.

The ancestors of modern day Serbs converted to Christianity in the 9<sup>th</sup> century under the influence of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Cyril and Methodius advocated Eastern rites in religious services and these traditions evolved into Orthodoxy. Nearly all Serbs in Bosnia are Orthodox Christians and nearly all of Bosnia's Orthodox Christians are Serbs.

During the Hungarian domination in the mid 1200s a distinctive *Bosnian church* developed. During this time the *Bosnian church* was totally isolated from all influence of churches from the east or the west and many Bosnians sought to rebel against the Hungarian Catholic domination. Catholicism continued to grow, however, largely under the influence of Franciscan missionaries and although the Catholic Church remained tolerant of the Bosnian Church they did seek to win members of the Bosnian Church back to the Catholic faith.



As Catholicism continued to grow (especially among Bosnia's ruling class), the Bosnian Church began to dwindle and was officially removed in the mid 1400s. The clergy of the Bosnian Church was forced to either convert to Catholicism or leave the county; most converted. Most members of the Bosnian Church joined one of Bosnia's three other religions—Catholicism, Orthodoxy, or Islam. Many remained hopeful that the Bosnian Church would one day be reestablished and when the Ottomans were making their final move to control Bosnia many Bosnians helped the Turks in hopes of shaking off the bonds of Catholicism and reestablishing their national Church. This never happened.

The Evangelical Church is the oldest Protestant denomination in Bosnia; it was founded in 1750 and continues to expand, albeit very slowly. Seventh-day Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses are active in the country. Their affiliates comprise the majority of Bosnia's population that is not either Catholic, Orthodox, or Muslim. *Bosnia is the least evangelized of any of the former Communists states due partly to the civil war that erupted soon after Communism fell.*

## Religions

Nationalistic religious movements have replaced Communism as an ideology. These groups, however, tend to be equally tyrannical and hostile toward any who change to other religions. Religious freedom is more a theory than a practice in the nation.

### Non-Christian

#### *Islam*

Bosnia is the only country in Europe with a Muslim majority. Sixty percent (60%) of Bosnia's population claims to be Sunni Muslim. Islam was introduced by the Ottoman Turks when they invaded Bosnia in 1386 and it grew steadily throughout the following centuries. Bosnia's Muslim population is growing at a rate of 6.4% annually. It is estimated that 80% of Bosnia's population will be Muslim by the year 2050.

#### *Non-Religious*

Nonreligious persons in Bosnia make up 3.3% of the population while an additional 1.7% of Bosnians claim to be Atheists.

#### *Christian Cults/Sects*

Jehovah's Witnesses maintain a strong presence in Bosnia. In 2005 the Jehovah's Witness website (<http://www.watchtower.org>) reported that 2.75% of Bosnia's population was Jehovah's Witness. The website also reported 65 baptisms and 15 congregations. Operation World suggests as many as 40 congregations and 1000 members. If these data are correct, the Jehovah's Witnesses in Bosnia-Herzegovina equal or outnumber Pentecostals, Evangelical Church of Bosnia, and Baptists combined.

*Jewish* Years of persecution have left few Jewish people in the region. Recent reports claim as few 397 Jews in the nation.

### **Protestant/Evangelical/Pentecostal Churches**

In the year 2000, 0.1% of Bosnia's population claimed to be Protestant, about 2,700 adherents. There were only around 400 Evangelicals, a number too small to register as a percentage of the population. Protestants report a + 9.1 % increase in recent years

*Pentecostals/Charismatics* registered at 0.8% of the population. The Pentecostals report around 16 congregations with some 400 members.

*The Evangelical Christian Church of Bosnia*, a Lutheran group, claims 2 congregations and some 350 members

*The Baptists in Bosnia-Herzegovina* report 12 churches with over 250 members.

*Seventh-day Adventists* in Bosnia, in 1995, reported over 1,000 affiliates and some 20 congregations. More recent data is hard to come by but Adventism appears to be growing, but growth is slow.

All in all, these groups do not even make up 1% of Bosnia's population.

### **Catholic/Orthodox Church**

The Roman Catholic Church. Roman Catholics, usually Bosnians of Croatian decent, make up 17.2% of Bosnia's population. Catholics report 469,000 members in 310 congregations but much nominality exists.

The Serbian Orthodox Church. The ancestors of the Serbs became Christians and accepted the "Eastern" worship practices of Saints *Cyril* and *Methodius*. Orthodox Christians comprise 17.6% of Bosnia's population. As with Croats and Catholicism, most Orthodox Christians are Serbian. The Orthodox Churches claim 482,000 members in 250 congregations.

World Christian Encyclopedia Second Edition, Volume 1: The World By Countries  
[http://www.watchtower.org/statistics/worldwide\\_report.htm](http://www.watchtower.org/statistics/worldwide_report.htm)  
Operation World

## **People Groups**

This profile provides considerable information on the People Groups in Bosnia-Herzegovina in earlier sections, especially the section, "Society and Culture."

713

*Bosniak* (1,700,000)

*Bosniaks* are typically considered the “natives” of Bosnia. Less than 2% of the population is Evangelical but there have been localized church planting efforts in the past two years. This people group is primarily Muslim and live in central Bosnia. The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Bible Society provides Scripture in Bosnian. The Trans World Radio organization provides radio broadcasts in Bosnian and the Jesus Film is also available in the language.

716

Croat (600,000)

Less than 2% of Croatian Bosnians are Evangelical and although there are some resources available there have been no church planting efforts in the past two years. The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Bible Society provides Scripture in Croatian. The Trans World Radio organization provides radio broadcasts in Croatian. The Jesus Film is available in Croatian.

39298

Roma/Gypsies (417,496)

Less than 2% of Roma living in Bosnia are Evangelical and although there are some resources available there have been no church planting efforts in the past two years. Roma are traditionally peaceful people who came from the territory of today's India. Due to discrimination and persecution, they left India in search of better living conditions and prosperity, and settled in Europe. The first written documents of their settling are dated in 1416 are from Transylvania, Rumania. They are also mentioned in the chronicle of the city of Forely, Italia, in 1422. In the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina they were first officially mentioned in early 16th century when Sultan Pasha Suleiman approved their settlement and cultivation of land in a part of his pashalik.

The Roma (Viach Gypsy) were not accepted by indigenous people so they had to change place of residence frequently and the attribute “nomad” has been associated with them ever since. Even nowadays, this situation is characteristic for Roma who are called Čergaši /čerga is a gypsy caravan/ in literature and by people.

Discrimination, intolerance, mass extermination and persecution of Roma continuing to date have put this people on the margins of society and have made them generally unacceptable, unequal and less worth people wherever they come.

Nowadays, at the dawn of 21 century, Roma live below the minimum social, economic, educational and cultural level enjoyed by civilized human beings.

Operation World estimates 400,000 Viach Gypsy in Bosnia-Herzegovina but more realistic figures would fall below this number. Operation World sees the Gypsy population to be around 12% of the population of Bosnia-Herzegovina

724

Serb (800,000)

Less than 2% of Serbians living in Bosnia are Evangelical and although there are some resources available there have been no church planting efforts in the past two years. The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Bible Society provides Scripture in Serbian. The Trans World Radio organization provides radio broadcasts in Serbian. The Jesus Film is available in Serbian.

723

Turk (50,000)

Less than 2% of Turks living in Bosnia are Evangelical and although there are some resources available there have been no church planting efforts in the past two years. The Bible, Jesus Film, and Christian broadcasts are available in the Turkish language.

<http://www.romnews.com/community/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=1572&mode=thread&order=0>;  
Operation World.

### **Missiological Implications**

1. Evangelical Christians and Churches should recognize Bosnia-Herzegovina as a field in great need. Only a small percentage of the people have ever heard a clear witness of the Gospel. The wars and persecutions have left people in desperate conditions. The devastation and danger in the area must not cloud the fact that these peoples need the Message of Jesus Christ. As a result of the civil war, there has been less missionary activity in Bosnia than in any other former Communist country post-1989. Some evidences show that this witness has increased since 1991. Some consider Bosnia-Herzegovina as the least evangelized country in Europe.  
(<http://www.worthynews.com/news-features-2/bosnia-evangelism.html>)
2. Evangelical Christians and Churches must recognize the ethnic and people differences that exist in this country. Over 99% of Bosnians fall into one of these three people groups—Bosnian, Croat, or Serb. These three people groups are virtually identical in appearance, language, and most cultural elements but their drastically different religious identities set them apart from each other. The strategies used to reach Bosnian Muslims probably will not reach Croat Roman Catholics, and the strategies targeting Croat Roman Catholics will probably be ineffective if used with Orthodox Serbs. All of these groups are considered unreached. Different missionary personnel or at least varying missionary strategies should be used for the different groups.
3. Evangelical Christians and Churches should also view the Muslim Gypsy population as a spiritually needy group. These groups may number as many as 400,000. The Roma (Gypsy) populations around the world should be a people that Christianity should seek.
4. Evangelical Christians and Churches must seek ways to relieve the suffering of the peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Loving Christian service might open the doors for Christian witness.
5. Evangelical Christians and Churches should train witnesses in the better ways to share the Good News with Roman Catholics, Orthodox, and followers of Islam.

Methods of effective witness are available and workers should be trained in sharing the Gospel with these peoples.

6. Evangelical Christians and Churches should seek to find, aid, and win the countless refugees scattered around the world. Over a million refugees from Bosnia are in various parts of the world.

*World Christian Encyclopedia Second Edition, Volume 1: The World By Countries*

[http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads/GSEC%20-%20Country%20Analysis%20\(2006-05\).pdf](http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads/GSEC%20-%20Country%20Analysis%20(2006-05).pdf); *Operation World*

## **Links**

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2868.htm>

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<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/bk.html>