

MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT

EASTERN EUROPE

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Snapshots Section

Country Name: Republic of Macedonia (Republika Makedonija)
Provisionally designated by the EU, NATO, and the UN as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Country Founded in: September 8, 1991

Population: 2,055,915

Government Type: (national, regional and local)
Parliamentary Democracy based on a civil law system

Geography/location in the world: On the Balkan Peninsula in Southeastern Europe, just north of Greece.

Number of people groups: 23

Picture of flag:



Major Religion and % of population:
Macedonian Orthodox—64.7%

All religions and % for each:

Macedonian Orthodox 64.7%

- Other Orthodox 0.5%

Islam 33.3%

Roman Catholic 2.3%

Evangelical Christian 0.07%

Other 1.63%

Government interaction with religion: The Macedonian constitution allows for freedom of religious confession, and the right to freely and publically express one's faith.

Country Profile

Basic Facts

Country Name

The Republic of Macedonia (Republika Makedonija)

Demographics

Macedonia is a fairly small European nation with a population numbering 2,055,915, as of July 2007. Only 64.7% of this population is actually made up of ethnic Macedonians, as 25.2% of the population is Albanian, 3.9% is Turkish, 2.7% is Roma, 1.8% is Serb, and 2.2% is other minority groups. The Macedonian population is growing at a rate of 0.263%. On average, there are 1.57 children born per woman. There are 12.02 births per 1000 population, and 8.78 deaths. There is a negative net migration rate, reflected as -0.61 migrants per 1000 population in 2007.

The median age of the Macedonian population is currently 34.4 years (males 33.5/females 35.5). There are 0.998 males per female in the population. Current data reflects the age structure as following:

- 0-14 years—19.8%
- 15-64 years—69.1%
- 65+ years—11.1%

The average life expectancy in Macedonia is 74.21 years (males—71.73 years/females—76.88 years).

HIV/AIDS is not a major concern for the Macedonian population as less than 0.1% of the population is affected with the virus, accounting for less than 200 people throughout the country.

Urbanization has steadily increased in recent years in Macedonia. According to studies in 2000, 62% of the population was living in major urban areas, in comparison to the 53% in 1980.

The major ethnic groups in Macedonia include:

- Albanian—25.2%
- Macedonian—64.2%
- Roma—2.7%
- Serb—1.8%
- Turkish—3.9%
- (Other—2.2%)

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mk.html>

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, Europe, 10th ed., page 307.

Language

Macedonian is the official national language specifically designated within the constitution of the Republic of Macedonia; it is the primary language of approximately 70% of the population. While the language in its current form was not officially recognized until 1944, its development dates back to the 9th century. It is a member of the Slavonic languages, and is included in the Eastern grouping of the South Slavic languages. Macedonian is very similar to Bulgarian; in fact the two languages are mutually intelligible. These two languages are the only Slavic languages which do not use noun cases and that use a definite article.

The Macedonian language is based upon the Cyrillic alphabet. The language is completely phonetic, with 31 sounds and 31 corresponding symbols.

There are multiple dialects of the Macedonian language, which are divided into Eastern and Western groupings.

Western—

- Ohrid-Prespa—Spoken in Lower Prespa, Ohrid, Sturza, Radozda, and Vevcani
- Debar—Spoken in the Drimkol-Golobrd region, Debar, Mala Reka, Reka, Gora, and Skopska Crna Gora
- Polog –Spoken in Gostivar, Tetovo, and the West Central
- Kostur-Korcha.—Spoken in Korcha, Kostur, and Nestram

Eastern—

- The Eastern dialect speakers are found throughout the eastern regions of Macedonia.

There are actually several other languages which are spoken throughout the Republic of Macedonia. These include Albanian, Bulgarian, Romani, Turkish, Serbian, Vlack, Circassian, and Greek. Most of these minority languages are recognized at a local level among the corresponding ethnic populations. Albanian however, has actually made its way to being recognized as a de-facto official language, as more than 20% of the population speaks it.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Macedonia#Languages

Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life, Volume 4, page 242.

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, Europe, 10th ed., page 308.

Society/Culture

Macedonians have a rich history of folklore. Folk tales are commonly told, particularly by the older generations of Macedonians, as a way to convey moral or philosophical messages.

Folk music and dances also play a large role in Macedonian culture. Traditional music is played with a clarinet, a bagpipe made from lambskin, a bass drum, an accordion, and a violin.

Macedonians enjoy attending and hosting cultural events. There are 13 professional theatre groups in the country which put on more than 1,600 performances yearly. Macedonia has a Philharmonic Orchestra, chamber ensembles, and professional pop group, and numerous amateur musicians. Macedonia also has noteworthy film makers and directors producing films which have been internationally recognized.

Macedonians typically will greet each other with *zdravo* which translates as asking about one's health. Their exchange with one another is usually quite friendly, and pointed and personal questions are fair game; in fact, when one does not ask direct questions about the other's family affairs, they might be taken as rude.

Social calls and house visits are warmly welcomed and perceived as a sign of respect. Macedonians hold that the people who visit their home are a reflection of their own character.

A typical Macedonian family is a nuclear family, including a mother, father, and usually two children. There are very few single parent families in Macedonia, and while divorce is not rare, it is seen with disdain once children are a part of the picture. It is also quite common for young couples to live with one set of parents, or for widowed family members to move in with their relatives.

While Macedonian men consider themselves the boss of the family, the wives actually maintain significant influence. Men rarely help out with household chores or in the kitchen, but this is due largely in part to the fact that most Macedonian women consider it as their domain. Even professional women choose to maintain their household tasks and cooking.

Most Macedonians love sports, particularly soccer, with basketball coming in second.

Major Holidays:

- March 8—Woman's Day
- May 1—Labor Day/May Day
- August 2—Ilinden Uprising/St. Elijah's Day
 - Since August 2, 1903 this day is celebrated as marking the beginning of the Macedonian national movement.

Aside from the holidays listed above, many Macedonian families continue to celebrate various other holidays which are associated with the Orthodox Christian tradition including Christmas, Easter, Saint's Blessing, Epiphany, Palm Sunday, and Saint Nikola (Saint Nicholas).

- *Slava*, or Saints Blessing—
 - The actual day celebrated differs for each family, depending on which saint has been selected as their family protector. The saint is passed down through the family through the sons. The celebration actually has its origination is Macedonia's pre-Christian days, as each family had a family god. They simply transferred this recognition and celebration to a Christian saint when they were Christianized. A candle, wheat, and bread are symbolically used in the celebration to reflect the life, passion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The day is usually marked by the male head of household taking a Patron Saint Cake to church as he attends the holy liturgy and has the priest bless and cut the cake. Then, the man returns home with the cake, as friends and relatives gather to celebrate a feast. The cake is divided and served to each of the guests.
- Christmas—

- This Macedonian celebration begins on the evening of January 5, as children sing Christmas carols door to door. January 6, is Christmas Eve. The meal this evening cannot have anything which comes from animals, and it can not be cooked with oil or fat. It follows the Orthodox Lent. There is an oak log, which is symbolic of the Trinity, and it is cut into three pieces and brought in the home by the father. As the family places the log on the fire, they also spread straw around the floor, to create a “nativity” atmosphere. The Christmas dinner and celebration to follow lasts three days and is typically rich and festive, as the family is to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Name Day

- Macedonians not only celebrate birthdays, but also name days, or *Imenden*. When naming a child, parents choose a name of a recognized Saint, which then becomes the child’s patron saint. There is a Name Day Calendar, with each Saint’s name ascribed to a date. Name days are modestly celebrated with close friends and family.

The health care and medical system in Macedonia is only rated as adequate. The low rating is not a result of the quality of training of the physicians, but rather in that the physicians only have the option of studying translations from the books from the West, and moreover, because medications and instruments are few in number. Most seriously ill Macedonians must seek medical care abroad.

The issue of implementing women’s rights has become an evident social problem in the Macedonian culture. Legally, women hold the same rights as men; however, in actuality the women are quite limited in the society.

Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life, Volume 4, page 242-43.

<http://faq.macedonia.org/religion/religious.holidays.html>

Government

The Republic of Macedonia is governed by a parliamentary democracy. The capital city is Skopje. The Republic gained independence on September 8, 1991, as they gained their independence from Yugoslavia. The Macedonian constitution was adopted on November 17 of the same year, but was amended in 2001 and again in 2005.

The nation is divided into 85 administrative districts or municipalities.

The Republic of Macedonia is based upon a civil law system. Citizens are able to vote at the age of 18. The republic has not yet accepted International Court of Justice (ICJ) jurisdiction.

The Republic of Macedonia has offices for diplomatic representation in the United States; however the Ambassador position is currently vacant. There is diplomatic representation from the United States in Macedonia.

The government is divided into an Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and Judicial Branch.

- Executive

- The Chief of State is recognized in the office of the president. The president is elected by popular vote, for a five year term. Each president can serve two terms.
- The Head of Government is recognized in the office of the prime minister. The prime minister is elected by the Assembly.
- Cabinet—Council of Ministers which are elected by a majority vote of deputies within the Assembly.
- Legislative
 - Assembly—this is a unicameral body of 120 members, elected by a popular vote based upon party lists from each of six districts. Members serve for four year terms.
- Judicial—The Assembly appoints the judges for each of the courts/councils.
 - Supreme Court
 - Constitutional Court
 - Republican Judicial Council

The Republic of Macedonia also has 34 local governments which are still based upon the Yugoslav system, where each commune is a self-managed sociopolitical community. Each commune is represented by an assembly, which has various chambers. There is a chamber of work communities, a chamber of local communities, and a sociopolitical community. The work community is made up of delegates from the working class, the local community is composed of workers and non workers, and the sociopolitical chamber is made up of delegates from labor unions and various organizations. The assembly elects an executive body which subsequently takes on administrative leadership within the communities. The assemblies also elect delegates for the Assembly of the republic itself.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mk.html>
Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, Europe, 10th ed., page 311

Economy

Macedonia was ranked as the least developed Yugoslav republic at the time of their declared independence in 1991. They had only been producing about 5% of the total federal output of goods and service. As they struggled to develop an infrastructure and suffered from the Greek trade embargo that was a result of a dispute over Macedonia's constitutional name, their economic growth was stalled through 1996. At that point, the economy seemed to improve and develop each year until 2000. But, then in 2001, due largely to the Albanian rebellion, the economy subsequently dropped 4.5%. Growth slowly began to recover within the next year, and then progressed at an average rate of 4% from 2003-2006.

Macedonia struggles in attracting foreign investors.

Macedonian currency—Macedonian denar. (48.978 denars per USD.)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

- Purchasing power parity—\$16.96 billion
- Official exchange rate—\$5.6-1 billion
- Real growth rate—3.1%

- Per Capita—\$8,300
- Composition by Sector:
 - Agriculture—9%
 - Industry—29%
 - Services—62%

Labor Force—899,000

Unemployment rate—36%

Population below poverty—30%

Inflation rate—3%

Investment—9.2% of GDP

Budget

- Revenues—\$2.234 Billion
- Expenditures—\$2.284 Billion

Public Debt—41.5% of GDP

External Debt—\$2.285 billion

Agricultural Products:

- Grapes
- Wine
- Tobacco
- Vegetables
- Milk
- Eggs

Industries:

- Food Processing
- Beverages
- Textiles
- Chemicals
- Iron
- Steel
- Cement
- Energy
- Pharmaceuticals

Exports—\$2.341 billion

- Food
- Beverages
- Tobacco
- Textiles
- Iron
- Steel
- Miscellaneous Manufactures

Partners—

- Serbia and Montenegro—23.2%
- Germany—15.6%
- Greece—15.1%
- Italy—9.9%
- Bulgaria—5.4%
- Croatia—5.2%

Imports—\$3.631 billion

- Machinery and equipment

- Automobiles
- Chemicals

- Fuels
- Food products
- Greece—8.5%
- Serbia and Montenegro—7.5%
- Bulgaria—6.7%
- Italy—6%

Partners—

- Russia—15.1%
- Germany—9.8%

Macedonia is a major transshipment point for the transport of South Asian heroin and hashish in route to Europe. They also have a problem with money laundering due to the cash based economy with weak enforcement.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mk.html>

Literacy

96.1% of the Macedonian population is literate. (Meaning those over the age of 15 who are able to read and write).

- Males—98.2%
- Females—94.1%

The Macedonian language is phonetic and most children are fully literate by the third grade.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mk.html>

Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life, Volume 4, page 245.

Land/Geography

The Republic of Macedonia is located in southeastern Europe. It is a landlocked nation located within the Balkan Peninsula. Macedonia is bordered by Serbia to the North, Bulgaria to the East, Greece to the South, and Albania to the West. The countries that are said to make up the “Balkans” are Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, and European Turkey.

The Republic of Macedonia 25,333 square kilometers, and is approximately the same size as the state of Vermont.

Macedonia experiences warm and dry summers, warm falls, and cold and moist winters. They receive heavy snowfall during the winter months. Macedonia has a mountainous landscape, with deep valleys and basins. The country is bisected by the Vardar River, and houses three large lakes.

Macedonia is located in an area with a high seismic risk. There is also significant air pollution from the many metallurgical plants in the area.

Greece continues to refuse to acknowledge the Republic of Macedonia by that name, or by the name of Macedonia, as they claim the name for the ancient region of Greece known as Macedonia. They only acknowledge the nation as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.



<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mk.html> Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, Europe, 10th ed., page 307.
<http://www.makedonija.info/WORLD.GIF>

History

While the Republic of Macedonia is considered to be a young nation, the roots of Macedonia actually date back to antiquity. The name “Macedonia” dates back to Philip II of Macedon, and his son, Alexander the Great. According to archaeological findings, there was a thriving civilization in Macedonia from 7000-3500 BC. It is important to note however, that the Slavic Macedonians of today are actually a different people group than the ancient Greek Macedonians.

Once the Roman Empire split in the 4th century, Macedonia fell under the Eastern kingdom, under the Byzantine Empire. Slavic tribes then began entering and settling in the Balkan area in the 5th and 6th centuries AD. Within a couple of centuries, the Slavs had conquered and controlled much of the southern lands. The Slavs began assimilating and blending with the Greek culture, laying the foundation for today’s Slavic Macedonians.

Through the late Middle Ages, The Byzantine Empire, Bulgarian Empire, and Serbian Empire, all attempted to control the area of Macedonia. The Serbian Kingdom collapsed in 1355, as the Ottoman Turks continued their advances into Europe. By 1389, the Ottomans successfully conquered Macedonia, which they subsequently controlled until the early 20th century.

Many of the neighboring nations including Bulgaria, Serbia, and Greece, began to fight for control of Macedonia, particularly as the Ottoman Rule began to decline. In fact, this competition over the Macedonian land was named and titled the *Macedonian Question*.

Macedonians on the other hand, were striving to develop their own national awareness and individual culture, particularly during the 19th century. They worked to eventually obtain an independent Macedonian nation. In fact, in the 1850s, a group known as the “Macedonists” emerged, declaring Macedonia to be a separate Slavic nation. They desired to use their own Slavic dialect, rather than the Bulgarian which was being promoted through both the Bulgarian government and Orthodox Church.

By 1893, a secret organization known as the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization was established, seeking to throw off the Turks and form an independent and autonomous Macedonia. Goce Delchev was the IMRO leader, who encouraged the Macedonian people of the importance of winning their independent state by their own efforts, not with the help of their neighbors or allies. The group was independent of support from anyone, including Serbia, Bulgaria, and Greece. The IMRO soon developed a terrorist nature that functioned through an increasingly socialistic underground network. On August 2, 1903, St. Elijah’s Day, the IMRO declared independence, led out in a revolt against the Turks, and took over the town of Krusevo, establishing a Socialist government. The Turks however, quickly stepped in and defeated the rebellion through brutal and massive massacres.

Rebellions and uprisings continued in the Balkans through the next years, especially due to the Young Turk Revolution in 1912. This led to the organization of the Balkan League in 1912, which was made up by Greece, Serbia, and Bulgaria, with the support of Macedonia. The Balkan League declared war on Turkey in October of 1912. The Balkan League actually defeated Turkey, forcing Turkey to relinquish their European possessions through the Treaty of London in 1913. The actual outcome of the treaty was not satisfactory to the Balkan nations, which launched the Second Balkan War. Macedonia was eventually divided between Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece. The largest section, Aegean Macedonia, went to Greece, which was soon called, “Northern Greece,” and Serbia’s portion, Vardar, was similarly renamed “Southern Serbia.” Bulgaria’s section was called “Pirin Macedonia,” however the Macedonians living there were actually referred to as Bulgarians. Greece took many efforts to eradicate the Slavic Macedonian culture, and the Macedonians under their control were forbidden to use the Macedonian language. The Macedonians refused however, to lose their identity.

After World War I, despite Macedonia’s efforts for a united and independent nation at the Paris Peace conference, the partition of 1913 was actually reconfirmed. And thus shortly there after, the Vardar region was united with Serbia into the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, eventually in 1929 to be known as Yugoslavia.

During World War II, Germany invaded Yugoslavia in April of 1941. While Bulgaria became an ally of Germany and Italy, Macedonia on the other hand, was anti-fascist. By 1943, they had established the Macedonian Communist Party.

The Macedonians never stopped fighting for their autonomy and in August 1944, a Macedonian People’s Republic was declared, as the Vardar region had been completely liberated. The Macedonian language was the official language of the Republic. The Republic aspired to unite all of the Macedonians, and on August 10, 1946, the Pirin section of Macedonia was given the

freedom to join up with the People's Republic of Macedonia, which at this point lay within the realms of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Mashal Josip Broz Tito had established the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia in 1945. The Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia was composed of six individual republics which were unified into a communist dictatorship. Yugoslavia developed its own style of Marxism, and was not a part of the Soviet Bloc. Some of the main differences were seen in that Yugoslavia was more open to Western influences and had a more relaxed central control system than the Soviet system.

The issue of nationalism did not dissolve, even under the communist influence. Autocephaly was declared for the Macedonian Orthodox Church in 1967. And soon after, a Macedonian University were established, both of which utilized the Macedonian language.

In 1974, the constitution was re-evaluated, shifting the majority of the decision making responsibilities from the federal level to the republic level. This essentially turned Yugoslavia into a federation of republican parties.

Tito was undoubtedly a major unifying force for Yugoslavia, and his absence was noticeable. Upon his death in May of 1980, the single dictatorship shifted into that of a unified committee, made up of delegates from each of the Yugoslav republics, plus representatives from Vojvodina and Kosovo, which had become autonomous provinces. They were faced with significant economic problems, most of which was a result of the debt accumulated under Tito's rule. Slovenia and Croatia responded to this by calling for the entire Federation to be reorganized into a confederation. While the motion was adamantly opposed and rejected, pressure to move towards a political pluralism, and even towards a market economy strengthened through the next few years. With the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and the ending of the Cold War, communism began to visibly and significantly lose its stronghold in Eastern Europe. Non-Communist political parties were beginning to win majorities by 1990, which in effect led to the dissolution of Yugoslavia.

In a referendum held on September 8, 1991, the Republic of Macedonia declared its independence and sovereignty. They did so legally, democratically, and peacefully. Kiro Gligorov was soon elected as the first president and they drafted a new constitution claiming the Republic of Macedonia to be a "sovereign, independent, civil, and democratic state."

Greece has refused to recognize the independent republic while they use the name "Macedonia." Greece still has control over many ethnic Slavic Macedonians in what is now considered Northern Greece.

Macedonia was granted membership to the UN in April of 1993, but only under the name of the "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia." And in February of 1994, Greece placed a unilateral trade embargo on Macedonia. Greece lifted the trade embargo in September of 1995.

During the fighting in Kosovo in 1999, Macedonia became a receiving ground for displaced Kosovar Albanian refugees.

In 2001, in the spring, Albanian rebels who identified themselves as the National Liberation Army took up arms in western Macedonia. They wanted more rights to be established in the constitution. After efforts by NATO and the EU, a cease fire was negotiated in June, and the Albanians were granted more civil rights within the constitution.

The Republic of Macedonia became a candidate for membership into the EU on December 17, 2005.

<http://www.historyofmacedonia.org/IndependentMacedonia/MacedonianState.html>

<http://faq.macedonia.org/history/>

www.wikipedia.org

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, Europe, 10th ed., page 308-11, 532-34.

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/yutoc.html>

http://www.religioustolerance.org/yugo_his.htm

Christian History

Christianity in Macedonia can be traced back to first century and to ministry of the Apostle Paul. Paul introduced Christianity to Macedonia while on his second and third missionary journeys. Christianity took root and slowly spread throughout the area, and by the 4th century, Christianity was a political force in the area as the emperor Constantine converted to the faith and had his entire empire Christianized.

The first Macedonian church fell under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Rome. By the 11th century however, after the split of the Western and Eastern Churches, the church in Macedonia was a part of the Eastern Orthodox Church. The first autocephalous Slav church was established by two students of Cyril and Methodius, Clement and Naum in Ohrid, which is on the eastern shore of Macedonia's Lake Ohrid. This archbishopric at Ohrid became the ecclesiastical center for spreading the Eastern Orthodox faith throughout the Eastern Slavic lands.

The Macedonian Orthodox Church was under the Serbian Orthodox Church's authority throughout most of the 20th century. They declared their independence from the Serbian Church however, following the conclusion of World War II. Nevertheless, the Serbian Church did not recognize Macedonia's independent and autocephalous status until June of 1994. The Macedonian Orthodox Church has yet to gain recognition as independent from any of the other Orthodox Churches.

In 1991 the Republic of Macedonia adopted a new constitution that declares religious freedom. Churches are granted the freedom to establish schools and charitable institutions. The Macedonian Orthodox Church does not have official status but it is the only church identified by name in the constitution.

The Protestant Christian presence is very small throughout Macedonia.

World Christian Encyclopedia, 2nd Edition. Volume 1, 464-465.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Macedonia#Religion

Religion

Non-Christian

- *Islam*
 - Islam represents the largest non-Christian religious community in the Republic of Macedonia.
 - Islam was introduced into the area with the Ottoman conquest and the influx of Turkish settlers in the 14th century.
 - There are 425+ mosques throughout Macedonia to service the approximately 30% of the population which adheres to Islam.
 - The Muslims in Macedonia are predominately Sunni Muslims.
- *Atheism*
 - Atheism is essentially an absence of belief in the existence of deities. This definition can include both those who claim there is no god, as well as those who make no claim as to if a god even exists.
 - About 1.4% of the population claims to be atheist.
- *Judaism*
 - This is a monotheistic religion with a 4,000 year history. Jews devote themselves to the study and observance of spiritual and ethical principles provided through and embodied in the Hebrew Scriptures and Talmud. They are still awaiting the promised Messiah.
 - Judaism has been established throughout Macedonia since the 6th century BC, as many Israelites were brought into the area to serve as slaves by Phoenician merchants.
 - Most of the Jews who survived through the end of WWII, immigrated to Israel.
 - Today, only 0.1% of the population is Jewish. There are 190 known Jews living in Skopje and one synagogue.
- *Eastern Orthodox*
 - The Eastern Orthodox faith is one of the three major doctrinal groups of Christianity. It is characterized by continuity with the apostolic church, its liturgy, and its territorial churches. Its adherents can primarily be identified as living in the Balkans, Middle East, and Russia. The mystery of God is the essence of the church. The mysteries, which enlighten and transform, and through which God's acts through history become realities by the power of the Spirit, are the center of Orthodox religious life.
 - The Eastern Orthodox Church represents the largest "Christian" body in Macedonia. 67% of the population adheres to the Orthodox faith.
 - There are 10 Bishops and 350 priests of the Macedonian Orthodox Church.
 - The Macedonian Orthodox Church separated from the Serbian Orthodox Church in 1967, but still has not been recognized by any other Orthodox Church as an independent body.
 - The Macedonian Orthodox Church has 1100 congregations and 843,000 adult members.
 - The Albanian Orthodox Church has 7 congregations and 4,200 adult members in Macedonia.

- The Bulgarian Orthodox Church has 5 congregations and 3,500 adult members in Macedonia.
- The Greek Orthodox Church, which began in 1900, has 2 congregations and 3,200 adult members.
- The Romanian Orthodox Church has 3 congregations and 4,000 adult members in Macedonia.
- The Serbian Orthodox Church was established in 1250, and has 20 congregations and 30,000 adult members in Macedonia.
- The Ukrainian Orthodox Church was established in 1975 and has 1 congregation with 300 adult members in Macedonia.
- *Catholic*
 - There is a small Catholic population in Macedonia, which claims 63,000 adherents, representing 1.43% of the population.
 - The Catholic Church first appeared in Macedonia in 350, and currently has 26 congregations and 13,000 adult members.
 - The Macedonian Byzantine Catholic Church specifically was established in 1918 and is in communion with both the Roman and the Eastern Catholic Churches. It claims 11,000 adherents.
- *Jehovah's Witnesses*
 - There is a small population of Jehovah's Witnesses throughout Macedonia, with 1,129 adherents and 16 congregations. This accounts for about 0.04% of the population. There are only 35 baptized Witnesses.

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/Macedonia.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Macedonia#Religion

http://www.watchtower.org/statistics/worldwide_report.htm

World Christian Encyclopedia, 2nd Edition, page 464-65

Christian/Evangelical

- *Baptist Church of Macedonia*
 - There are 4 Baptist Congregations in Macedonia, claiming 110 adult members. The churches report 160 adherents.
- *Congregational Church*
 - The Congregational Church in Macedonia began in 1980, and was a schism from the Methodist church.
 - The church has 3 congregations, 180 adult members, and 400 affiliates.
- *Evangelical Church in Macedonia (1980)*
 - There are 12 congregations with 400 adult members and 1136 affiliates. These are Pentecostals who were formerly within Yugoslavian churches.
- *Gypsy Evangelical Movement*
 - This movement claims 5 congregations and 900 adult members. There are reportedly 1000 adherents.
- *Methodist Church of Macedonia*
 - The Methodist Church is the oldest Protestant church in Macedonia.
 - The Methodist Church in Macedonia began in 1890, and currently has 13 congregations, 1,300 adult members, and 3,000 adherents. This was part of the former Methodist Church in Yugoslavia.

- *New Apostolic Church*
 - The New Apostolic Church began in 1970 and has 6 congregations and 200 members. There are approximately 500 affiliates.
- *Seventh Day Adventist Church*
 - The Seventh Day Adventists have 10 congregations and 411 adult members in Macedonia. They report 633 affiliates.
- *Independent Charismatics*
 - There were various independent charismatic groups which began in Macedonia in 1985. There are currently about 20 congregations, 1,000 members, and 3,000 affiliates.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Macedonia#Religion

World Christian Encyclopedia, 2nd Edition, page 465.

Operation World

People Groups

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Albanian, Gheg (372,000)

The Albanians are a Eurasian People primarily speaking Albanian Gheg. The predominately are known to live in the Cair, Gostivar, Kicevo, Ohrid, Struga, Debar, Kapros, Kumanovo, Resen, and Tetovo provinces of Macedonia. Alternate names for the Albanians are Gheg, Kosovar, Chamurian, Gheg Speaking, and Scutari.

The Albanian Gheg in Macedonia are primarily Sunni Muslims. Only 25% are Christian adherents, and the majority, if not all of those belong to the Macedonian Orthodox Church. There are very few, if any, known believers among this people.

The Albanians in Macedonia are at a level 2 in Global Evangelical Status, meaning they are less than 2% evangelical, but have a local church planting team. While there is not a complete Bible translated into their language, there is a New Testament as well as portions from the Old Testament.

Albanians are descendents of the original inhabitants of the Balkan Peninsula. Before WWII and the Communist regime of the 1940's, Albanians maintained tribal life. As communism took over, the Albanians were forced into cities and into apartment style housing units. They had to leave behind the tribes, religion, and dress of their native way of life. Albania experienced numerous changes at the fall of communism, and have struggled to re-establish their identity and pride. The Ottoman Turks brought Islam to the Albanians during the Ottoman Empire, but they practiced a folk Islam. In 1967, Albania actually declared itself to be the first atheistic state and closed its borders to the outside world.

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Arab (6,200)

The Arabs are from the Arab World affinity block and the Arabian people cluster. Alternate people names include Anglolan Arabs, Bedouin Arabs, Coast, Hemat, Lebanese Arab, Nawar,

Palestinian Arab, Syrian Arab, Baggara, Bosnian Muslims, Iraqi Arab, Levantine Arab, Saudi Arab, and Syro-Lebanese Arabs.

The Arabs in Macedonia speak Arabic Standard which is a Semitic language of the Afro-Asiatic language family, and are 98% Sunni Muslims. The Arabs are among the least reached peoples. Only 2% of the Arabs in Macedonia are known to be Christians, but it is not certain if these are evangelical Christians or not.

Arabs number over 148 million and form the majority population in 15 countries. The Arabs are “the largest, most diverse and most politically influential Muslim ethnic group in the world.” (Richard V. Weekes, ed., *Muslim Peoples: A World Ethnographic Survey*, 2d ed., *Acehnese-Lur* (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1984), 35)

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Armini, Aromanian (8,800)

The Armini are a part of the Albanian people cluster. They are alternately referred to as Aromunen, Vlach, Aromanian, and Macedo-Rumanian. The Armini speak Aromanian. Their primary religion is Orthodox Christianity, claiming 85% of the population. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown. There is yet to be a complete Bible translated in their mother language, but there are multiple agencies working with this group.

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Bosniak (37,000)

The Bosniak people are a Eurasian people of the Southern Slavic people cluster. They are originally from the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was at one time a part of Yugoslavia.

Alternate names include Bosniac, Croatian, Muslmani, Croat, and Musselmani. They primarily speak Bosnian and adhere to Islam. They are Sunni Muslims. There are no known Christians among the Bosniaks in Macedonia.

They are among the least reached peoples of Europe, and have had no active church planting efforts made in the past two years. There is a Bible in the Bosnian language.

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British (1,000)

The British are of the Anglo Celt people cluster of the Eurasian affinity bloc. They are alternately named Anglo-Pakistani, Euronesian, Scottish, White, and Anglophone. The British speak English and are primarily Christians (70%). The number of Evangelical Christians is unknown.

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Bulgarian (10,000)

The Bulgarian people are a Southern Slavic people. Alternate names include Balgarski, Bogomil, Palityan, Moldovian, and Pomaks. The Bulgarians speak the Bulgarian language. Bulgarians largely adhere to Orthodox Christianity (71 %).

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Croat (41,000)

The Croats, alternately known as Bosnian, Serbian, Muslimani, are Southern Slavs from former Yugoslavia. They primarily speak Croatian. Croats primarily adhere to Roman Catholicism, which claims 90% of the population. The number of evangelicals is unknown.

They fall into a level 1 Global Evangelical Status, as less than 2% of the population is Evangelical and there has been no active church planting in the past two years.

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Deaf

The Deaf in Macedonia are considered a least reached people group. The majority of the Deaf Macedonians claim Orthodox Christianity, but no other information is known about the group. They are in the need of having a Bible and/or recording of the Bible for them to view as many of them do not learn or communicate best through the written language.

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French (400)

The French in Macedonia referred to also as Franco-Mauritian, Mulatto, and Metropolitan, primarily speak French. They are of the French people cluster. The French are mostly Christian (76%), but it is unknown if any of these are Evangelical Christians.

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German (200)

The Germans are a Eurasian People. They are alternately referred to as German Standard, High German, Saxon, Volga German, and Transylvanian. The Germans in Macedonia are predominately Christian, with 78% claiming affiliation with a Christian church. It is not known how many of this percentage are evangelical Christians.

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Greek (600)

The Greeks are descendants of migrants of the Balkan Peninsula who went to Russia in the 18th century. After the Russian Turkish wars, there was a great population movement, where primarily the oppressed Christian population found hope in the Russians and fled the Turkish rulers by following the Russian army out in droves. They settled in Crimea and along the coast. The Greeks are alternately named Dimotiki, Greek Cypriot, Hellenic, Romei, Romeos, and Urum. They are of the Eurasian Affinity Bloc, and speak Greek. The Greeks are primarily Orthodox Christians (90%). The number of Evangelicals is unknown.

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Hungarian (2,100)

The Hungarians are a Eurasian people. Alternate names include Magyar, Szekely, and Siculi. They speak the Hungarian language and are 81% Catholic and Orthodox. It is not specifically identified whether these are Evangelical Christians or not, but it is likely that they are Roman Catholic adherents.

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Italian (1,000)

The Italians are a Eurasian people who speak the Italian language. In Macedonia they are 83% Roman Catholic.

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Jew, Serbian Speaking (100)

The Jews of Europe arrived on the continent at least 2,000 years ago during the early days of the Roman Empire. Since that time, they have been a significant influence in the history and culture of Europe. Much of what is considered "Jewish" today finds its roots among the European Jews. The Serbian Speaking Jews in Macedonia speak Serbian and primarily adhere to Judaism. They are listed among the least reached. About 0.20% are Christian adherents, but the number of Evangelicals is unknown.

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Macedonian (1,143,000)

The Macedonians are a Eurasian People of the Southern Slavic people cluster. They speak Macedonian and are primarily Orthodox Christian adherents (89%). Only 0.20% of the population is known to be Evangelical believers.

Macedonians are given a level 1 in the Global Evangelical Status, where less than 2% of the population is Evangelical and there has been no active church planting within the past 2 years. The Bible was completed in the Macedonian language in 1990, and there are many ministry tools available.

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Meglienite, Vlasi (2,000)

The Meglienite or Vlasi people are a Eurasian people of the Romanian people cluster. They speak Megleno Romanian. The Meglienite are 83% Christian adherents, but likely of the Orthodox tradition. The actual details are unknown. There is no Bible or Bible recording available in this language and no known ministry tools.

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Montenegrin (4,100)

Montenegrians are a Southern Slavic Eurasian People. They primarily speak Serbian. The Montenegrins in Macedonia are 66% Christian adherents, but actual church or denominational affiliation is unknown. It is likely these are of an Orthodox tradition. The number of Evangelicals is unknown. There are numerous ministry tools available.

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Pomak (10,000)

The Pomaks are of the Southern Slavic people cluster. They speak Bulgarian with a Pomak dialect. They are generally considered to be Bulgarian as they share a form of the language, share features, and have a similar culture. One of the main differences is that while Bulgarians tend to be Christian, the Pomaks are Muslim. The Pomaks in Macedonia are 100% Sunni Muslims.

The name “Pomak” itself means “people who have suffered.” They have traditionally been the outcasts of Bulgarian society. The Pomaks are among the most noted of least reached peoples and have no known believers or Christian workers among them. There is a Bible and ministry tools available.

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Romani, Balkan (108,000)

The Balkan or Romani Gypsies are located throughout Eastern Europe. They call themselves “Rom” which in Romani means “men,” and is derived from the Indian word “Dom” which refers to a low caste of men who earn a living through singing and dancing. They Gypsies are a South Asian people and speak Balkan Romani. Alternate names for the group include Arliski, Baltic Gypsy, Jerides, Koochi, Roma, Arliski Balkan Gypsy, Dzambazi, Kochi, Kuchi, and Zargari. They are highly discriminated against.

Gypsies place a high value on family loyalty and tend to live together with extended family. The Balkan Gypsies in Macedonia primarily adhere to Islam, as the majority is Sunni Muslim. 10% of the population is Eastern Orthodox, with only 0.08% of the population being Evangelical. They have the New Testament translated in their language, but have yet to have the entire Bible. There has been localized church planting within the group in the past two years.

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Romanian (10,000)

The Romanians are alternately named Istrio-Romanian and Oltenia. The Romanians are of the Romanian people cluster and speak the Romanian language. The Romanians living in Macedonia are 84% Orthodox Christian adherents. The number of Evangelical Christians is unknown.

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Torbish (16,000)

The Torbish are Macedonian speaking Muslims. No Christian ministry exists among them. See *Operation World*

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Turk (225,000)

Turks are originally from Turan, which lies between the Caspian Sea and the Mongolian Desert. The Turks in Macedonia primarily live in 9 provinces of the country, including Berovo, Debar, Stip, Strumica, Veles, Bitola, Demir Hisar, Struga, and Sveti Nikole. They are alternately known as Anatolian, Baharlu Turk, Masakhastian, Meskhetian Turk, Osmanli, Ottomon Turk, Rumelian Turk, and Urum. The Turks speak Turkish and are predominately Sunni Muslims.

The Turks are only 0.05% Christian, and it is unknown if these are Evangelical Christians or not. The Turks are among the least reached peoples. They have the Bible and many ministry tools available.

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Ukrainian (200)

The Ukrainians are an Eastern Slavic Eurasian people. They are actually the second largest ethnic group of the former Soviet Union. Their historic ties to Poland and Cossack tradition contribute to their colorful folk heritage. They primarily speak Ukrainian and are 70% Christian adherents, but these are likely of an Orthodox tradition. The number of Evangelicals is unknown.

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Yoruk, Balkan Turks (2,100)

The Yoruk Balkan Turks are from the Altaic people cluster. They are alternately named Anatolian Gagauz, Anatolian Gagauzi, Balkan Gagauz Turk, Balkan Gagauz Turkish, and Rumelian Turk. They speak Balkan Gagauz Turkish and are Sunni Muslims. There are no known Christians among the group. They need a Bible translated into their language.

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and Churches should recognize the ethnic diversity that exists in Macedonia and design evangelistic and church-starting strategies to reach each of the groups.

2. Evangelical Christians and Churches should pay special attention to the larger ethnic minorities (Albanians, Balkan Romani, Turks, Croat, Romanian, Pomak, Bulgarian) and devise specialized methods for evangelizing and congregationalizing these groups.
3. Evangelical Christians and Churches should seek to minister to the physical and social needs of the Macedonians through acts of Christian love. Medical services might be a major opening for such ministry-based approaches. Through the relationships and efforts of these Christian doctors, the Christian faith can be demonstrated and shared with the medical professionals in Macedonia as well as with their neighbors.
4. Evangelical Christians and Churches should develop methods of sharing the Good News with followers of the Orthodox Churches, Catholics, and Islam.
5. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek ways to cooperate with Christians in Macedonia and strengthen their ministries

Links –

<http://www.macedonianembassy.org/>

<http://www.macedonia.org/>

<http://www.macedonia.co.uk/>

<http://www.panmacedonian.info/FALLACIESANFACTS.htm>