

# MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT

## Central and Eastern Europe

### Republic of Croatia

#### Snapshot

Name:

*Republic of Croatia (Croatia)*

*Republika Hrvatska (Hrvatska)*

former: *People's Republic of Croatia, Socialist Republic of Croatia*

Population:

4,493,312 (July 2007 est.)

Founded in:

25 June 1991 (from Yugoslavia)

Flag:



Religion

Roman Catholic 87.8%, Orthodox 4.4%, other Christian 0.4%, Muslim 1.3%, other and unspecified 0.9%, none 5.2% (2001 census)

Freedom of religion is assured but a narrow line exists between the government and the favorite Roman Catholic Church.

A define link exists between ethnicity and religion. The deep hatred between ethnic groups makes evangelism difficult

People Groups

Croat 89.6%, Serb 4.5%, other 5.9% (including Bosniak, Hungarian, Slovene, Czech, and Roma) (2001 census)

Languages:

Croatian 96.1%, Serbian 1%, other and undesignated 2.9% (including Italian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, and German) (2001 census)

## **Basic Facts**

### **Name:**

Conventional long form: *Republic of Croatia*

Conventional short form: *Croatia*

Local long form: *Republika Hrvatska*

Local short form: *Hrvatska*

Former: *People's Republic*

### **Demographics**

The population of Croatia is 4,493,312 (July 2007 est.) with a declining growth rate of -.02%. The birth rate is 9.57 births per 1,000 people while the death rate is 11.38 deaths per 1,000 people.

The ethnic Croat population makes up 89.6% of the population. Other ethnic groups include Serbs who make up 4.4%, Bosniak at .5%, Hungarian at .4%, Slovene at .3%, Czech at .2%, Roma at .2%, Albanian at .1%, Montenegrin at .1% and other at 4.1%.

Zagreb is the capital city of Croatia, with a population of 779,145, making it the largest city in the country. Other large cities include Split (188,694), Rijeka (144,043), Osijek (114,616) and Zadar (72,718).

The median age for men and women in the country is 38.3 and 42.1, respectively. 16.2% of the country is under 15 years old. 67% of the country is between the ages of 15 and 64 years old and 16.8% of the country is over 64 years old. The life expectancy for Croatians is 71.03 years for men and 78.53 years for women.

59% of the population of Croatia is urban.

Other names for the Republic of Croatia include: Croatia, Republika Hrvatska, Hrvatska. Croatia was formerly known as the People's Republic of Croatia and the Socialist Republic of Croatia.

[www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov)

[www.croatiaemb.org](http://www.croatiaemb.org)

### **Language**

The official language of Croatia is Croatian, which uses the Latin alphabet. 96.1% of the country speaks Croatian, 1% speaks Serbian. Other languages spoken in Croatia include Croatia include Bosniak, Hungarian, Slovene, Czech and Roma.

[www.croatiaemb.org](http://www.croatiaemb.org)

## **Society and Culture**

Official holidays:

January 1	New Year
January 6	The Epiphany
	Easter
	Easter Monday
May 1	Labor Day
	Corpus Christi
June 22	Anti-Fascism Day
June 25	Statehood Day
August 5	Victory and Homeland Gratitude Day
August 15	The Assumption
October 8	Independence Day
November 1	All Saints Day
December 25	Christmas Day
December 26	Boxing Day (St. Stephen's Day)

[www.croatiaemb.org](http://www.croatiaemb.org)

### **Life Rites**

Primarily Roman Catholics, most of the Croatians celebrate the rites of birth, marriage and death. Births are marked by baptism and the infants are given gifts and gold jewelry. Wedding ceremonies occur in the city hall and/or a church and are followed with a reception. Weddings tend to be larger in the more rural areas and smaller in the cities. The dead are given a wake, funeral mass and graveside service. Funerals are followed by a *karmin*, or lunch.

Men are required to serve in the military for six months following either high school or college.

Croatia continues to recover from the recent catastrophes of war that plagued the nation and surrounding nation. Many members of the various ethnic groups remain at bay with one another as memories of ethnic cleansing and ethnic persecution continue. One source writes "two of the greatest social problems still facing Croatia are the return of displaced Croats to their homes and the reintegration of Eastern Slavonia, which is still under UN control, into Croatia."<sup>1</sup>

Croatia has been used as a point of transit for the illegal shipment of cocaine from South America and heroin from Southwest Asia.

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<sup>1</sup> Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations: Europe. Detroit, Gale Group: 2001. p 177

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations: Europe. Detroit, Gale Group: 2001.  
[www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov)

## **Political Structure**

Croatia has a parliamentary government and is divided into executive, legislative and judicial powers. The Chief of State, the president, is elected directly by the people in a secret ballot vote. Universal suffrage is granted to those 18 years of age and older. However, citizens at least 16 years old may vote if they are employed. Presidents maintain five year terms, which may be repeated once. The executive branch of Croatia also consists of a government, which includes the prime minister, at least one Deputy Prime minister and other ministers. The members of the government are appointed by the president.

The legislative branch of Croatia consists of a unicameral parliament. Members of the parliament are elected by the populous for four year terms. Among other obligations, the parliament “decides on the enactment and amendment of the Constitution, passes laws, adopts the state budget, decides on war and peace.”<sup>2</sup> It also “performs the function of control over the executive power.”<sup>3</sup>

The judicial branch of Croatia is made up of a Supreme Court, Constitutional Court and other courts. The Supreme Court is the highest court in Croatia and “ensures the uniform application of laws and the equality of all citizens.”<sup>4</sup> The Constitutional Court is made up of 13 judges selected by the Parliament for eight year terms. This court deals primarily with issues directly related to the Constitution.

Many political parties exist in Croatia. Croatia grants the right to form such parties, unless “their program or violent activity tend towards undermining the democratic constitutional order or threaten the survival of the Republic of Croatia.”<sup>5</sup>

Croatia adopted its constitution on December 22, 1990. The constitution was revised in 2000 and 2001. The legal system in Croatia is based on the civil law system.

Croatia is divided into 21 counties, 122 towns, 424 municipalities and 6767 settlements. The counties maintain relative autonomy, and are given the right to make local decisions for themselves. Elected representation and executive authority are also granted to the smaller divisions of local populations. Zagreb, the capital city, is also a county and holds powers at both the city level and the county level.

[www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov)  
<http://www.vlada.hr>  
[www.croatiaemb.org](http://www.croatiaemb.org)

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<sup>2</sup> [www.croatiaemb.org](http://www.croatiaemb.org)

<sup>3</sup> [www.croatiaemb.org](http://www.croatiaemb.org)

<sup>4</sup> [www.croatiaemb.org](http://www.croatiaemb.org)

<sup>5</sup> [www.croatiaemb.org](http://www.croatiaemb.org)

## Economy

Croatia's economy was one of the greatest of the federation before the Wars of Yugoslav Succession in 1991. During this time, two-thirds of the land was under cultivation. After the beginning of the wars, Croatia's GDP plummeted from \$12.4 billion to \$9.9 billion in 1992 and inflation rose as well. Recovery began slowly in 1993. The country joined the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, controlled inflation. By 1994 the new unit of currency, the *kuna*, had been introduced. In 2000 Croatia joined the World Trade Organization. The country's GDP was estimated at \$34.94 billion for 2005. The GDP per capita estimate for 2005 was \$11,600.

The control of many state owned companies was given to the private sector. Croatia has made concerted efforts to build and transition to a market economy since its unification. Their government states "The priority of Croatian economic policy is to continue building a stable and strong market economy, competitive on a global scale. Steps are being undertaken to strengthen boost business and reduce government expenditures, to strengthen the role of science and new technologies in the economy resulting in increased production and growth of export and employment."<sup>6</sup>

The foreign debt of Croatia was estimated at \$23.7 billion (apx 83% of the GDP). This debt was increased through the drop in the value of the US Dollar.

It is composed of 31% industry, 8.1% agriculture and 60.8% from the service industry. Major crops produced in Croatia include maize, sugar beet, wheat and oil crops. The country has a labor force of 1.71 million. Of those, 2.7% are employed in agriculture, 32.8% in industry and 64.5% services. The population's unemployment rate is 13.8%. This figure is down from the 2003 estimate of 18.1% and the 2001 estimate of more than 23%.<sup>7</sup> 11% of Croatians live below the poverty line. Inflation is estimated at 2.5%.

Major imports into Croatia include petroleum products, vehicles, whips, IT equipment and medicines. Major exports include ships and boats, petroleum products, textiles and apparel. Areas of growth for the economy have sprouted from the energy, tourism, construction, transportation and telecommunication industries.

Major industries in Croatia include: chemicals and plastics, machine tools, fabricated metal, electronics, pig iron and rolled steel products, aluminum, paper, wood products, construction materials, textiles, shipbuilding, petroleum and petroleum refining, food and beverages and tourism.

Major agricultural products include: wheat, corn, sugar beets, sunflower seed, barley, alfalfa, clover, olives, citrus, grapes, soybeans, potatoes, livestock and dairy products.

Croatia's export partners are Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Austria and Slovenia.

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<sup>6</sup> Croatia.emb.org

<sup>7</sup> [Http://us.mfa.hr/?mh=186&mv=1121](http://us.mfa.hr/?mh=186&mv=1121)

Croatia is a candidate for membership in the European Union.

[www.encarta.msn.com](http://www.encarta.msn.com).

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations. Europe. Detroit: Gale Group, 2001.

[Croatiaemb.org](http://Croatiaemb.org)

[www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov)

<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

## **Land/Geography**

Croatia has a total land area of 56,414 square kilometers, roughly smaller than West Virginia. It borders Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Serbia and Montenegro. It has 5,835 km of coastline along the Adriatic Sea. In addition to coastlines, the country contains a diverse terrain consisting of mountains, plains and 1,185 islands (47 of which are inhabited). The highest point in Croatia is the Dinaric mountain at 1,830.

Croatia has 10 major rivers including the Sava (562 km), Drava (505 km), Kupa 269 km and the Danube, which creates the border between Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro. The country also has 10 lakes (five of which are artificial) and eight national parks.

Problems with the climate and/or land that people may encounter are earthquakes as well as land mines. Landmines were used in Croatia during the breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990's. Croatia is taking measures to rid the country of these landmines. Twelve of the 21 counties have minefields and/or areas suspected of having mines. 54% of the mines are thought to be in woods and forests, 17% in agricultural areas, 11% in underbrush, 9% in meadows and pastures, 2% in houses and the remaining 7% in other places.

Croatia also suffers from industrial pollution including air pollution, river contamination, and acid rain resulting in forest damage.

[Http://www.icbl.org/problem/country/croatia](http://www.icbl.org/problem/country/croatia)

## **Climate**

Croatia's climate has four major divisions:

1. Dinaric mountain—moderate winters and summers with much rainfall.
2. Adriatic—northern Split area—similar to Mediterranean climate but with drier winters
3. Mediterranean—southern Split area—warm dry summers, mild winters
4. Pannonian—Slavonia area—hot summers, cold winters

Zagreb's average temperature in January is 32 degrees and 75 degrees in July. The respective average temperature in the coastal city of Dubrovnik is 48 and 77.

Croatia's natural resources include oil, coal, bauxite, low-grade iron ore, calcium, gypsum, natural asphalt, silica, mica, clays, salt and hydropower.

## History

The history of Croatia is marked with a consistent influx of peoples, ideals, political systems and rulers. The actual country of Croatia was only formed recently, in the early 1990's. Therefore one must not underestimate the importance of understanding the history of the land surrounding Croatia, as well as a history of the Croat and Serbian ethnic groups.

Before the influx of Croat tribes, the Roman Emperor Diocletian built a palace in 295 near his birth site in Split.

Slavic tribes entered the area of Croatia around the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> century AD. The Croats settled in the regions of Pannonia and Dalmatia. They lived in amicable relations with Illyrian and Celtic peoples. However, all fought against their mutual enemy, the Avars. As the Slavic peoples settled the area, those residing closer to the Frankish kingdom, including the Croats adopted Roman Catholicism and those closer to the Byzantine Empire took to Orthodox Christianity. This difference continues to separate the ethnic Croats and Serbs today.

Croatia ruled itself independently from 925 until the Hungarians began dominating the area at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century and beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Croatia submitted to the Pacta Conventia in 1091, thus uniting themselves with Hungary and submitting to their leadership, consequently embracing the feudal system. However, Zara (the modern-day city Zadar) lived under Venetian control until 1186 when she joined with Hungary. Croatia was unable to escape the destruction of the crusades and in 1202 Zara was sacked in the Fourth Crusade. Zara became the first culturally Christian city to be sacked in the Crusades. The Angevines exerted their authority and in 1420 sold Dalmatia to Venice.

Turkish influence also began to spread under the powerful Ottoman Empire. By the 14<sup>th</sup> century the Serbs felt the defeat by the Turks and many migrated to Krajina. Hungary's King Louis II's death resulted in the Battle of Mahacs in 1526, at which most of his army was destroyed as well. This defeat meant Ottoman domination for the majority of Hungary and Croatia for 150+ years as well as an eventual submission to Hapsburg control. By the 17<sup>th</sup> century the Hapsburgs successfully drove out the Ottomans from Croatia and Hungary.

As Napoleon conquered Europe, the Venetian Empire fell, resulting in Dalmatia and Istria being reverted to Hapsburg control as Austrian provinces. The rest of Croatia and Slavonia belonged to Hungary, however much of the area was really under the leadership of Austria.

In the next century Croatians began to desire more political autonomy and strongly desired to preserve their culture and unite with those of similar cultural backgrounds. Croatian troops, under Ban Josip Jelacic provided assistance in thwarting the Hungarian revolution in 1848. For their help, Croatians desired unification. However, in 1867 Austria-Hungary was created in the Austro-Hungarian compromise and Croatia and Slavonia were again placed under Hungarian control, while Dalmatia remained controlled by Austria.

At the closing of WWI and the defeat of Austria-Hungary, the First nation of Yugoslavia was formed, uniting under the title of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. This unification was supported by the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain, both significant members of the Allied Powers, who had defeated the Axis Powers which included Austria-Hungary. Those unified under the Kingdom were not unified in their cultures and worldviews. Varying opinions existed regarding forms of government. The majority of Croat leaders desired a federation. However, the kingdom, under the control of the Serbian Karadjordjevic family, was centralized, with much power held by the Serbs. Croat political leader, Stjepan Radic called for Croatian autonomy if they were to unite with the Kingdom of Serbia. When Radic was shot in 1928, Serbian King Aleksandar I declared himself dictator and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes became Yugoslavia. Aleksandar's rule was ended with his assassination in 1934 by Croatian and Macedonian nationalists. Croatia thus became an autonomous province in Yugoslavia.

Axis powers of WWII easily invaded Yugoslavia in 1941 and defeated the country in a war which lasted only ten days. The country was then divided into parts including the Independent State of Croatia, which included Bosnia and Herzegovina, and later Dalmatia with the surrender of Italy in 1943. The Independent State of Croatia was rule by the fascist party *Ustase*, under the leadership of Ante Pavelic, an ethnic Croat. Although called an independent state, leadership was merely a puppet form of government controlled by the Axis Powers. Ante Pavelic organized eight concentration camps and attempted an ethnic cleansing of Croatia's 2 million minorities, including the Serbs, Romas and Jews.

Yugoslavia became entrenched in a complex conglomeration of both internal and external conflicts. Resistance to fascism came from the partisans of the communist party, led by Josip Broz Tito. The partisans, joined forces with the Soviet Red Army and the Axis powers were removed by the end of the war. Tito's army won control of the country.

Government in Yugoslavia, with Tito as dictator, initially appeared to be a smaller version of the USSR. Communist countries attempted to exert control over Yugoslavia with a blockade as well as placing troops in compromising positions.

Yugoslavia's communist polices lightened and state ownership was reformed to social ownership. Two more constitutions followed in 1963 and 1974 which instituted more reforms. The standard of living, production and government productivity plummeted after Tito's death in 1980. Croatia felt this specifically. Tensions rose. The republics of Yugoslavia developed more autonomy. Communism's collapse in 1989 in Eastern Europe was a marked event before the break up of Yugoslavia in 1990. Croatia held free elections in 1990.

Croatia was led by president Franjo Tudjman, also leader of the majority party, the Croatian Democratic Union. Tudjman initiated efforts of Croatian nationalism. Croatian Serbs feared similar oppression of the Ustase by the Croatians. In February 1991, Krajina Serbs unified with Serbia.



The following July Croatia found itself in a brutal war, which included the ethnic cleansing of Croats living in Krajina. Krajina Serbs, with support of the Yugoslav forces, took control of Krajina, land that constituted nearly one third of Croatia's territory. The United Nations initiated a cease fire in this area, and maintained peace keeping troops there. Croatia retook Krajina in 1995, which resulted in a large displacement of Serbs. This war was ended in 1995 by the Dayton Agreement, an American and European supported initiative for peace. The rest of the Serb territories in Eastern Slavonia became included in the country with the help of the UN.

Croatia also involved itself in the Bosnian war, initially supporting both the Bosnian Croats and the Muslims in opposition to the Serbs. However, this support was later shifted only to the Bosnian Croats, who opposed the Bosnian Muslims. The conflict ended with the creation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, under American initiative.

The country has undergone various liberal changes since 2000. Croatia attempted to join the European Union, however, because it was thought that the country did not cooperate in dealing with the capture of Ante Gotovina, indicted for war crimes, they were not allowed their membership. Gotovina was captured in 2005 and Croatia now appears to be unhindered in joining the European Union.

[www.timelines.ws/countries/CROATIA.Html](http://www.timelines.ws/countries/CROATIA.Html)  
[www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)  
[www.msnencarta.com](http://www.msnencarta.com)

## **Christian History**

Christianity arrived in Croatia nearly 2,000 years ago with converted Jews from the Diaspora. The lands controlled by the east embraced the Orthodox Church, while those allied with Rome embraced Catholicism around the 4<sup>th</sup> century. This split made a formidable division among the Serbs and Croats which continues today. Frankish missionaries entered Croatia in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, baptizing converts into the Catholic community. Croatia's alliance with Hungary in 1091 created a strong alliance with the Catholic church as well, which lasted until 1918.

The Reformation had some influence in the Croatian church and was influential in the spiritual climate of Croatia until the counter-reformation in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Orthodox Serbs made up about 50% of the population, before the rule of the *Utsase*. During World War Two, the puppet government of the Nazi's, the *Utsase*, was Roman Catholic and carried out the murders of Serbs, gypsies and Jews. Many Catholic leaders supported the *Utsase*. However, a notable agent of resistance to the ethnic cleansing was archbishop Alcjizije Stepinac.

After World War Two communist Croatia began to persecute the church, partly in reaction to the previous actions of the *Utsase*. Church lands were taken by the state, some clergy were incarcerated, tortured and murdered. When Joseph Tito disconnected Croatia with the Soviet Union in 1948, some tensions eased for the Catholic church, however the church was still restricted in their political movements. The church's commitment to the Vatican, rather than to Croatia also marked the division between themselves and the state. The state reacted to the

strong influence of the church by forcing many Christians into low paying jobs as late as the 1980's.

Catholic nationalism rose again in the 1990's, especially with Franko Tudjman.

Church attendance rose briefly in the 1990's to 15% or 17% during the tumultuous 1990's, but was then followed by a decline. The country remains largely 76% Roman Catholic.

Once source cites that there are currently 45 Baptist churches, 31 independent churches, 69 Pentecostal churches in Croatia.

The role of evangelicals most recently has been in humanitarian work among refugees.

<http://ppublic.srce.hr/rkczg/englich/rcc.php>

<http://www.gemission.org/serving/croatia.asp>

<http://www.hope4cee.org/Croatia/index.htm>

World Christian Encyclopedia. Second Edition. David B. Barrett, George T. Kurian, Todd M. Johnson

[www.send.org/croatia/climate.htm](http://www.send.org/croatia/climate.htm)

Volume 1 Oxford University Press 2001

## **RELIGION**

### **Non-Christian**

*Islam 3%*

Muslims are found largely in the Serb population living in Croatia.

Non-religious 5.8%

The common trend in Europe to avoid religion altogether has not escaped Croatia. The non-religious group is estimated at almost 120,000 persons.

*Jewish 0.1%*

This segment of the population is made up of Serbian speaking Jews and numbers around 2500.

*Jehovah's Witness*

94 congregations and almost 6000 members

*The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*

Three churches in the country

### **Catholic/Orthodox Churches**

### *Roman Catholic*

76% of Croatia is Roman Catholic, or 92.3% of all Croatians who claim Christianity. Some sources list Catholics as 87.20% of the population. Catholics claim almost 4000 congregations and over 2,700,000 members. While most Croatians consider themselves Catholic, this Catholicism appears to be cultural and even folk nature. Mary is worshipped and even the object of pilgrimages, people pay money to the church in the hopes that they will receive what they want/need.

### *Orthodox Christian*

4.4% of all Croatians who claim Christianity are Orthodox. Other sources claim 5.59%. The Serbian Orthodox Church claims 172,000 members in over 100 congregations.

### **Protestant/Evangelical**

0.3% of all Croatians who embrace Christianity claim to be Protestant. According to *Operation World*, there are 41 Lutheran churches, 41 Baptist churches and 36 Pentecostal churches. These numbers are from 2001.

#### *Slovak Evangelical Christian Church—Lutheran*

This Lutheran group has some 16 congregations with 7800 members

#### *Evangelical Christian Church—Lutheran*

The 45 congregations report a membership of 4500.

#### *Baptist*

The Baptists report 41 congregations with over 3000 members

#### *Evangelical Pentecostal*

#### *Seventh Day Adventists*

Croatian Baptists returning to Croatia from the United States and Russia were influential in establishing Baptist churches in Croatia. The evangelical church has seen recent growth. Multiple evangelical missionary agencies are present in Croatia.

#### Other Christian

2.8% of all Croatians who claim Christianity fall under this category. Seventh Day Adventists come in second among all Protestant groups.

## Independent

.2% of all Croatians who claim Christianity are independent.

[www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov)

[www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)

[www.mormon.org](http://www.mormon.org)

[www.hope4cee.org](http://www.hope4cee.org)

Johnston, Patrick and Jason Mandryk. *Operation World, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Edition*. Carlisle, Cumbria, UK: Paternoster Lifestlye, 2001.

## People Groups

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Albanian, generic (15,000)

The Albanians are a Eurasian People from the Caucasian Peoples cluster. Their primary language is Albanian,Gheg. The Albanians are 45% Christian, 25% Muslim, 30% Non-religious. The Christians are 69.7% Roman Catholic, 30% Orthodox, .2% Protestant, and .10% Independent.

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American, U.S. (200)

They are a North American people of the Anglo American people cluster. English is the primary language of the American people living in Hungary. They are primarily 93% Christian, 5% non-religious and 2% other. The Christians are 25% Independent, 50% Protestant, 20% Roman Catholic and 5% other Christians.

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Austrian (300)

The Austrians are a Eurasian Germanic people. Alternate names for this people group include Bavarian Austrian German, Standard. Their primary language is German. 90% of Austrians claim Christianity as their primary religion. 79.5% of Christians are Roman Catholic, .5% Protestant, and 20% are other Christians. 10% are non-religious

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Bosniak (21,000)

The Bosniak, or Bosnian people living in Hungary, who are originally from Bosnia, formerly a part of Yugoslavia, speak primarily Croatian, and are predominately Muslim. Alternate people names are Croatian and Muslmani. They are a Eurasian People of the Southern Slavic people cluster.

The Bosniak are one of the least evangelized peoples of Europe. Their primary language is Serbian. 90% of the population is Muslim, 9.97 % is non-religious and .03% are Christian. The Bosniak Christian population is 1% Protestant and 99% Roman Catholic.

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British (100)

Alternate names for this people group are Anglo-Pakistani, Euronesian, Scottish, White, and Anglophones. They are a Eurasian People of the Anglo Celt people cluster. English is their primary language. The British are 79.5% Christian, 20% Non-religious and .5% other. The British Christians are 30% Anglican, 10% Independent, 20% Protestant, 20% Roman Catholic and 20% other Christian.

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Bulgarian (300)

The Bulgar people are a Southern Slavic Eurasian people. Alternate names include Bogomil, Palityan, Moldovian, and Pomaks. They are 85% Christian and 15% Non-Religious. The Bulgarian Christian population is 90% Orthodox, 1% Roman Catholic and 9% other Christian.

753

Croat (3,982,000)

The Croats are a Eurasian people of a Southern Slavic people cluster who speak Croatian. Their alternate people names include Bosnian, Serbian, and Muslimani. 95.2% Christian, and 4.7% non-religious, .1% other. The Christian Croat population are 97.64% Roman Catholic, .25% Protestant, .11% independent.

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Czech (11,000)

The Czechs are a Western Slavic Eurasian People. The Czech may also be called Bohemian. They are 53.5% Christian, 45% non-religious and 1.5% are listed under other religions. The Christians are 70% Roman Catholic, 1% Independent, 2% Protestant and 27% Other Christian.

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Deaf

325

French (80)

The French, alternately referred to as Franco-Mauritian Mulatto, are a Eurasian people and natively speak the French language. They are 76% Christian and 24% non-religious. The Christians are 79% Roman Catholic, 1% Protestant and 20% Other Christian.

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Friulian (11,000)

The Friulians are an Italian Eurasian people. Alternate names include Priulian. 85% claim Christianity as their religion but of these 94.6% are Roman Catholic, .4% are Protestant, and 5% other Christians. 15% are non-religious.

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German (3,000)

The German people in Hungary are a Eurasian people who speak the German language. Alternate names for this group include Saxon, Volga German, High German, and Transylvanian. They are 78% Protestant Christian adherents, and 1% evangelical.

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Greek (500)

The Greek people are Eurasian people. Alternate names include Dimotiki, Hellenic, Romeos, Greek Cypriot, Romei and Urum. 95% claim Christianity as their primary language. 98% of Christians are Orthodox and 2% are other Christians. 0% are Protestant. 5% are non-religious.

759

Hungarian (17,000)

The Hungarians are a Eurasian people. Alternate names include Magyar, Szekely, and Siculi. They speak the Hungarian language and are 81 % Christian and 19% non-religious. The Christians are 74% Roman Catholic, 1% Independent, 5% Protestant and 20% other Christian.

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Istro-Romanian (600)

The Istro-Romanians are a Romanian Eurasian people. Alternate names include Istriot. 97% are Christian. 50% of the Christians are Orthodox, 48% are Roman Catholic and 2% are other Christians. 0% are Protestant. All Istro-Romanian peoples live within Croatia.

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Italian (8,800)

The Italians are a Eurasian people who speak the Italian language. They are 83% Christian, and 17% non-religious. 80% of the Christians are Roman Catholic, .5% Protestant and 19.5% Other Christian.

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Jew, Serbian Speaking (500).

85% of Serbian speaking Jews are ethnically religious. 14% are non-religious and 1% are Christian. 50% of these are Protestant and the other 50% are Roman Catholic.

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Macedonian (3,600)

The Macedonians are a Southern Slavic Eurasian people. 70% are Christian, 30% are Non-religious. 90% of the Christians are Orthodox, 10% are other Christians and 0% are Protestant.

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Montenegrin (5,100)

The Montenegrins are a Southern Slavic Eurasian people. Their primary language is Serbian. 70% are Christians, 30% are Non-religious. 90% of the Montenegrin Christians are Orthodox, 10% are other Christians and 0% are Protestant.

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Polish (600)

The Polish, also known as Poles or Silesians, are a Eurasian people of the Western Slavic people cluster. Their primary language is Polish. They are 87% Christian and 13% non-religious. The Christians are 98.8% Roman Catholic, .2% Protestant and 1% Other Christian.

754

Roma Gypsy

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Romani, Balkan (4,600)

The Romani, Balkan people are a Gypsy South Asian people group. Alternate names for this people group are Arliski, Jerides, Zargari, Dzambazi, and Kochi/Kuchi. 70% are Christians, 20% are Muslim and 10% are non-religious. 2% of the Christians are Independent, 2% are Protestant, 76% are Roman Catholic and 20% are Other Christian. It is said that these people are still subjects of racial discrimination in the European countries in which they live.

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Romani, Sinte (8,100)

The Romani, Sinte people are a Gypsy South Asian people. Alternate names for this people group include Croatian Gypsy, Kazakhstani Gypsy, Manush, Rom, Romani-sinte, Sasitka, Sinte, South German Sinte, Croatian Gypsy, Manuche, Mush Gypsy, Romani, Romane Gypsy, Sasitka Roma, Sinte Gypsy and South German Romany. Their primary language is Romani, Sinte. 70% are Christian, 25% non-religious, 5% Muslim. 2% of the Christians are Independent, 2% Protestant, 91% Roman Catholic and 5% other Christian.

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Romani—Vlax (91,000)

Gypsies, often called Romani or Domari, are made up of two separate groups: the Ghorbati and the Nawari, originating from India. They speak the Vlax Romani. Alternate people names include Arhagar, Baltic Gypsy, Cingane, Gitano, Gypsy, Kalderash, Lovar, Lowara, Norwegian Gypsy, Cale, and Colombian Gypsy. The Romani are 70% Christian adherents. They do not have the complete Bible translated into their language.

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Romanian (500)

The Romanian are a Eurasian people, who speak Romanian and are 84% Christian adherents and 12.50% evangelical. Alternate names include Bacs-Kiskun, Bekescsaba, Hajdu-Bihar, Jasz-Nagykun-Szolnok, Bekes, Csongrad, and Hodmezovasarhely.

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Russian (900)

The Russians, also known as Eluosi, Olossu, and Russ, are a Eurasian people, of an Eastern Slavic people group. They speak Russian and are 31% Christian adherents.

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Ruthene (2,400)

The Ruthene people are a Eurasian originated Gypsy people. Alternate names include Balkan Gypsies, Hungarian Gypsies, Jerides, Rusin, and Ruthenian. They are Eastern Slavic, and primarily speak Ruysn. They also speak Romani and Balkan Zargari. They are 91% Christian, and 9% non-religious. The Christians are 15% Orthodox, 70% Roman Catholic and 15% Other Christian. They do not have a Bible in their language.

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Serb (207,000)

The Serbs are of Eurasian descent, and of the Southern Slavic people cluster. Alternate names include Bosnian, Continental Croat, Croatian, Muslimani, and Serbian. They are 93% Christian, 2% Muslim and 5% non-religious. The Christians are 90% Orthodox, .4% Independent and .10% Protestant, and .5% Roman Catholic and 9% other Christian.

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Slovak (5,000)

The Slovak people, with alternate names being Rusyn, and Ruthenian, are a Eurasian people, of the Western Slavic people cluster. They speak Slovak and are 85% Christian, and 15% non-religious. The Christians are 15% Independent, 45% Protestant and 40% Roman Catholic.

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Slovene, Prekmurian (14,000)

The Prekmurian Slovenes are a Southern Slavic Eurasian people. They speak Slovenian and are 95% Christian, and 5% non-religious. The Christians are 95.9% Roman Catholic, .1% Protestant and 4% other Christian.

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Turkish (300)

The primary religion of this people group is Islam and their primary language is Turkish. They are 100% Muslim.

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Ukrainian (2,000)

The Ukrainians, also known as “Russian Speaking”, are an Eastern Slavic Eurasian people. They are actually the second largest ethnic group from the former Soviet Union. Their historic ties to Poland and Cossack tradition contribute to their colorful folk heritage. They primarily speak Ukrainian and, 70% and 30% non-religious. The Christians are 40% Roman Catholic, 40% Orthodox and 18% Other Christian.

[www.peoplegroups.org](http://www.peoplegroups.org)

[www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)

### **Missiological Implications**

1. Evangelical Christians and Churches should recognize the problems stemming from Croatia’s long history of the inclusion and exclusion of the Church, often on the basis of political motivations. The church has been involved in power struggles which have hurt the needs of the common man.
2. Evangelical Christians and Churches should recognize that while many people in Croatia are culturally Catholic, they live out this Catholicism in folk form, including Mary adoration. The rise of church attendance during the tumultuous 1990’s gives evidence to the people recognizing their need for spiritual fulfillment. The later drop could indicate that the church was not meeting this need. However, the evangelical church has still seen recent growth.
3. Evangelicals should recognize the cultural diversity of the peoples of Croatia and designed strategies first for reaching the lost in the communities on terms patterned for their particular cultures but also with a view to reconciliation between peoples in time.. Some racial problems that have brought genocide and ethnic cleansing at their worst and often prejudice and misunderstanding at their best. Religions are often connected to an ethnic group as well; however, evangelical Christianity is rising in Croatia as a multi-ethnic community of worshippers.
4. Evangelical should contribute to leadership training. The Evangelical Theological Seminary in Osjek has contributed. Evangelicals could work with and through this institution. Training by extension could also be helpful.

5. Evangelical should introduce training in methods of sharing the Gospel with Roman Catholics in Croatia, many of whom follow only a ritualistic form of Catholicism. The materials and training in their use could lead to great harvest in Croatia.

Other important issues for church planters are

#### LINKS

[www.croatiaemb.org](http://www.croatiaemb.org)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Croatia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Croatia)

[http://www.hrwf.net/html/croatia\\_2003.html](http://www.hrwf.net/html/croatia_2003.html)

<http://www.cia.gov>

[Http://www.icbl.org/problem/country/croatia](http://www.icbl.org/problem/country/croatia)