

Serbia

Serbia is a Balkan country with the population of ten million people, mostly Serbs with Muslim, Hungarian and Albanian minorities. Serbian territory was known as Ilyria when Romans conquered it in the second century BC. It became a part of Byzantine Empire in the fourth century AD.

Stefan Nemanjic united Serbs and expanded Serb territory in 12th century. Stefan's son Savo was crowned as the first Serb king in 1217.

Turkish Ottoman's Empire pushed into Europe and Turks invaded Serbia in 14th century. They remained there until in 19th century when Principality of Serbia was granted international recognition. The Kingdom of Serbia was proclaimed in 1882. The parliamentary democracy began under king Petar.

Turkish domination of Europe ended in 1913 and the Balkan states were created.

The assassination of Austrian prince Ferdinand was used as pretext for the Austrian attack on Serbia which marked the beginning of WWI and the downfall of Austria- Hungarian and Ottoman empires.

Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia united and proclaimed a kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians. Croats were never happy in this union. To stop their rebelling, king Aleksander banned national political parties and renamed the country Yugoslavia.

A Croatian separatist assassinated King Aleksander. Pavelic, the leader of Croatian separatist movement, organised Ustashi, a Nazi like group and signed a pact with Hitler. Croatia became Hitler's puppet state. They established extermination camps in which they killed hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Jews and gypsies.

Serbs were fighting Hitler under many different leaders.

In 1943 Tito became the president of Yugoslavia, a federation of six republics and two autonomous territories. In 1963 Tito granted nationality status to Bosnians and Muslims.

In 1991 and 1993 all but two republics seceded from Yugoslavia. Only Montenegro and Serbia remained in Yugoslavia in 2002 but even Montenegro became independent in 2006.

Peter Savic

I was born in a Bosnian village in Maj 1952. My parents were subsistent farmers. I came to Australia in March 1983 and to Lightning Ridge in 1990.

Bosnia is a mini Yugoslavia with a mixture of ethnic and religious groups. Bosnia is known as a synonym for conflict. About half of Bosnian population are Serbs. I am a Serb. My parents are Serbs and their known ancestors come from Montenegro.

Serbs are first identified in Krishna's writings as Sorbi, which means countrymen. Many historians say that we are the descendants of Wends, which were the original inhabitants of Europe. Most Serbs belong to Serb orthodox religion. They follow Julian calendar, which brings Christmas thirteen days later than Gregorian or Catholic calendar.

Balkan Slavs intermarried and in the past lived without ethnic animosity or religious hatred but the Second World War created lasting conflicts and hatred.

Croatian, Pavelic, organised the Croatian Nazi like group Ustasha which made a pact with Hitler so Germans granted Croatia independence. Croatians were given Serb land for their cooperation but in return they had to help Germans kill Serbs and Jews.

Mihajlovic organised Cetnics, the national army to fight Hitler. The communist star first appeared in 1942. Serbs had to choose to go either with communists under Tito or with Cetnics.

The families were split and forced to fight on the opposite sides. People did not know who to trust. They were terrified.

Partisans provoked Germans so people would join the communist revolution. Germans retaliated against Serb civilians. Thousands of Serbs died because partisans killed a few Germans. Communists did not care about the Serb nation; their aim was power after the war. Serbs were split into many groups but they mostly killed each other.

Communists took my grandfather's oxen. They promised my grandfather that they would return his oxen if his son, my father, joined partisans. That's how my father became a partisan for a year. He saw that partisans killed Cetniks, their own people, led by Mihajlovic. My father refused to kill other Serbs. He escaped to Cetniks.

Tito was helped by allied powers and he became a leader of the communist Yugoslavia of five nations and six republics. The sixth republic was Bosnia with the ethnic-religious mixture.

People suffered in silence. Communists ordered them to forget their nationality and God and became a new nation of atheist Yugoslavs. Tito wanted to rule in peace so he enforced peace.

Much has changed on the Balkan since I was born in 1952. From my early childhood I remember the fear and the whispering of older people. They did not even notice me but I remember their words. They wondered who was behind their troubles; who caused their poverty and suffering. I would hide behind doors and listen to every word they said. I tried to find the meaning for the words I never heard before. I sensed that what people were saying secretly to their relations and friends was more important than what was spoken about openly.

Our elders talked about the world powers manipulating the Balkan nations one against the other.

I lived at home until I finished primary school. I went to Banja Luka and finished my apprenticeship as a fitter and turner.

I began looking for answers. Why are my people afraid and confused? Who is hiding behind the events that made people kill each other? Why are some people rich beyond imagination while others suffer in poverty? Why some people have all the power and others are powerless. Why does the west consider our people less intelligent and important? Why do they insist on making decisions on our behalf? I became interested in politics and philosophy and sociology. I wanted to help make a better society.

At school I learned that Tito is our best teacher and leader. We were known as a Cetnik family so we were to be especially careful in Tito's Yugoslavia. I wanted to find out who was Tito and who made him Tito. My grandfather listened to Tito's speech on the radio and concluded that Tito was a Polish Jew.

He doesn't speak Serb or Croatian language, said my grandfather.

I was about eight when I ran home to tell mum that I was chosen to participate in a nationwide relay for Tito's birthday. I was so proud to be one of the five children chosen from our school. Mum didn't share my enthusiasm. So they got you, she muttered.

Is that what I deserve, said my uncle.

Yugoslavia began with three nations: Slovenians, Croats and Serbs. Later Macedonia and Montenegro were annexed. Montenegro people are Serbs; Macedonians are a mixture of Serbs and Albanians. Bosnians identified themselves as either Serbs or Croats. In 1963 Tito complicated things even further when he created two new nationalities: Bosnians and Muslims. Tito declared Muslims of Bosnia an official nationality and so isolated and united people of the same religion rather than nationality.

During the centuries of Turkish occupation many Serbs and Croats were forced to accept Muslim religion and that's how Muslims came to be in Bosnia.

I came to the conclusion that there must be an international interest to keep the Balkan nations fighting.

At the age of nineteen I began working in Slovenia.

A year later I went to Iraq to work as a mechanic. Many Europeans worked in Iraq.

From Iraq I went to Kosovo. We laid pipes for the water supply but Kosovo Muslims destroyed what we built. They were attacking Serbs and the army had to look after us. Kosovo is a predominantly Muslim region of Serbia. Soon Kosovars began to demand independence. I returned to Iraq. Why did I have to escape from my own country and go to Iraq?

When Tito died he left a legacy that for the next thirty years Yugoslav nations have to rotate the presidency so every three years a different nation led Yugoslavia. Tito did not want his personality cult to be diminished by another central leader.

That created further conflicts and jealousies.

Serb leader Milosevic emerged. Milosevic wanted to keep Yugoslavia together. He retaliated against Muslim Kosovo separatists. He wanted to protect Serbs living and working in Kosovo. Milosevic was a Serb patriot who did not follow the directions of the New World Order.

Serb president, Kostunica, is also a patriot but he is under orders of the multinational New World Order.

America bombed Serbia for fighting Muslim terrorists in Kosovo but now they want the world to join them in their fight against Iraq.

During the cold war America trained Osama Bin Laden to fight Russia, now they want Russia to fight Osama and his terrorists.

Not long ago America armed Iraq to fight Iran now they want to destroy Iraq.

Who is behind the American politicians? Who is in charge of the New World Order? I think we became too lazy and don't ask questions. We just follow.

I read that the world financiers called Illuminati dictate the world politicians. Illuminati is an organisation created in 1776. I believe that Illuminati promoted and led all the world wars ever since. If they need a war they create it. The global economy is in their hands; they have control of the media and of the industry. They have the plan to destroy political and religious authorities so they will be the only authority. They promise to replace old values, attitudes and institutions with new ones based on honesty and effort to make all people

prosperous and happy. Illuminati want people to become confused and scared of confusion so they will look to them for guidelines.

Politicians, religious leaders, teachers and other respected leaders of the society have been accused of crimes. If one priest misbehaves the whole Catholic religion suffers, for one teacher the whole teaching profession is made responsible. Is this how Illuminati plan to destroy the existing authority? Every day they make new laws and rules. People no longer use common sense to make decisions for themselves.

The international convention on the rights of children says that children should not be indoctrinated by their parents. I can not understand why people allow international elite to dictate them how to bring up their young.

I read that Illuminati are the descendants of the Pharisees who were trading in the temple. They are law-makers and money-makers from the times before Christianity. They want to destroy Christianity. They are destroying Christianity.
In the New World money means everything.

My mother's father came to Australia as a war refugee in 1948. My mother and father arrived to Australia in 1970 but they returned to Yugoslavia in 1975. My two sisters remained in Australia. My grandfather lived and died in Brisbane. I came to visit my relations. I like Australia. Life is much easier here than in Serbia especially at present. But my soul is not in Australia; my friends are not here; social events do not exist for me here; there are no traditions, no festivities that would warm my heart. Economically we are well off but spiritually I feel poor.

At home people sing and dance, they walk on the street to meet with friends and relations. They make each other feel alive. In big cities migrants look for people from the same country but in small towns a migrant stands on the edge of life.

In Melbourne I worked mostly with Yugoslavs as an itinerant casual employee. It was easier for me to be among my own people but in the long run I missed out on the opportunity to learn English.

Lightning Ridge was attractive to me specially because there are so many migrants. About one hundred Serb men and about twenty Serb women live in Lightning Ridge. About ten Serbs came to Lightning Ridge during the Balkan war in the 90s. Together we built a club close to the Bore Bath. We brought old Anglican Church on the block and renovated it. This is our little Serbia. I like the Bore Bath. Most Serbs like to soak in the hot water. Someone once wrote on the telephone pole: Tito's Yugoslavs. The person who wrote that didn't realise that we escaped from Tito's Yugoslavia and because of Tito. Western nations always think of Serbs as communists. Our people were afraid to say how they hated communism. And Tito.

I have three daughters. Unfortunately I separated from my family and only see them occasionally. I aim to teach my daughters not to take things at their face value. I would like them to question every decision they make.