


The Balkans

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The Balkans

Why so much fighting?

Warlike people (internal causes)?


Or, the consequence of being stuck between 2 religions/continents/empires (outside pressures)?...

Or.. A little bit of both?



The Question?



- Often times in history, the people of the Balkans are portrayed as war-like and blood thirsty.
- Before WWI, the area was known as ‘the powder keg of Europe’ and the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand is often seen as the trigger that led to WWI....
- But does this even make sense? How could the assassination of one person lead to a World War?
-  More importantly, are the people of the Balkans really incapable of peace?

This is the Balkan region

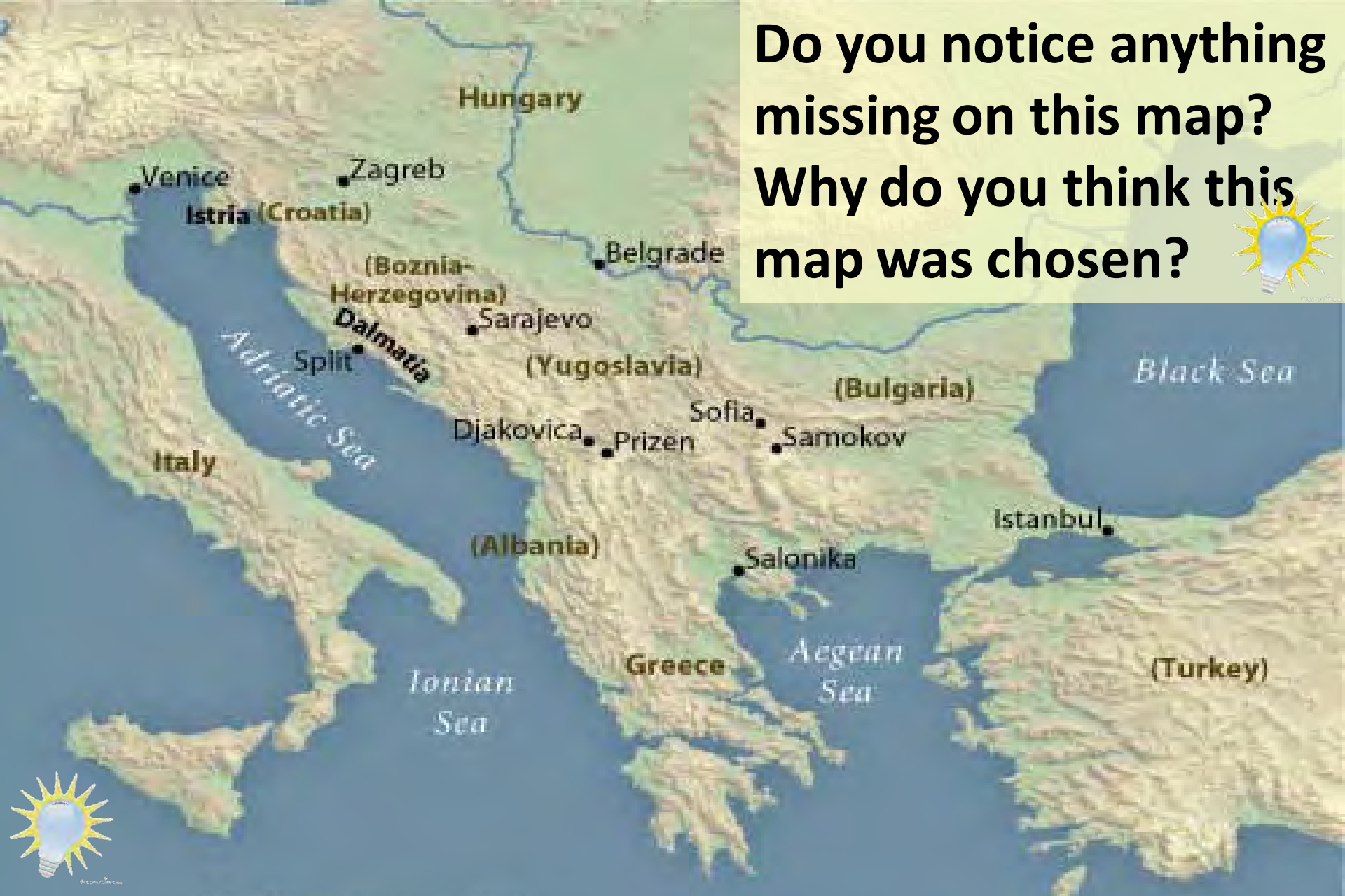


**Notice the inside the
different country names
inside the region**



- Croatia**
- Bosnia-Herzegovina**
- Yugoslavia (now Serbia, Solvenia, and Montnegro)**
- Albania**
- Bulgaria**
- Turkey (European side)**
- Greece**
(historically part of the Venetian Republic)

Do you notice anything missing on this map?
Why do you think this map was chosen?



Keep thinking about this as you learn about the Balkans

Countries we will be focusing on:

- Croatia
- Serbia
- Bosnia-Herzegovina



Skulls recovered from the Srebrenica massacre

- These were countries that brutally fought one another during the break-up of Yugoslavia committing ethnic cleansing/genocide (as recently as the 1990s!)
- Are these just hateful people bent on bloodshed?
- Why did such atrocities occur?



Your Goal:

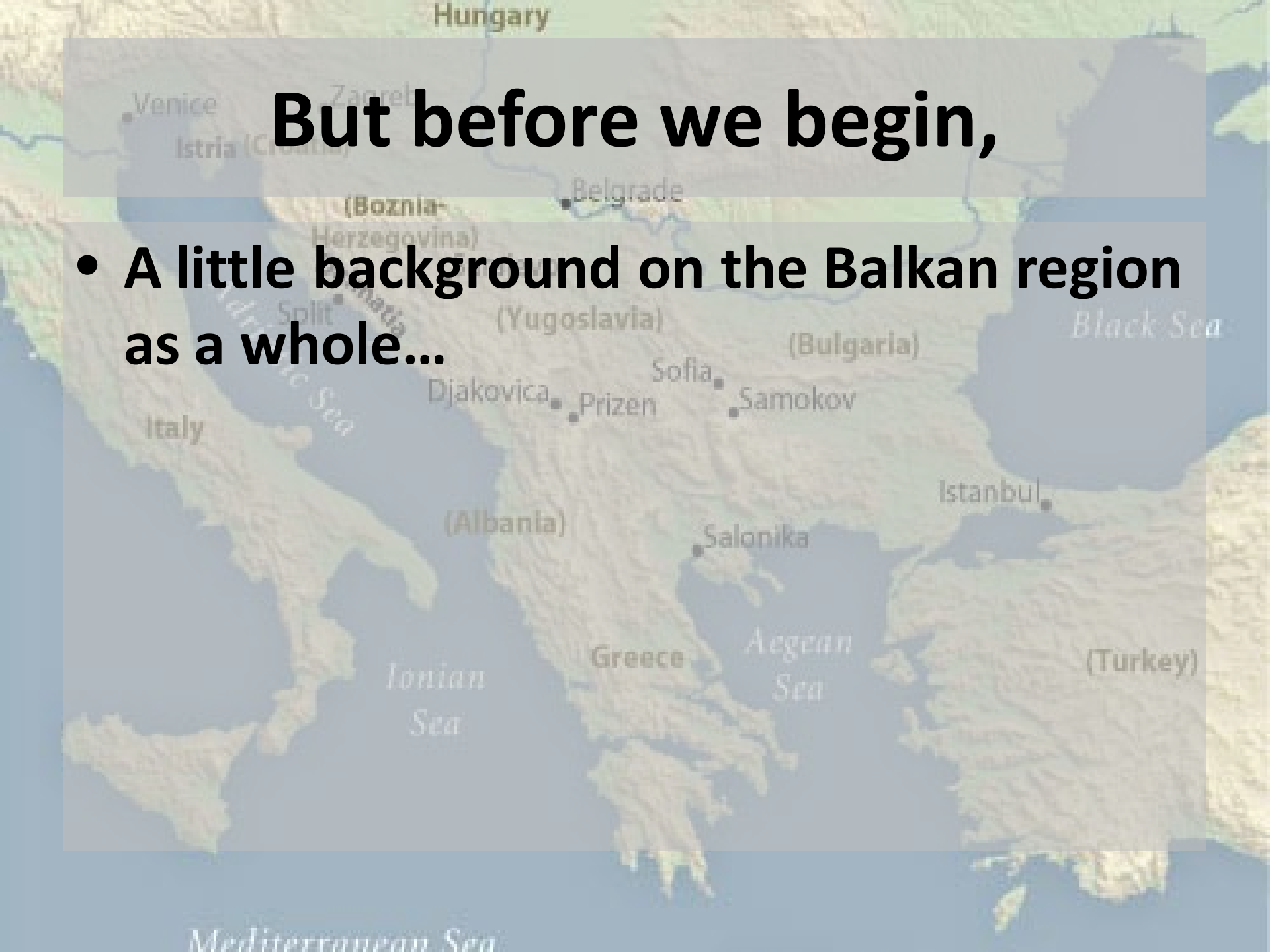
- Your goal is to understand the perspective of each group and not make judgments on who is ‘the bad guy’ and the ‘good guy’ until the end
- after all, in history, there are few absolute black and whites and heroes vs. villains situations
- Usually, it’s a just a matter of different perspectives
- Also, most importantly, I want you to think about the concept of ‘otherness’ and what are some of the consequences of looking at people as “others” (focusing on how “they” are different than “us”)

A little advice about how to look at history fairly

- In the famous words of Billy Dean (& yes, he is before your time!)
“There ain't no good guys, there ain't no bad guys. There's only you and me and we just disagree.”
- If you can keep this in mind, it will help you to look multiple sides in history and gain understanding instead of making biased judgments
- Also, remember, rarely are extreme answers or interpretations of history correct, most answers lie somewhere in the middle (and most ‘effects’ have more than one cause)

But before we begin,

- A little background on the Balkan region as a whole...

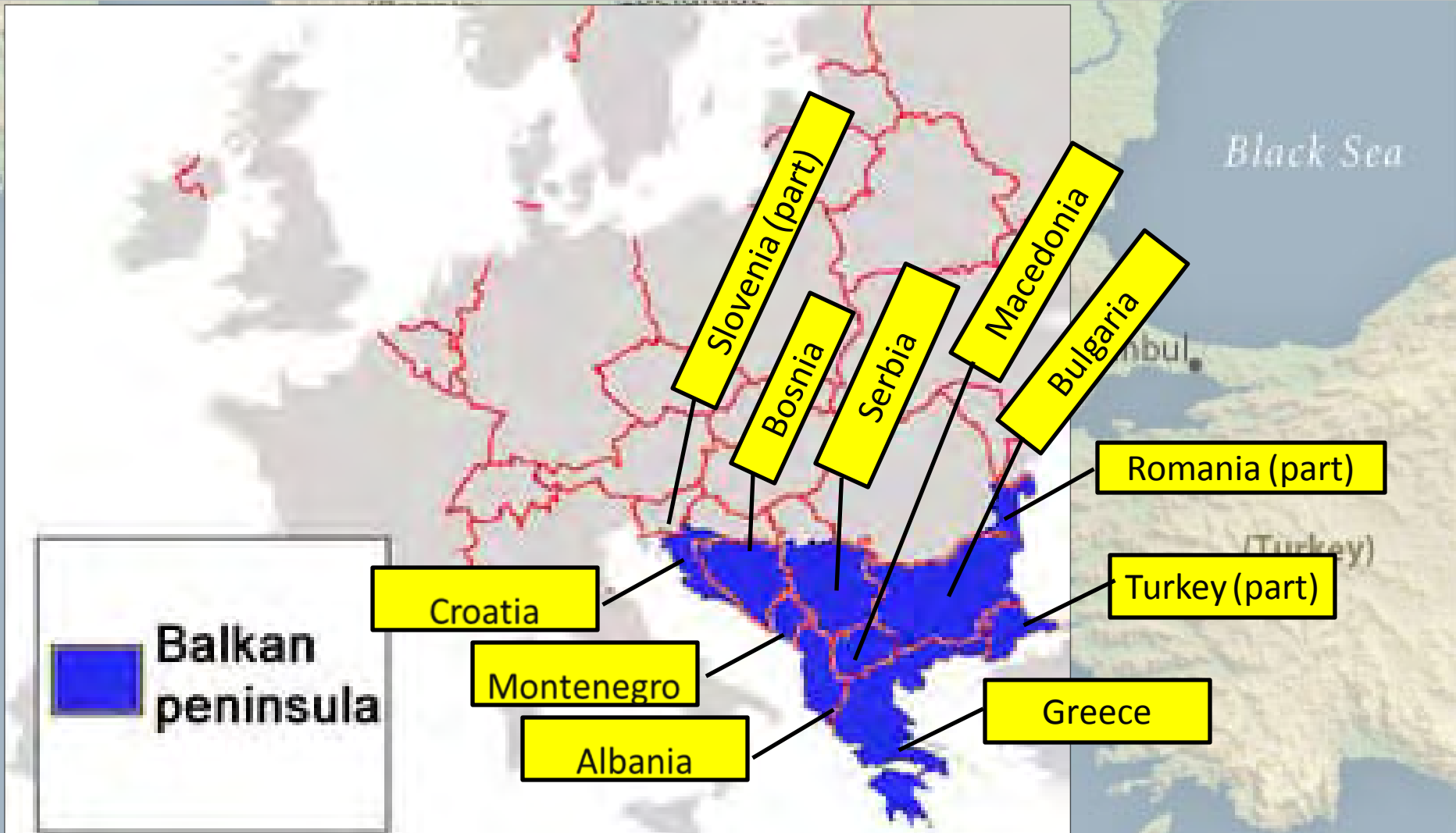


The Balkan Peninsula

- "*Balkan*" comes from a Turkish word meaning "a chain of wooded mountains".
- The Balkan Peninsula may be defined as an area of southeastern Europe surrounded by water on three sides: the Adriatic Sea to the west, the Mediterranean Sea (including the Ionian and Aegean seas) to the south and the Black Sea to the east. Its northern boundary is often given as the Danube, Sava and Kupa/Kolpa rivers.



The Balkan Peninsula, as defined by the Danube-Sava-Kupa line (northern boundary)



The Official definition of the Balkan region

- The term "The Balkans" covers not only those countries which lie within the boundaries of the "Balkan Peninsula", but may also include Slovenia, and Romania.
- Slovenia, which was part of Yugoslavia from 1919 to 1991, lies partially north of the Danube-Sava line and therefore outside the Peninsula, but prior to 1991 the whole of Yugoslavia was considered to be part of the Balkans.
- The father of the term "The Balkans" August Zeune defined it in 1808 to describe areas that remained under Turkish rule after 1699.

In most of the English-speaking world, the countries commonly included in the Balkan region are:

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Greece
- Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Serbia

Other countries sometimes included are:

- Moldova
- Romania
- Slovenia
- Turkey

Prepare for a close look





1

Black Sea

(Turkey)

2



3



Black Sea

(Turkey)



The orogenic belt (shaded) is a geotectonic boundary separating the Alps from the Great Caucasus. Alternative historical or cultural borders are marked with dashed lines.

Notice how mountainous the region

is



The Balkan Landscape

How do you think this affects the people living here?
Keep in mind even modern day bus travel on some of these mountain passes can be quite perilous.



The Effect of the landscape

- People tend to stay isolated in their villages; inhibits cultural exchange and leads to many different ethnicities within a small area
- Very different cultures can develop from one village from the next, even though they might only be 20 miles apart because (makes difference and division more likely than unity)
- Also, keep in mind how difficult it would be to truly fight and conquer such an area

Another effect of Balkan geography

- **Resources & Trade Routes**

- **Resources:**

- Croatia: ports and access to the Adriatic
 - Bosnia: natural resources (silver, gold, copper)


- **Trade Routes:**

- Crucial geographic location
 - Remember, travel over land was slow, hard and dangerous before RxRs and airplanes (W)

- **This means that people and empires are always going to be competing for control of such vital areas**

In between: Medieval Trade Routes



 Medieval Trade Networks. Italian, Flemish, and German merchants tied northern and southern Europe to the eastern Mediterranean and beyond through networks of trade routes and markets that crossed religious, cultural, and political boundaries.

A Close Up...



Red: land routes

Green: water Routes

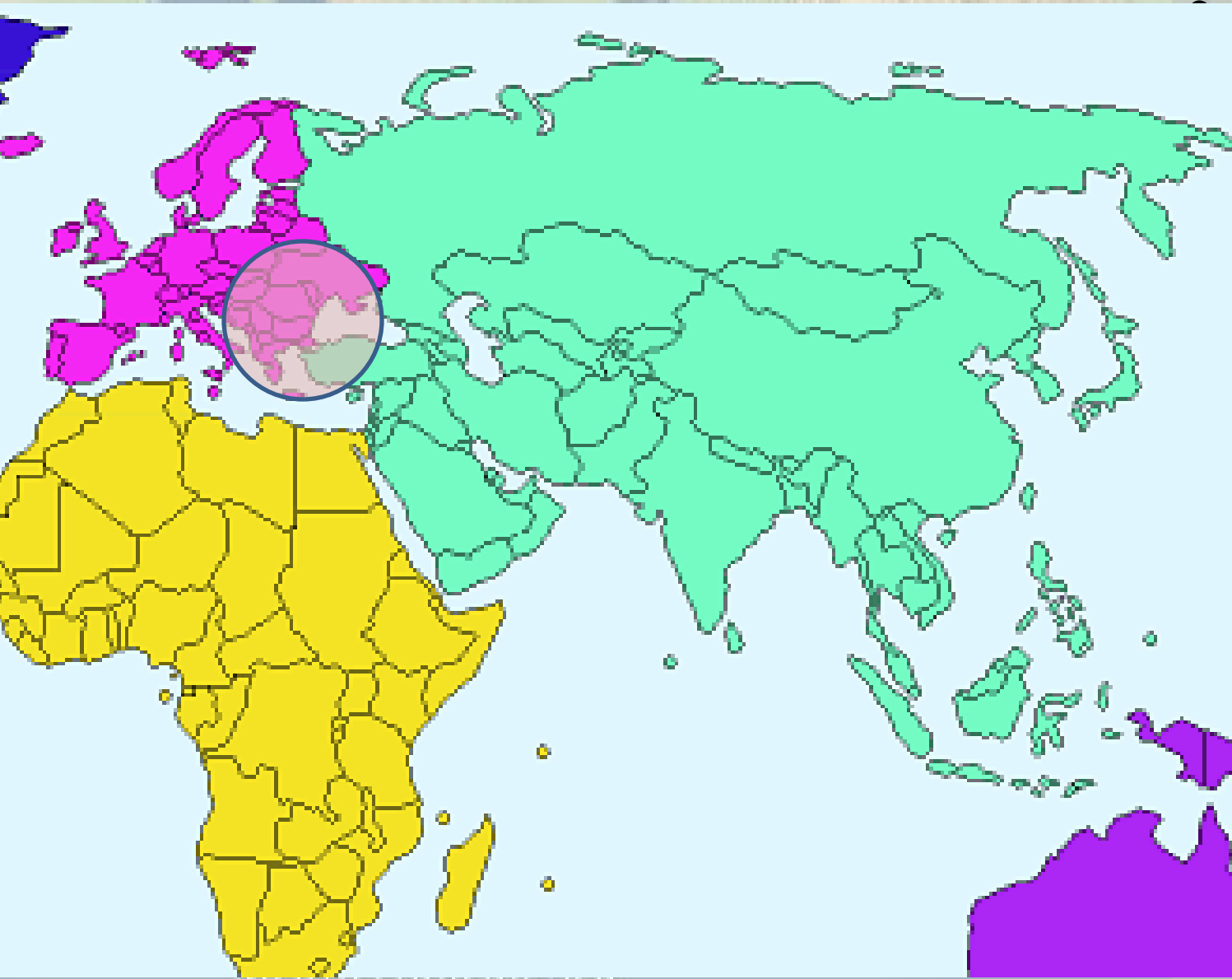
Black: Marco Polo's Route



The Balkans' precarious position: The land 'in between'

- Often in the crossroads of...
 - East and Western Cultures
 - Roman Catholic and Byzantine Church
 - Christianity and Islam
- Causes the assimilation of and sometimes the clash of these different cultures and religion
-  **?: Which is greater, the clash or the assimilation of these different cultures?**
- Often these differences were used against the people living in the region by internal and external forces to gain control
-  **?: Do you think internal or external forces are responsible for the conflict in the region?**

In between: East and West



The Balkans are in the middle of Eastern and Western culture... leads to both assimilation & clashes in the area

In between: religions

- Christianity (West) and Islam (East)
- Even between Christianity and Christianity! (clashes between Roman Catholic & Eastern Orthodox)

Roman Catholic & Byzantine Empires



The Balkans...
in the Middle!
Both of these sects will fight for
religious dominance in this area

Western Empire
Eastern Empire

Clash of Christianity...due to the split of the Roman Empire

- Occurs before the Ottomans
- The Balkans are contested ground between
 - the Roman Catholics (Latin speaking empire based out of Rome)
 - and
 - the Orthodox Christians (often conflicts arising between the Greek centered church and local patriarchs, empire based out of Constantinople)

A map of the Balkans and surrounding regions, including Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Macedonia. The map shows the River Drina and the Mediterranean Sea. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box.

The language and power split of the Roman Empire

- The Roman Empire was split by Theodosius at the Council of Nicaea in 325. The division, running basically south along the River Drina, divided the empire into of Latin speaking West (which included Croatia and Western Bosnia) and Greek speaking east (Serbia and Macedonia). Although this division was created before the pagan Slavs even migrated to the region, the division stuck

The language dividing line



In between: languages

- -The final/official break between the churches did not happen until 1054 when the West would be ruled by Rome and the East was to be ruled by Constantinople
- But, in the late 8th century monks Cyril and Methodius developed the Slavic script that later became Cyrillic (which is another factor that is defining to the Serbs apart from their Muslim and Catholic neighbors)
- All of this added to the complexity of even the language basis the Balkans

In between: Empires

- Roman and Greek Worlds
- Byzantine Empire and the Ottoman Empire
- Austro-Hungarian (Hapsburg) Empire and Ottoman Empire
- The Balkans will often be used as a buffer zone between various empires
- And much of the Balkans is fought and frequently change sides/ruling power because it is on the border of these empires

Watch the Byzantine empire grow and shrink

- http://sadreearth.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/Byzantine_Empire_animated.gif
- Note the start of the cycle is 550 (to give you frame of reference, the first slide shows the Western, Catholic part of the Roman empire in green)
- The Byzantine empire shrinks and expands due to power struggles and conflicts not only from the Ottoman Empire but the Roman Catholics and native power struggles as well
- Notice how the Balkans are affected as well

Byzantine/Orthodox empire vs. Ottoman/Islamic



- Notice how big the Islamic world is becoming
- So when the Ottomans (Muslim) start taking over the Byzantine empire, how important do you think it becomes for the Christians to hold on to the Balkans

Pressure to hold on Balkan land

- Notice how big the Islamic world is becoming
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The last line of Defense



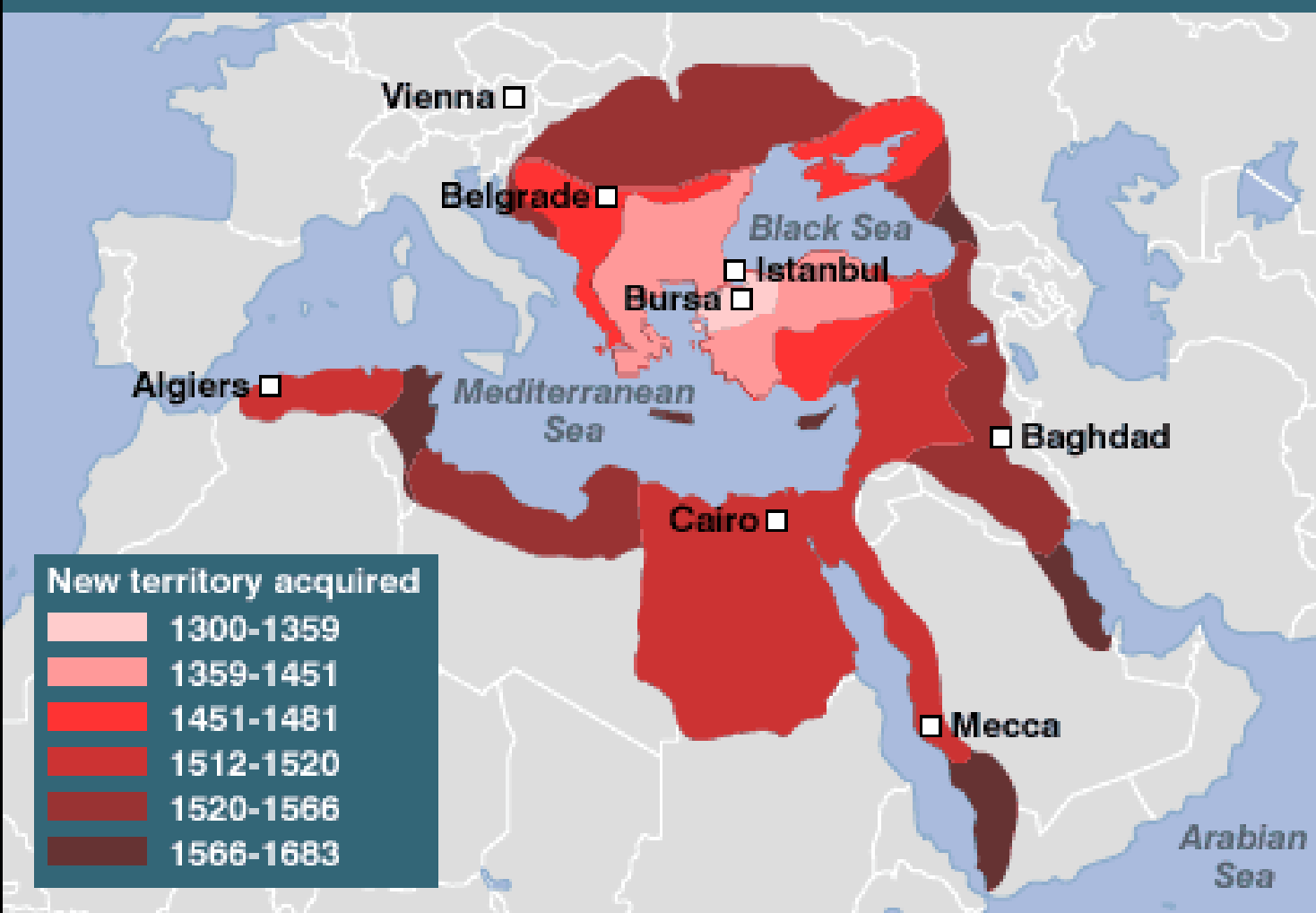
- The Byzantine empire and especially the Balkans become the last line of defense to stop the reset of Europe from becoming Muslims (at least that is how many Christians at the time viewed it)

Pressure to Conquer Balkan land

- The Balkans become the western most limits for the Islamic Ottoman empire
- They become the barricade stopping Ottoman expansion
- So, for the Ottomans it becomes equally important to conquer the Balkans if they wish to continue to grow their empire

The Expansion of the Ottoman Empire

THE GROWTH OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

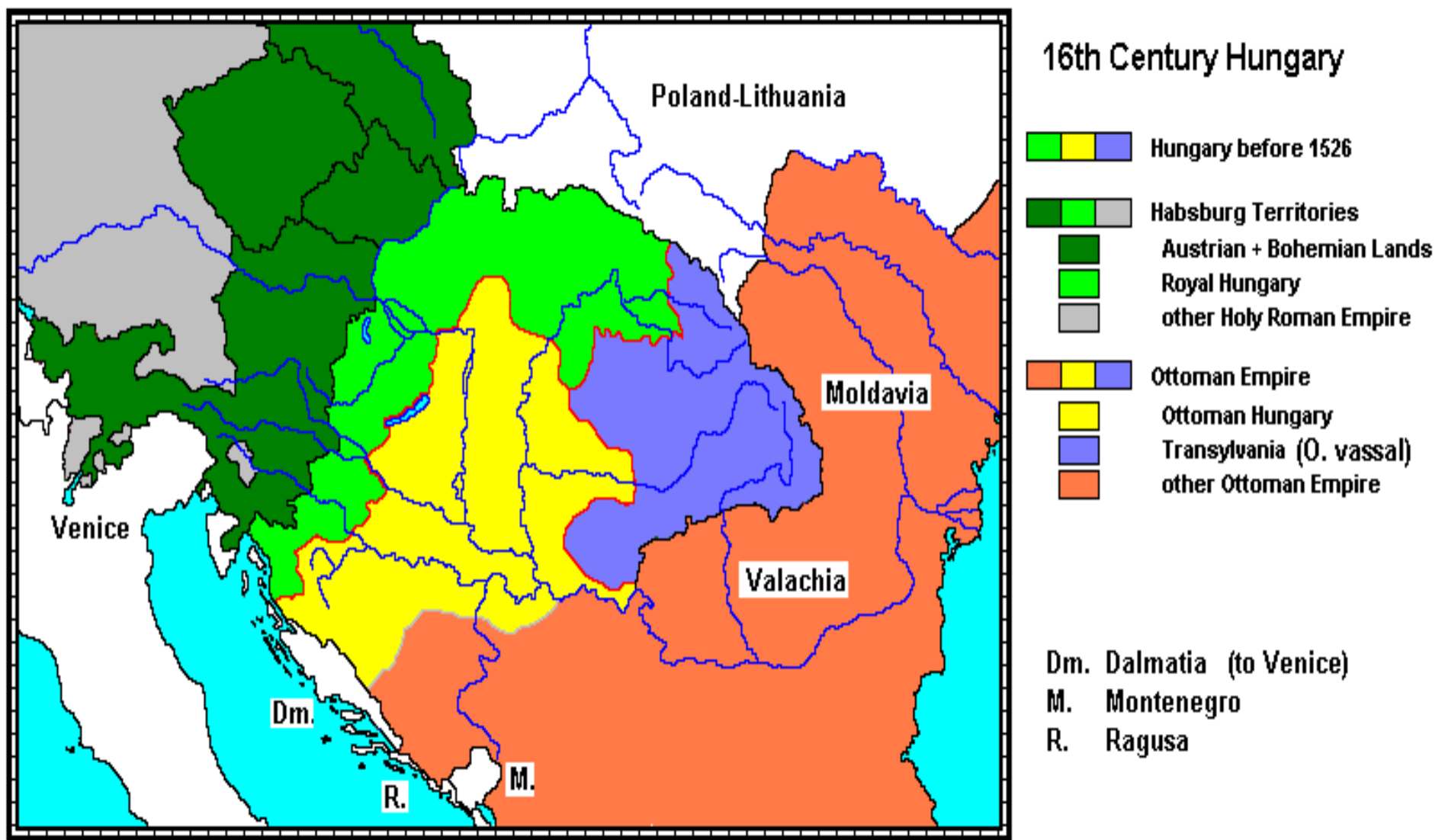


Once the Ottomans conquer the Byzantines and much of the Balkans, contended border shifts north and West to the Austro-Hungarian /Hapsburg Empire

The Ottoman/Hapsburg border...

- Notice where this border is & who is still in the middle?






- Notice that some regions/ethnicities (like Hungarians) is literally divided between the 2 empires

Ethnicities

- In fact, because empires were defined by the powerful noble families that ruled them. They were not united by the same things that unite countries today (common culture, language, ethnicity, history and or religion)
- This means that often many different people (language, religion, ethnicity and culture) often live under the same empirical power. To say the least, often what worked for one group in the empire didn't work or was in direct opposition to other groups in the empire
- Later, these differences along with the growth of Nationalism will inspire the people of the Balkans to push even harder for self determination (and will be one cause of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and WWI)
- More on this in a minute

So to recap...

- **The Balkans is a land in between:**
- **East & West**
- **Religions**
 - Roman Catholic and Orthodox
 - Christianity and Islam
- **Empires**
 - Roman and Byzantine
- **Trade**
- **Language**

A map of the Balkans region, showing countries like Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, and Turkey. Major cities like Zagreb, Belgrade, Sarajevo, Split, Djakovica, Prizren, Samokov, Salonika, and Istanbul are marked. The Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea are also labeled. The map is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue rectangle containing text.

People and history ARE highly affected by their environment!*

- **Because of their ‘in between’ status, the people and lands of the Balkans will continually shift hands of power**
- **Although people have long been trying to adapt their environment instead of letting their environment adapt them (humans are the only species that does this) it cannot be denied that even today people are affected by their physical/geographic environments*

Basic Outline of History of the Balkans

- Illyrians
- Roman trade and introduction of Christianity (Orthodox and Catholic)
- Enter the Slavs (pagan)
 - Independent 'kingdoms' grow
- Enter the Ottomans
 - Battle of Kosovo
- Competition between Empires
 - Byzantine and Hapsburg vs. the Ottoman
 - local powers trying to gain their freedom from larger empires
- Decline & Fall of the Ottomans
 - Threatens to leave a power vacuum in the Balkans
 - Everyone try to grab for themselves (including the people who actually lived there) while trying to keep others from taking to much
 - Start of WWI begins in the Balkan (Sarajevo)
- 1st Yugoslavia is created after the fall of Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires
- WWII
 - Nazi's influence Croatia
- Creating of Tito's Yugoslavia
- Tito's Death and the break up of Yugoslavia
 - Wars and bloodshed as the people of the Balkans fight for their own independent countries

A couple of important facts about the Balkans before we commence with the history

- Religion
- Ethnicity



Establishment of a multi-religious region early in history

- The Balkans has always been at the crossroads of cultures and religions
- -Illyrians, Greeks and Romans inhabited the area before the arrival of the Pagan Slavs (who arrived from the North) in the 7th century
- -Roman Catholicism was first brought to the western part of the region by Charlemagne and later reinforced by the Austrian Hapsburgs
- -Eastern Orthodoxy was brought to the east from the Byzantine Empire
- -Islam introduced to the south by the Ottomans
- *remember the geography these people lived next to each other but were also isolated from one another

The Division begins

- -Balkans were deeply affected by 2 major religious events:
- **1-the split of the Roman Empire in the 4th century AD** (West=Roman Catholic...based out of Rome, East=Eastern Orthodox based out of Byzantium/Constantinople, which would later become Istanbul when taken over by the Ottoman Turks)
- **2-invasion of the Islamic Ottomans, signified w/ the Battle of Kosvo (1389)**...led to 5 centuries of Islamic Ottoman influence in Bosnia-Herzegovina & Serbia
- -This further divided the Balkans into a Christian north (west=Catholic, east =Orthodox) and Muslim South
- But still, these different groups often lived peacefully together, much of the time

A Note About Ethnicity in the Balkans

- -Ethnicity is confusing in the Balkans because racially, most people of the region are descended from the Southern Slavs and essentially speak a similar language
- -Ethnicity in the Balkans is determined by religion
- this was established by the millet system during the Ottoman rule of the Balkans
- The Millet system tolerated people of others faiths and allowed them to maintain some amount of autonomy under the Ottomans (very progressive and tolerant for the time period)
- This system also allowed differences to exist instead of forcing conformity and unity which is part of the reason the Balkans have so much religious diversity
 - (what are the positives & negatives of this?)
- But, millets had to pay higher taxes, so people got used to being identified by what religion they were

The Ethnicities

- **-Croat**: a Southern Slav that is Roman Catholic (from the Adriatic coastal region)
- **-Slovene**: a Southern Slav that is Roman Catholic (from west of the Dinaric Mountains)
- **-Serb**: a Southern Slav that is Orthodox (usually from East of the Dinaric Mountains)
- **-Bosniak**: a Southern Slav who's ancestors converted to Islam (living in the Dinaric Mountains)
- Region also includes several non-Slav groups
- **-Hungarians** (in the northern area of Vojvodina)
- **-Albanians** (in the area of Kosvo, descendants of the Illyrians)

Ancient History

- Late 3000 B.C.-1000 B.C. Illyrians, Dacians & Thracians appear in the Balkans
- 9-5th century B.C. (800-400) Rise Greek civilization
- 4th century B.C. (300s) Alexander the Great spreads Greek culture through the empire (Balkans included)
- Under Illyrian Queen Tueta (based out of the present day Montenegrin bay of Kotor), Illyrians attacked and Pillaged Roman merchant ships in the Adriatic
- This gave the Romans the excuse to invade the Balkans (Illyrian Wars of 229 & 219 BC)
- In 180 the Dalmatians (where present day Croatia is located) declared themselves free from the Illyrians
- Rome defeated the last King of Illyria in 168 BC (also defeated Macedonia the same year)
- Roman influence became to take over but failed to dissolve the Greek influence

Fall of the Romans

- Roman influence in the Balkans weakens in the 3rd century due to internal issues (political & economic disorder) and invasions/migrations of 'barbarians' (non-Romans)
- Many of these invaders entered and settled in the Roman Province of Illyricum
- Years later, these non-roman conquered and destroyed much of the Balkan region and used it a gateway for moving westward
- Although many of these invaders did not stay in the region, Illyricum became a land of treaties and complex political maneuvering....hmmm, a pattern?

Illyricum: (included parts of Bosnia, Albania & Croatia)



The rise & split of the Rome Empire & the Christian Church

- Early apostles, such as St. Paul traveled throughout the Balkans spreading Christianity
- In 313, Constantine signed the Edict of Milan which ended Roman persecution of the Christians
- In 325 at the Council of Nicea, Theodosius made Christianity the official religion of the Empire (Thus making it the Holy Roman Empire)
- Due to the size of the Empire and differences in religious practices in the West/Rome and East/Greek/Byzantine, the Roman Empire was split in 2 during the great Schism of 1054 (although differences and conflicts began between the two long before)
- Rome (Pope) is supposed to remain the main spritual leader but Patriachs of the Orthodox church strive for equal/superior status

Holy Roman (Catholic) & Byzantine Empires (Orthodox)

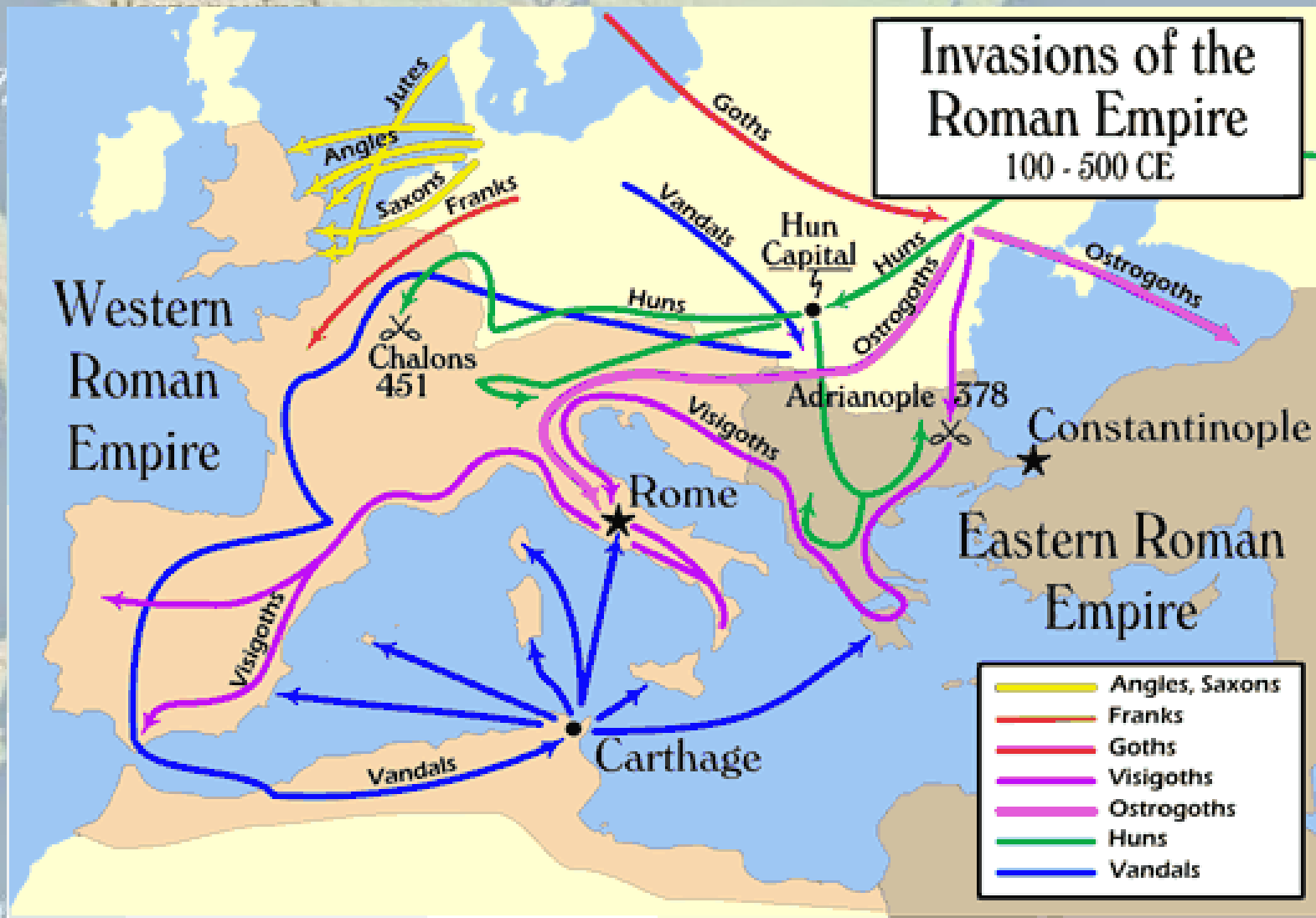


The Balkans in the Middle Ages

- The Byzantine spread Orthodox Christianity to many of the Slavic peoples in the Balkans
- The Byzantines borders were constantly changing and were often involved in conflicts with Arabs, Persians, and Turks in the East but with their Christian neighbors (Bulgarians, Serbs, and Norman Crusaders...sent from Rome)
- The Byzantines and the Balkans also suffered the invasions of the Goths, (pushed by the Huns) Visigoths, and Ostrogoths which led to de-urbanization, abandoned and destroyed roads and villages as native ppl fled to isolated areas in the mountains and forest

Early Germanic Migrations

- asdfa
- sdf



Slavic and later invasions

- The Slavs entered the Balkans in the 7th century
- When the Slavs arrived, they were the first barbarian tribes to actually settle in the area permanently. They assimilated many of the native Balkan people
- Later the Avars (7th century ,Mongol or Turkish origins), Bulgars* (660, from central Asia)and Magyars (10th century would invade the Balkans
- *Bulgars and Slavs will unite to when their freedom and establish the Khanate of Bulgaria in 681 AD

The Slavs

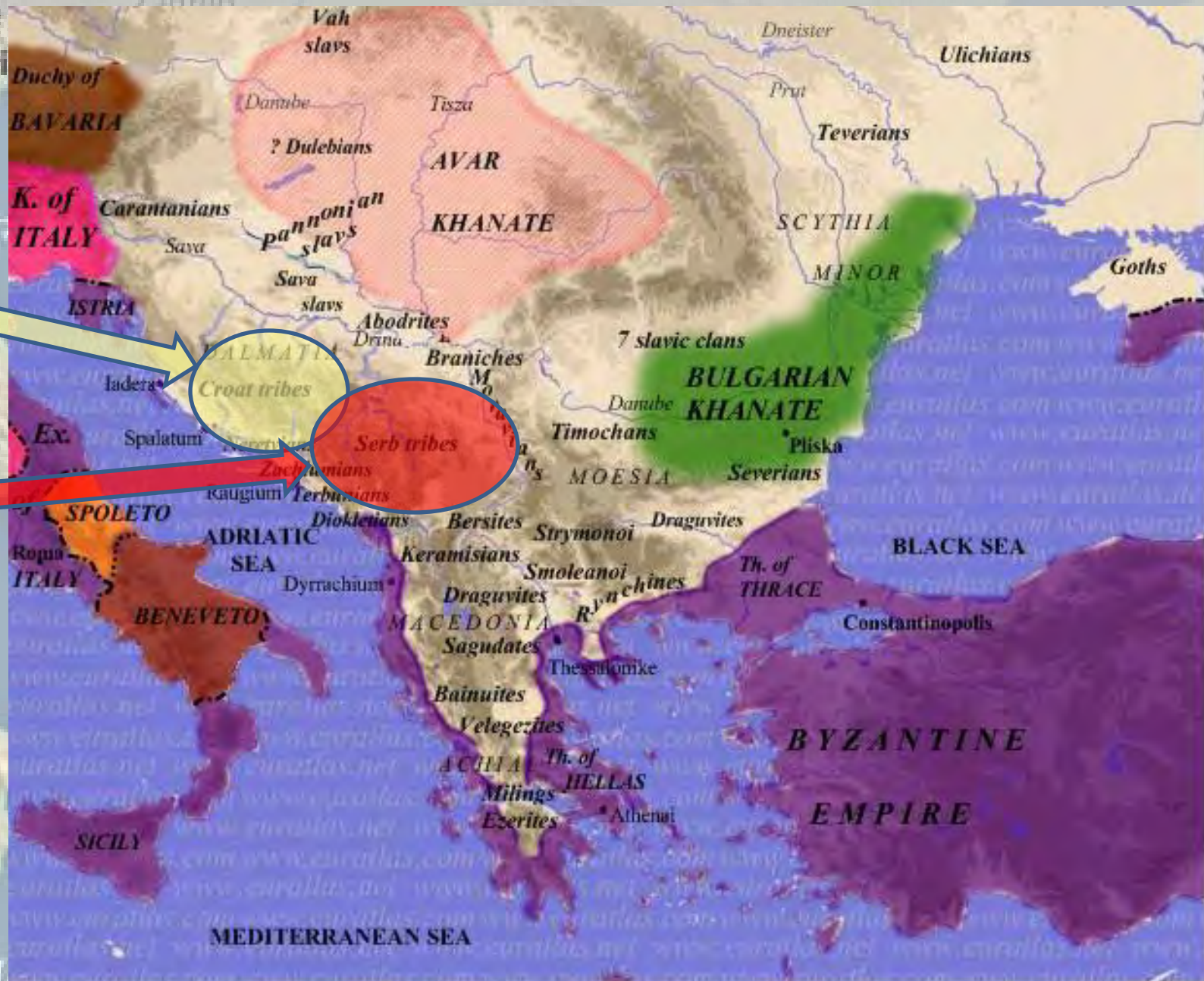
- Most historians and archeologists support the theory that the Slavic homeland originated in areas spanning modern-day southern Poland and Elbe valley in Germany.
- Since antiquity, the Balkans were already occupied by Illyrian tribes in the west and Thracian tribes in the east, many of which were Latinized (especially along the Dalmatian coast) and/or Hellenized (in the south).
- Their numbers were greatly decreased by the previous barbarian incursions. Many fled to mountainous areas or to the refuges of the cities on the Dalmatian coast.

Slavic & other Ethnic regions

-Croats

-Serbs

-Notice how close these groups are to one another



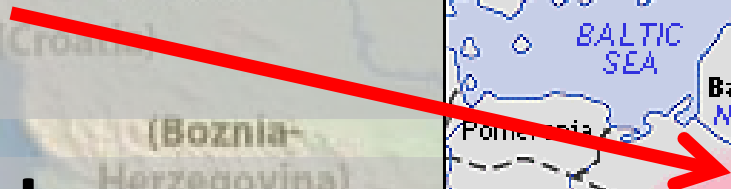
Other Ethnic Groups...Albanian, Vlachs and Croats

- However some retained their own cultures and language:
- scholars theories that the Morlach/Vlach mountain tribes and Albanians are descended from such people.
- The Latinized Illyrians of the Dalmatian coast (Croats) also remained distinct from the Slavs of the hinterland for quite some time, but they too eventually assimilated with the main population.

The Creation of nations and complex politics of intrigue

- These Balkan newcomers (i.e. Slavs, Magyars and Bulgars) est. Kingdoms and Principalities recognized by European powers
- Nevertheless, invasions continued into Europe. Between the years 1000 to 1300 AD, nomadic Turkic peoples from the east entered the fringes of the Balkans.
- They often allied with Byzantium (hired as mercenaries* against the Rus at one time, Bulgars at another), they just as easily would break alliance and attack Byzantium. The situation was similar with their dealings with the Rus to the north.
- These nomadic peoples ceased to exist as a formidable body after the Mongol invasion in the 12th century. Some of the westernmost regions of the Steppe land, i.e. the Moldavia region etc., escaped outright Mongol dominion. Here the people were largely assimilated by the Bulgarian, Hungarian and Romanian populace, adding to the ethnic milieu that is the Balkans.
- *Nomadic cultures tend to lend themselves to mercenary professions because of their developed horsemanship, fighting and raiding abilities (which are often a part of the nomadic way of life)

Rus



- **Power play:**
- **The problem with hired mercenaries, is that they are hired and will usually switch sides to the highest bidder...this becomes a trend in the Balkans**



**While the big powers fought for dominance
the natives of these regions begin to form their
own culture and sow the seeds of future
countries**

- **Due to the lack of a strong centralizing power, many regions in the Balkans begin to develop on their own, living mostly peacefully among one another.**
- **Partially aided by geographic landscape and also by 'natural similarities (religions, lang., ect) distinct hamlets of culture begin to develop laying the foundations for future countries**

Some of the regions exist or begin to grow in the Balkans

- Republic of Venice
- Albania
- Bosnia
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Romania
- Serbia and the Kingdom of Serbia
- Montenegro
- Kingdom of Zeta





Option...

- **Individual or Group research, presentations/sharing about the individual histories of each of these regions in the Balkans**
- **Take notes over the basics...you will need this for later discussions**

A map of the Balkans region, showing countries like Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Greece, and Turkey. Major cities like Venice, Zagreb, Belgrade, and Istanbul are marked. The Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea are also labeled. The map is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue rectangle containing the text.

A peaceful coexistence

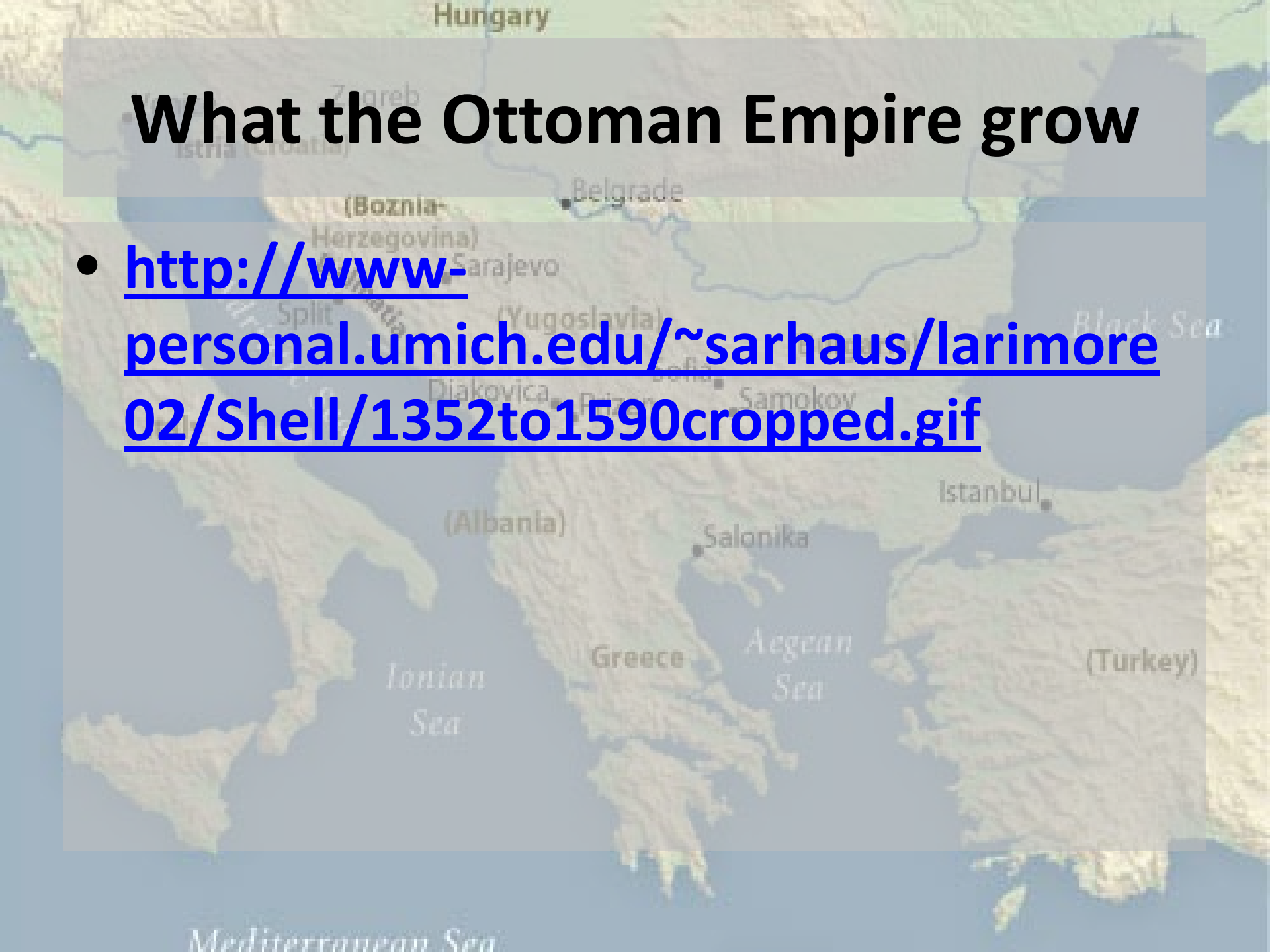
- Although the empires struggling to control the Balkans were often at war with one another, the people who actually lived there comingled and more often than not , the different groups t lived relatively peacefully alongside one another (think about when the U.S. is fighting a war, how does it affect the daily lives of citizens)
- -a lot of division and animosity between the actual inhabitants of the region began in the 16th century when the Ottomans were threatening to overrun Europe
- But before we talk about that we must talk about the Ottomans...

The Ottoman period

- The Ottomans were one of the most powerful and influential civilizations of the post-medieval period. Created by Turkic nomadic tribes in Anatolia, the people of those tribes were used as mercenaries since the 10th century by the Byzantine Empire (remember, what do you know about nomadic mercenaries?).
- The Ottomans entered into Europe after the decline of the Byzantine empire led to a power vacuum in the Balkans
- The Ottoman empire (which was Islamic) grew piece by piece becoming an ever growing threat to Christian Europe.
- The Ottoman Empire (1299 to 1923) persisted until the 20th century and did not end until after World War I when Turkey adopted a more European style secular government (under Kemal Atatürk).

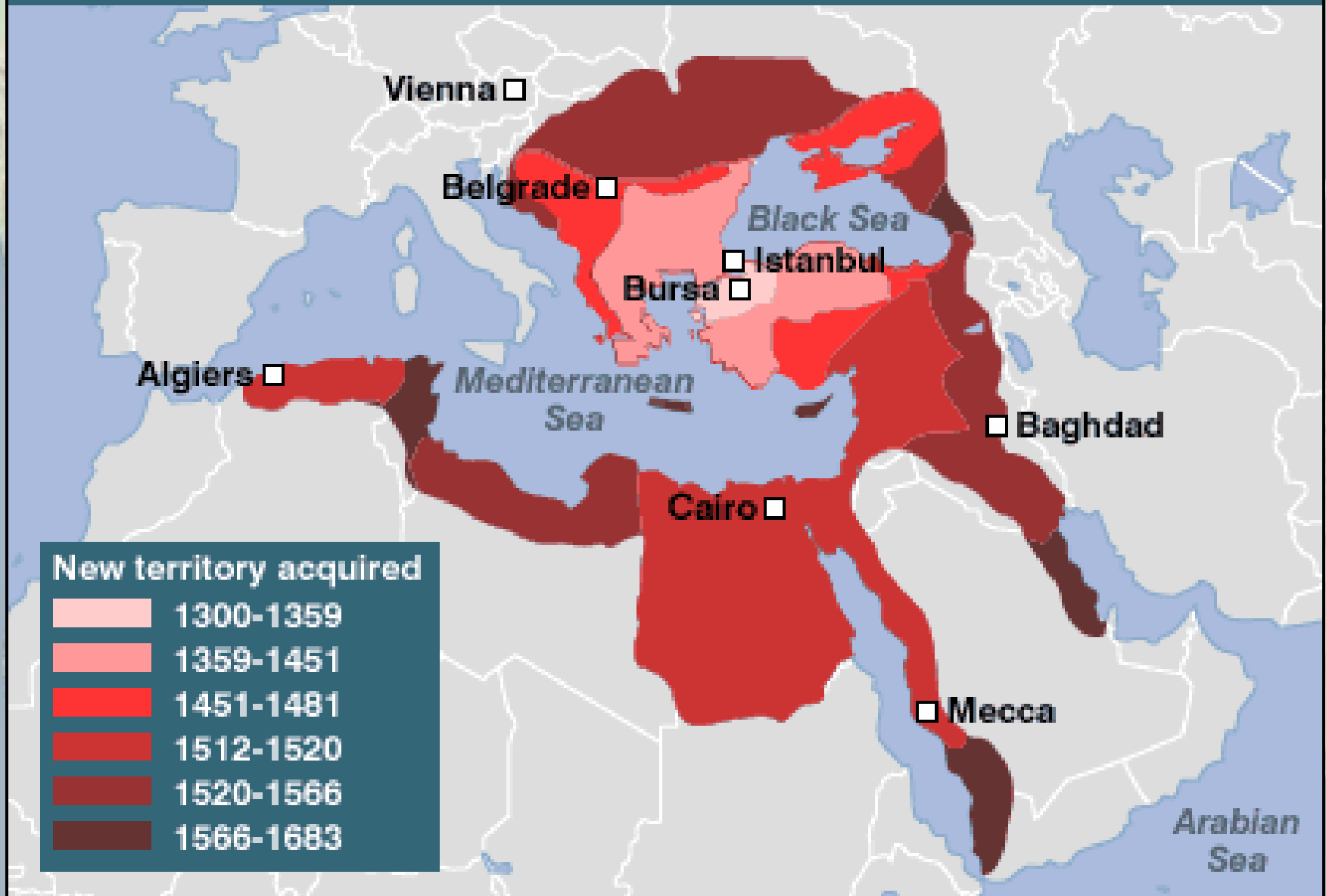
What the Ottoman Empire grow

- <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/Shell/1352to1590cropped.gif>



One shade of red at a time

THE GROWTH OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE



Life under the Ottomans

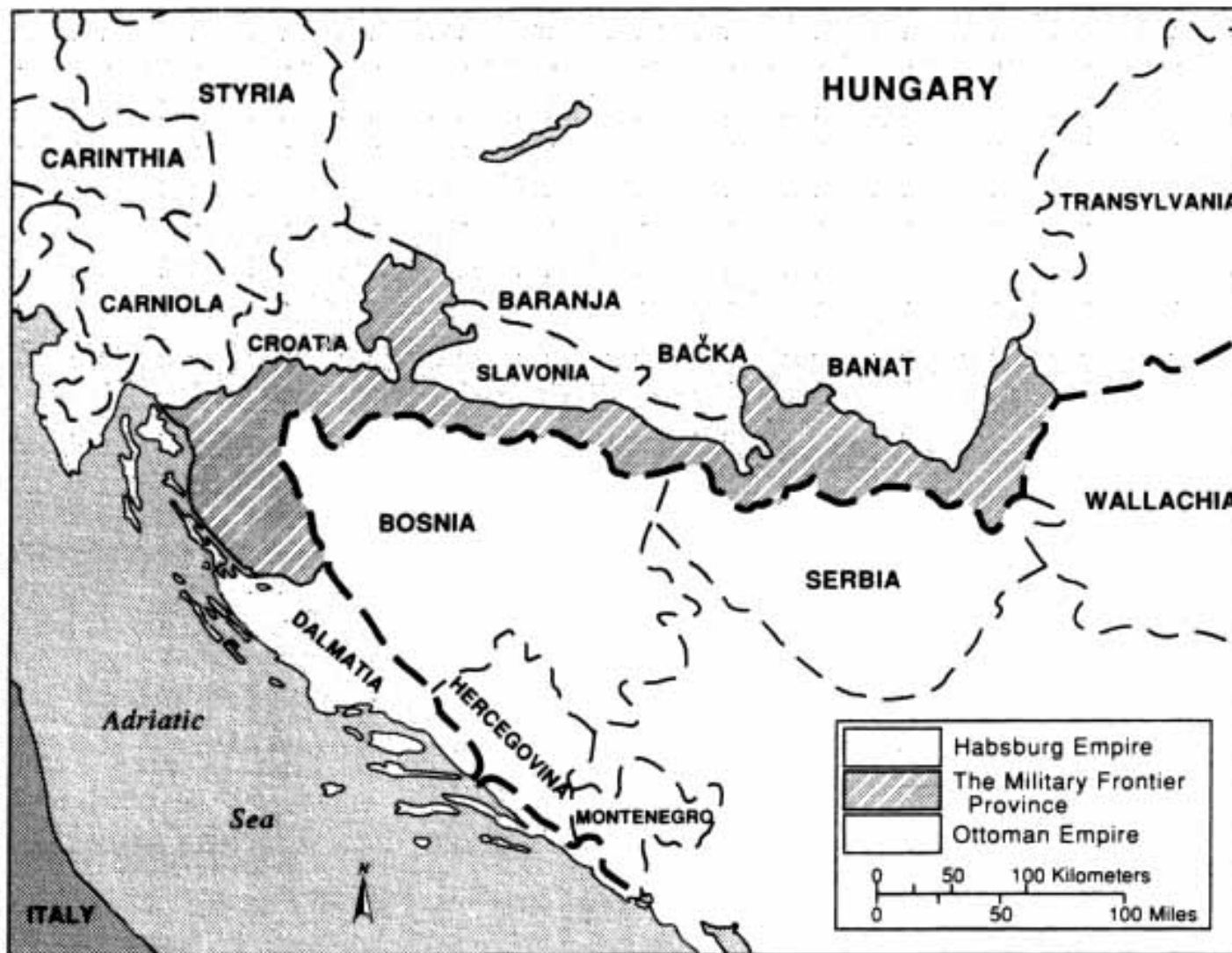
- Ottoman rule over the Balkans is characterized by centuries of bloody struggle for freedom interspersed with periods of stalemate with the Habsburgs along the border areas of Hungary, Croatia and Serbia.
- Anti-Turkish *propaganda* and outrage against the Islamic oppressors was at its peak in the early 20th century.
- Most of this propaganda exaggerated or focused only on the negatives of Ottoman rule.
- In reality, the Ottomans offered much more freedom (religious and otherwise) for its subjects than its European counterparts

The Balkans become a buffer

- The Austro Hungarian Empire, wanting to create a buffer zone between themselves and the Ottomans encouraged (through pay and privileges...sound familiar?) Serbs fleeing Ottoman rule to settle along today's Croatian/Bosnian border (known as the Vojna Krajina or 'military zone' later known as the Vojvodina)
- The Ottomans would also offer similar privileges to Serbs and others to create a frontier/buffer zone on their side of the line

Vojna Krajina

- these ethnic migrations & settlements will affect the Balkans in the future



Source: Based on information from United Kingdom, Admiralty, Naval Intelligence Division, *Yugoslavia, 2: History, Peoples, and Administration*, London, 1944, 20.

Figure 2. *Military Frontier Province Between the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires, ca. 1600-1800*



The

Vojvodina

- Remnants of the military frontier that still exist today
- the ethnicity of this region is different than those surrounding it)

Playing the powers against one another

- The Serbs, like many of the people living in border lands often played these two major powers against one another (in an attempt to try and re-establish their Serbian Kingdom).
- After the Ottomans left, the Serbs stayed, establishing homes in the predominately Croatian communities
- Other consequences of being stuck between two major powers (migrations, immigrations, trade and war) will further increase the and mix these different ethnic groups so that some regions become blended and dominated by other ethnicities

Decline of the Ottomans & a Power Vacuum

- -After the Ottoman threat decreased in the late 17th Century, Slovenia and Croatia became a part of the Austrian Hapsburg Empire while the Ottomans stayed in the South and East (today's Serbian and Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- Most European powers are concerned with the crumbling Ottoman empire because they are afraid that if another country took over lands of the former Ottoman empire, that country might become too powerful and upset the balance of power

Height of the Hapsburg Empire

Again, what regions are in the middle of it all?

- Included Croatia & Slovenia & Bosnia



Austrian Empire Kingdom of Hungary Current Political Boundaries



Tensions build, commence with WW I

- -Serbia gained their independence from the Ottomans in the late 19th century
- Many other groups in the Balkans tired of constantly shifting powers, start to actively pursue self determination yet most European powers are afraid to let this happen in case it might cause a disturbance in the balance of power
- WWI erupted, in part because a Bosnian Serb (who did not want Bosnia and Serbia to become a part of the Hapsburg Empire) assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Hapsburg throne

The Domino Affect...alliances (open and secret) rear their ugly head

- Austro-Hungary declared war on Serbia
- Russia (who had secretly allied w/ Serbs based on common religion and supposed ethnicity...and Russia's desire to get a foothold in the Balkans) declared war on Austro-Hungary,
- Germany (who had secretly allied w/ Austro-Hungary) declared war on Russia and France (who were allies w/ Russia)
- The Ottomans ally with Germany to fight Russia (who has been trying to take over Ottoman territory in the Balkans)
- Great Britain, deciding that Germany was getting too powerful (Germany was Great Britain's #1 economic competitor) thus responded by declaring war on Germany....and WWI is on!

Alliances or “Oh yeah, well, my bigger friend will beat you up”

Central Powers

Austro-Hungary

Germany

Ottoman

Allied Powers

Serbia

Russia

France

Great Britain

*Most countries, use the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand to declare war on their rivals and hopefully gain something for themselves or out of fear that one Empire was getting too powerful and would take over everyone

Btw, Italy will switch from the Central to the Allied Powers

The End of WWI and the Austro-Hungarian & Ottoman Empires

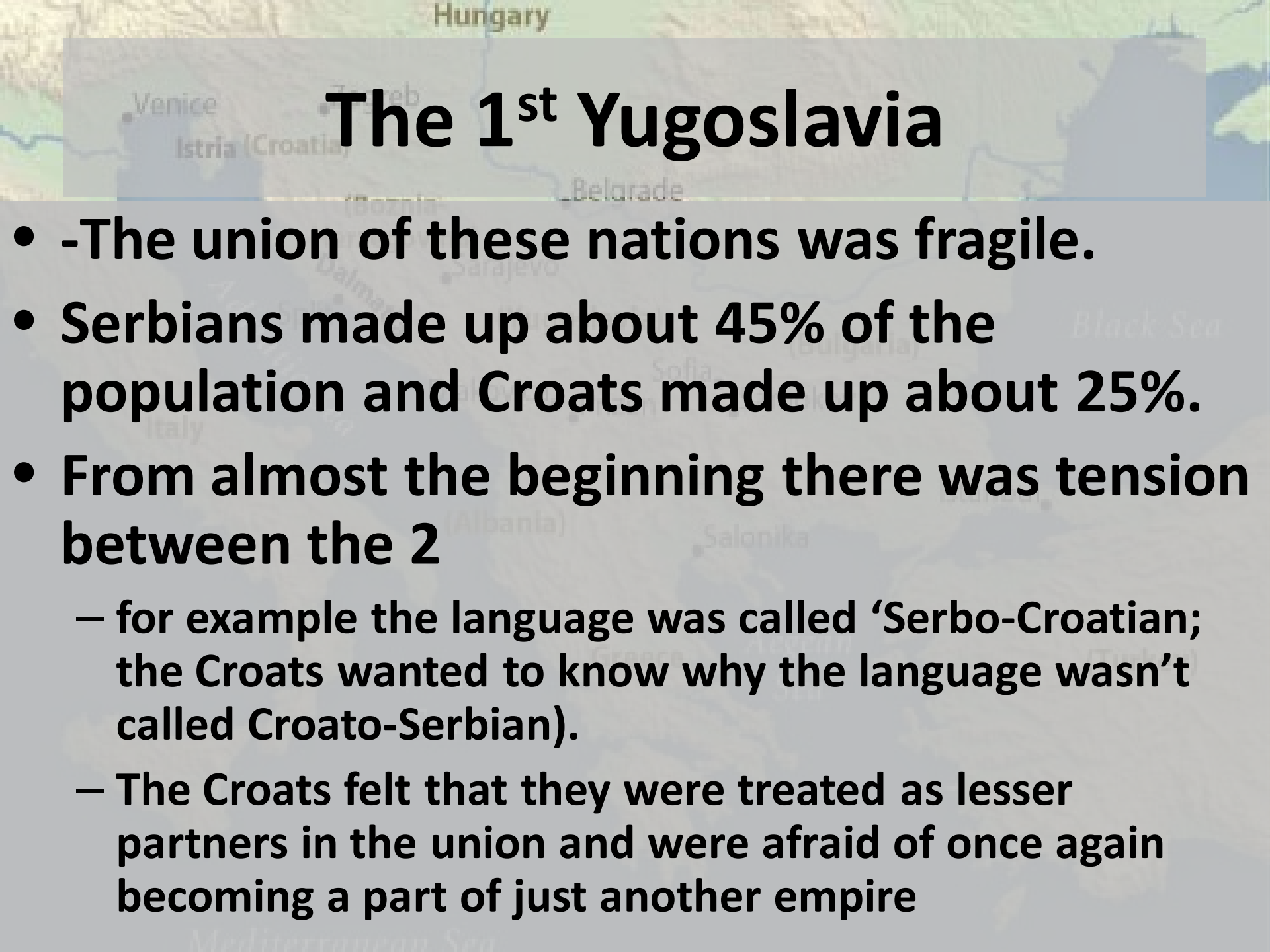
- Since the Central powers were on the losing side, the Allies decided this would be a good time to divide up the
- Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires (in a way that benefited the major winning powers of course, in this age of empires, little concern was given to the actual native inhabitants)
- After centuries of foreign domination, Southern Slavs (Croatians, Slovenes and Serbs) decided that their similarities were greater than their differences and decided to band together (fearing that smaller regions like Croatia and Slovenia would just be swallowed up by other another non-Slavic power if they were left on their own)
- So, the first state of Yugoslavia was formed (originally called the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes)-'Yugo' means Southern



EUROPE
AFTER THE TREATY OF LOCARNO
AND THE STABILIZATION OF BORDERS
FOLLOWING THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR
AND THE FAILURES OF THE FREIKORPS
IN GERMAN BORDER DISPUTES
1925 A.D.

The Revision of the Balkans

- Notice Turkey, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia & Czech
- *All new after WWI*



The 1st Yugoslavia

- -The union of these nations was fragile.
- Serbians made up about 45% of the population and Croats made up about 25%.
- From almost the beginning there was tension between the 2
 - for example the language was called ‘Serbo-Croatian; the Croats wanted to know why the language wasn’t called Croato-Serbian).
 - The Croats felt that they were treated as lesser partners in the union and were afraid of once again becoming a part of just another empire

Tensions between Serbs & Croats

- -Serbs already had a strong king, Alexander Karadordevic, who immediately gave his nation leading role in the federation (*note: The Serbian Kingdom of the Middle Ages was one of the biggest and strongest kingdoms in the Balkans before the Ottomans, many Serbs wanted to return to the Glory Days)
- -a nationalistic Croatian Politian, Stjepan Radic, who was pushing for a more equal distribution of powers was shot by a Serbian in the 1928 parliamentary session
- -Karadordevic abolished the parliament and declared himself dictator, he was killed 6 years later by an angry Croatian separatist

The 2 Rivals for Power in the New Yugoslavia: Serbs & Croats

- Alexander Karadordevic (Serbia)

- Stjepan Radic (Croat)



Serbian Background

- See the Serbian history power point for a brief history of Serbia
- And take this time to examine the Legend of Kosovo to better understand what Serbians believed to be their destiny ...
- And why others would fear that Serbia was trying to reestablish an empire

A map of the Balkan region and surrounding areas, including parts of Hungary, Yugoslavia, and the Mediterranean Sea. Key cities like Venice, Zagreb, Belgrade, and Prizren are marked. The map is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue rectangle containing the text.

WWII

- -when WWII broke out, many Croats sided with the Nazis hoping to gain independence from the Serbs (these types of alliances and were common in Balkan history...see Croatian PowerPoint for further examples & complete history of Croatia)
- the Nazi's set up a puppet government in Croatia under the Croatian's own nationalistic, fascist party, the Ustase, undermining the Serb dominated government of Yugoslavia.
- Under the Nazi and Ustase leadership, hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Jews and Roma (gypsies) living in Croatia were killed. Serbs living in Croatia were forced to flee or convert to Catholicism.
- -many consider the Ustase concentration camps the first example of 'ethnic cleansing' in the Balkans and the Serbian memory of such may help explain the harsh treatment of the Croats by the Serbs in the 1990s

The 2nd Yugoslavia (Tito's Yugoslavia)

- -By the end of WWII, the Soviets had liberated the rest of Eastern Europe, except for Yugoslavia, who was liberated by their own partisan army led by Yugoslavia's Communist party leader Josip Broz, aka Tito
- -Tito seemed like the likely candidate to rule Yugoslavia (Slovene mother, Croat father and Serbian wife)
- -Tito envisioned a more equitable Yugoslavia divided into 6 republics



The 6 Republics of Tito's Yugoslavia



- 1. Croatia (mostly Catholic Croats)
- 2. Slovenia (mostly Catholic Slovenes)
- 3. Serbia (mostly Orthodox Serbs)
- *w/n Serbia, there were also 2 autonomous regions that were dominated by ethnicities that were a minority in the rest of Yugoslavia, these 2 providences were created to give greater rights to these minorities as well as help to balance out the clout of Serbia in Yugoslavia
 - a) Kosovo in the South (dominated by Albanians)
 - b) Vojvodina in the North (dominated by Hungarians)
- 4. Bosnia-Herzegovina (the most diverse, with mostly Muslim Bosniaks but large populations of Serbs and Croats)
- 5. Montenegro (mostly Serbian-like Montenegrins)
- 6. Macedonia (25% Albanians, 75% Macedonians which are a mix of Bulgarians and Serbs)

Yugoslavian republics, based on similar groups



Governance, a careful balance

- Each of these republics were allowed to govern their own affairs but president for life Tito kept a watchful eye on them. He said the lines between republics should be “like white lines on marble column” (barely visible).
- -Nationalism was strongly discouraged and Yugoslavian unity was the focus
- -Tito did believe that the Yugoslavs could live together in peace and actively worked towards making this a reality.
- -For example, each male was required 2 years of military service. Tito ensured that each regiment had members from each ethnicity. This created a situation where these different people had to live and work as one -allowing them to not only see each other’s similarities but their humanity as well. After serving time in the Yugoslav army, men would often look back nostalgically on their time in the military and even visit their fellow service men in different areas of the country

More about life under Tito

- -Because Yugoslavia won their own independence from the Nazi's, instead of being liberated by the Soviets, they had more self-determination in creating their own state.
- Although Tito was the head of Yugoslavia's communist party* and nationalized the country's large industry, Tito still allowed independent small business to exist. He believed in a "3rd way", a middle way between Soviet communism and Western capitalism.
- This allowed Yugoslavia and Tito to work both with the East and West** and because it kept some elements of free market alive, it fared better than other former Soviet block countries after the fall of the Soviet Union
- *Tito fought on the Austro-Hungarian side of WWI and was taken to Russia as a POW and was later liberated by the Bolsheviks. It was then that Tito was introduced and embraced to the ideas of communism
- **In fact, because Yugoslav "red" passports were accepted in the West as well as the Soviet East, they actually became even more valuable than American passports at the time

The darker/controversial side of Tito

- -In the early years, Tito dealt severely with political opponents in a Stalin-like way. After WWII
- Tito's army killed thousands of soldiers who supported the Nazis and would not support his new regime
- Croat archbishop Alojzije Stepinac was captured and later died in imprisonment because of he went along with the Nazi's (did not support them but did not do anything about what was going on either)
- The Croats would later use as an example of how they were treated unequally in Yugoslavia but once Tito gained full control Tito gave up his strong-arm tactics



Controversial Tito



- -Tito is a controversial figure. Viewed by some as an authoritarian dictator by others as great leader that did what he needed to do to hold his country together...
- What do you think?
- Nevertheless, under Tito Yugoslavia experienced it's golden age and when he died in 1980, his funeral was attended by more heads of state than any other funeral in history

The fall of Yugoslavia

- -Unfortunately, without Tito, the fragile union of Yugoslavia fell apart. Each of the 6 republics gained more autonomy with the rotating presidency
- -problems began in Kosovo, although mostly Albanian, Kosovo was considered a part of Serbia. Kosovo had received a partial autonomy under Tito. But Serbians considered Kosovo the 'cradle of their civilization' due to legends and nationalism grown around the Battle of Kosovo in the 14th century (when the Serbs lost the battle to the Ottomans), which they considered the foundation of Serbian cultural identity

Where in the World is...Kosovo



Note: Serbia and Montenegro have asserted the formation of a joint independent state, but this entity has not been formally recognized as a state by the United States. Boundaries are not necessarily authoritative.

Slobodan Milosevic

- -political Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic who decided to use this battle as a reference and promised to aid the Serbians in Kosovo (thinly veiling the loss of an independent Kosovo with the loss of the Battle of Kosovo to the Ottoman Turks)
- -in this speech, Milosevic upset the delicate balance that Tito had worked so hard to achieve and maintain
- -soon, Milosevic-led Serbia fully annexed Kosovo and Croatia and Slovenia feared that Serbia would try to create a 'greater Serbia'
- -Some leaders, trying to avoid warfare suggested that a model of a loosely united Yugoslavia based on the Swiss model but those republics wanting complete independence rejected it



The fall, state by state: Slovenia

- -was the first former Yugoslav republic to hold free elections in 1990
- -were the most ethnically homogeneous and the most 'western-like', prosperous and geographically isolated republic so secession made sense
- -after months of stockpiling weapons, Slovenia closed off its borders on June 25, 1991 and declared independence from Yugoslavia
- -Belgrade (the main capital of Yugoslavia) sent troops to try to take back control of the borders

Slovenia cont.

- -because the Yugoslav National army was multi-ethnic, Slovenes were apart of the invading troops and since communication home was cut off to conscripts, many did not realize they were fighting friends, relatives and neighbors until they were face to face with them on the battlefield
- -Slovenian citizens entered the battle, blocking Yugoslav barracks with their own vehicles
- -although the Yugoslavs were much better equipped their army was inexperienced and quickly caved
- -after 10 days and fewer than 100 deaths, Belgrade relented. Slovenes allowed the National army to enter and take their weapons and destroy any remaining military installations
- - when the army left, they left the Slovenes w/ their freedom

Croatia



- -In April of 1990, Franjo Tuđman, leader of Croatia's highly nationalistic right wing party, the HDZ, won Croatia's first free election
- -Tuđman's methods were more extreme than those of Slovenia, invoking the spirit of the last 'independent' Croatia (under the puppet rule of the fascist Ustase party)
- -Tuđman embraced symbols of the Ustase, including their red checkered flag and currency. The Serbs still living in Croatia who's grandparents had been massacred under the Ustase rule saw this as a threatening omen and began to rise up
- -first conflicts came to the Serb dominated city of Knin, where the police were forced to wear uniforms that looked very similar to the Nazi/Ustase uniforms. Serb policeman refused, and blocked off tourist roads w/ logs and tree trunks (called the Tree Trunk Revolution)

A map of the Balkan region and surrounding areas, including parts of Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia, and the Black Sea. Key cities like Venice, Zagreb, Belgrade, and Istanbul are marked. The map is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue rectangle containing the text.

Croatia cont.

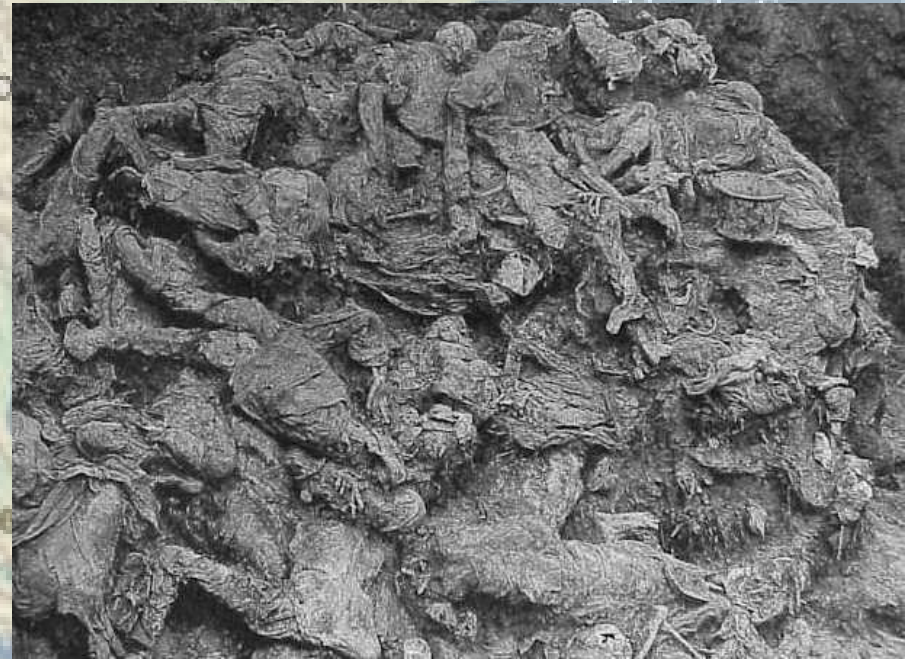
- -The Croatian government meanwhile, unable to get aid or arms from the U.S. received arms from Hungary and Croatian policeman attacked the rebelling Serbs on Easter Sunday 1991
- -Croats declared their independence on June 25, 1991 (the same day as Slovenia) but the beginnings of a bloody civil war had already begun. The more than ½ million Serbs in Croatia immediately declared their independence from Croatia
- -The Yugoslav army swept in to Croatia to supposedly keep the peace between Croats and Serbs but it quickly became apparent that they were there to support the Serbs
- -The Croatian army mostly made up of policeman and a few defected soldiers were no match and soon the National Army took over areas that were Serb population dominated, especially along the border w/ Bosnia. This area, ¼ of Croatia, became the Republic of Serbian Krajina (meaning border). This country, barely recognized by other countries, minted it's own money and raised its own army, upsetting Croatia that became concerned about Croats in this territory

Republic of Serbian Krajina in red



Ethnic cleansing...aka Genocide

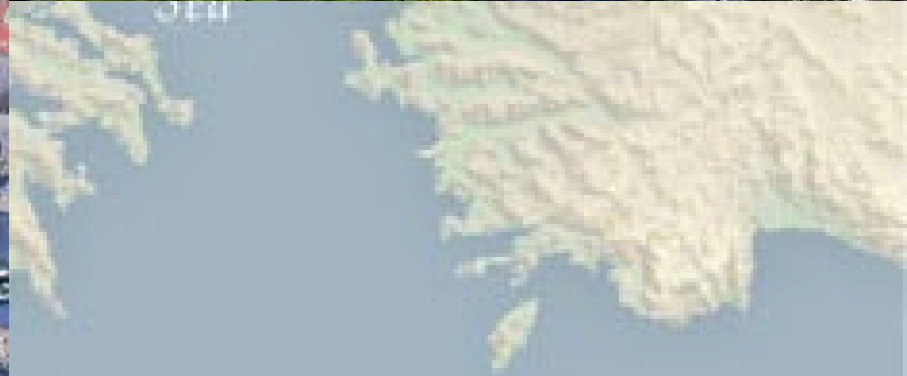
- -as the Serbs advanced, Croats fled and the Serbs began a campaign of ethnic cleansing, esp. bad in town of Vukovar, shelled the town for 3 months, 1,000s of Croat citizens and soldiers went missing, were discovered later in mass graves



The Yugoslav army's mistake

- **-Surprisingly, Serbs also attacked the tourist town of Dubrovnic in order to:**
 - mainly, hit Croatia where it hurt (it's proudest, most historic, beautiful city)
 - wanted to catch Croatian off guard by attacking a place so far from the rest of the fighting
 - were hoping to ignite pro-Serb/pro-Yugoslav feelings in nearby Bosnia-Herzegovina
 - hoped to gain a toe-hold on the Southern Dalmatian Coast so they could push north to Split
- **. Some say this attack hindered the Yugoslav cause because it ignited international public opinion against them after seeing the historic city under siege**
- **-Yugoslavian army (mostly Serbs & Montenegrins) surrounded the city the newly formed ragtag Croatian army took hold of the old Napoleonic era fortress on top of Mount Srd (where 20-30 soldiers could manage to hold off the entire Yugoslav army**

Venetian fortifications to keep out the Ottomans..Dubrovnik , Mt. Srd



Croatia

- -a tense standoff/ceasefire lasted until 1995, when the now well equipped Croatian army took back Serbian occupied areas
- -Some Croats responded to the previous ethnic cleansing at the hands of the Serbs by doing much of the same (torturing, murdering and bombing the homes of Serbs)
- -Croatia est. the borders that exist today, most of the 600,000 Serbs who lived in the Krajina were either forced into Serbia or killed
- -While Serbs have long since been legally asked to return to their Croatian homes, few have fearing the 'welcome' they might receive

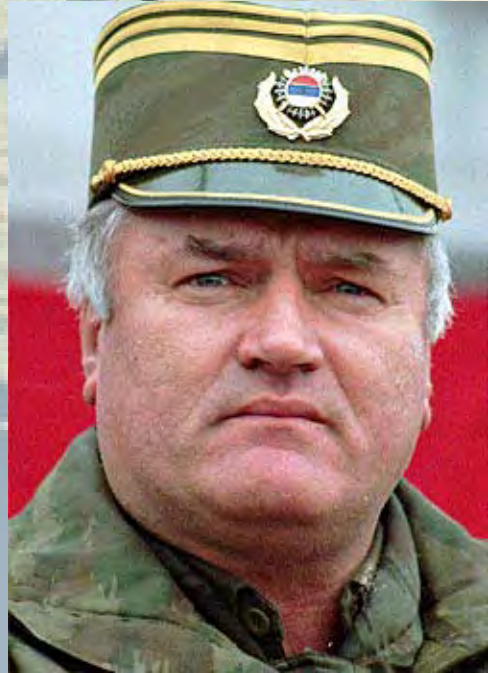


Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH)

- -Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH)
- -declared it's independence 4 months after Croatia and Slovenia
- -most diverse region in the Balkans (large number of Bosniaks in the cities, w/ large number of Croats and Serbs in the outlying farms)
- -much like in Croatia, as soon as BiH declared it's independence, Serbs in the region declared themselves independent of BiH and to legalize their claim, began a process of ethnic cleansing of Croats and Bosniaks in the Spring of 1992
- - At first the Croats and the Bosniaks fought together against the Serbs but soon they turned against one another
- -Croats split off in their own independent state, the 3 groups fought a bloody war against one another the (Serbia supporting the Serbs and Croatia supporting the Croats)

BiH

- -these groups had lived peaceful together for centuries, living working and intermarrying, when the fighting broke out, families were split apart as everyone was expected to choose sides
- -Beautiful cities such as Sarajevo and Mostar were turned to rubble and war atrocities that occurred in cities such as Srebrenica caught world-wide attention (rape camps were set up where Bosniak women were systematically raped by Serbian soldiers...in order to create such hatred between the various groups so that they would never want to live together again)
- -many people were blamed for the atrocities that occurred during this time but 2 of the biggest leaders that hold the blame were Bosnia Serb president Radovan Karadzic and his general Ratko Mladic



The Failure of the UN

- -the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) were called in but were rendered ineffective because they could not use force, even in self-defense (for this and their light blue helmets, they were dubbed 'smurfs'...see the 2002 Oscar for best foreign film *No Man's Land*)
- -The 1995 Dayton Peace accord divided the country into 3 parts:
 - -The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosniaks and Croats)
 - -The Republic of Srpska (Serb)
 - -Brcko District (a mix of Ethnicities)



Today

- -Today, Slovenia and Croatia are the most 'western' of the former Yugoslav providences and BiH has made great strides in recovery
- -Macedonia feel closer to Bulgaria than Belgrade
- -Montenegro and Kosovo are both fledging democracies
- -Tensions still exist in the area (Croatians and Slovenes split hairs over border disputes, some Serbians ominously warn they will reclaim Kosovo) but the youth tend to indentify more with their own new countries than being a part of the former Yugoslavia

Why, Why, Why?

- -2 theories exist about the explanations of why all this happened
- 1. The people of the Balkans are inherently warlike, incapable of getting along and destined for future conflict
- 2. Conflict was created from leaders (like Milosevic, Tudman, and even others in the past like the Roman or Byzantine Church or various leaders in the Hapsburg or Ottoman empires) exploiting ethnic differences and using a romanticized account history to produce overly zealous nationalism

Macedonia, Kosovo & Montenegro



- -Macedonia peacefully succeeded in 1991
- -in 1998, Albanians in Kosovo (the majority) rebelled against Serbian rule, only to become victims of Milosevic's ethnic cleansing until U.S. general Wesley Clark's NATO war planes forced the Serbian army out
- -Kosovo remained a UN protectorate w/n Serbia (under the UN but mostly separate and self-governing)
- -In Feb. 2008, Kosovo declared its independence and was immediately recognized by the U.S. France, Germany and the UK but it did not go through the proper UN method (because they were sick of waiting) so were not officially recognized by the UN
- -in 2003 Montenegro began to gradually work towards their independence that was finally achieved in 2006 (one of the newest countries in the world)

The Fall of Milosevic

- -tired of bloody conflicts, public opinion swung against Milosevic
- -spearheaded by Otpor, a student-based organization that used PR strategies
- -When Milosevic called an early election in 2000, he was soundly defeated
- -when he tried to declare that the election results were not valid the ppl marched into parliament and peacefully took back their government
- -Milosevic was sent to the Hague in the Netherlands to stand for criminal charges 2001
- -served as his own attorney
- -trial dragged on for 5 years
- -near the end of the trial he was found dead in his cell (heart trouble, inadequate medical attention? Poisoned?)
- -never found guilty of anything



**Do you notice anything missing on this map?
Why do you think this map was chosen?**



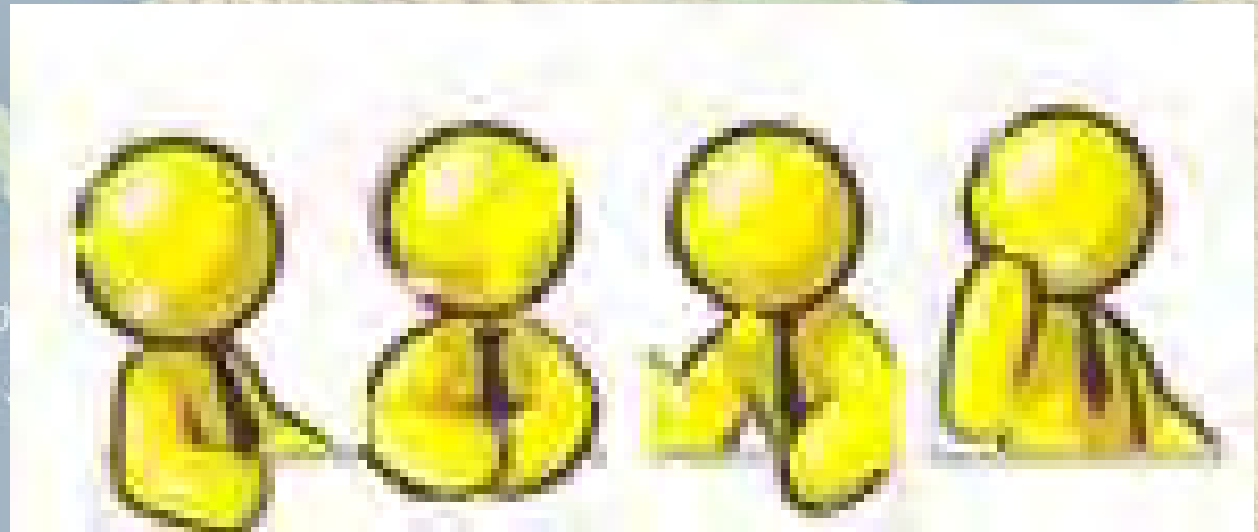
**No country borders...
because they were always changing? Or
because the different ethnicities lived in
general regions but blended together
making definite borders impractical?
Was this an appropriate map for the
Balkans region?**



Back to that original question... got any theories?

**Time to yield for
discussion!**

**...So Let the
Discussion BEGIN!!!**



The original question and other important questions

- Are the people of the Balkans really incapable of peace?
- Are most of the conflicts in the Balkans due to internal or external causes?
- What are some of the common factors that exist when the people of the Balkans have been divided and fought against one another?
- Why do you think the people of the have been portrayed as violent?
- When you really look at the total time the people of the Balkans have lived together, to they spend more time in peace or fighting one another?



Most important “World” ?...

the concept of “otherness”

- First of all:
- ? : what is ‘otherness’
- Answer: ‘otherness’ (an ‘us vs. them’ mentality that highlights the differences among people and is often portrays the ‘other’ as inhuman or less human)
- Is ‘otherness’ created or does it occur naturally?
- Is it often exaggerated?
- If so when and why is it used?
- What does it lead to?



Most important “World” ?...

the concept of “otherness”

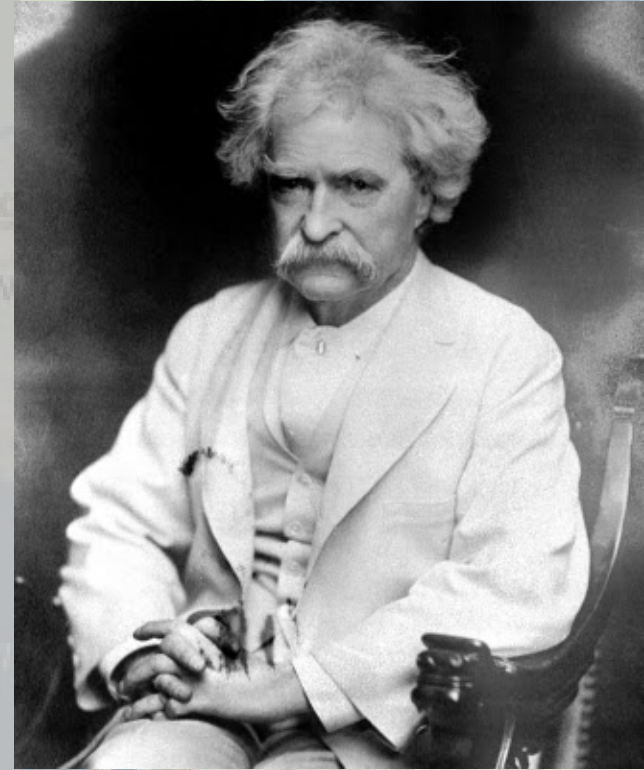
- **Finally:**
- **Can you think of any current example in which the idea of otherness is currently used?**



Does this sound familiar?

"However, the primary focus here is the atrocities and crimes against humanity in the form of Psychological Warfare and the collusion between numerous governments, their intelligence (disinformation & assassination) agencies, supranational and non-governmental entities, and corporate mass media - who all conspired together to deliberately fabricate and disseminate propaganda to the masses in the form of grossly exaggerated and outright lies about what happened; but even more importantly, what they happened before, during and after the attacks. Next they will invent cheap lies, putting the blame upon the nation that is attacked, and every man will be glad of those conscience-soothing falsities, and will diligently study them, and refuse to examine any refutations of them; and thus he will by and by convince himself that the war is just, and will thank God for the better sleep he enjoys after this process of grotesque self-deception."

Could this also sound like a comment on news today?



-Mark Twain ...On the "Bosnian Wars"
-in *The Mysterious Stranger*, 1916

Imagine

- What would happen in the world if people no longer used 'them' and 'they' in negative terms?
- What if we sought to understand respect one another's differences instead of exploit them?
- What if we always saw people as human, even if they were our "enemies?"

