



Croatia

**A Brief
History...**

Zagreb

Osijek

Rijeka

Karlovac

Sisak

Pula

Umag

Raša

Omišalj

Koromačno

Senj

Ogulin

Glina

**Nova
Gradiška**

**Slavonski
Brod**

Vukovar

Vinkovci

Gospić

Maslenica

Zadar

**Adriatic
Sea**

Pag

**Dugi
Otok**

Knin

Šibenik

Split

Sinj

Dugi Rat

Brač

Hvar

Vis

Korčula

Lastovo

Mijet

Ploče

Metković

Dubrovnik

Sarajevo

Ljubljana

Trieste

Varaždin

Koprivnica

Bjelovar

Virovitica

Drava

Sava

Urea

A map of Croatia and surrounding regions in Central Europe. The map shows major cities like Zagreb, Ljubljana, Trieste, and Dubrovnik. Rivers like the Drava and Sava are also visible. The title 'Ancient History' is overlaid on the map.

Ancient History

- **Croatia 1st inhabited by Illyrians (ancestors of today's Albanians)**
- **-Greeks and Romans sailing up and down the Adriatic established many of the cities on the Dalmatian Coast that still exist today**
- **-in the 4 century AD, Emperor Diocletian est. his retirement home in the city of Split**
- **-As Rome fell in the 5th century to 'barbaric invasions' (like the Huns and the Vandals) Slavs (ancestors of Croats) entered Europe**
- **-The Northern part of the country fell to the Byzantines**
- **-Starting in the 7th century, Slavic Croats began to control most of the land**

Slavic Migration



5 The expansion of the Slavs to c.700



expansion of Slavs
western limit of
Slav expansion in
8th century AD



Sorbs
AVARS

Slav people
non-Slav people

The Serbs

Most people who live in the Balkans are ancestors to the Slavs




	<i>Proto-Slav Area</i>		<i>Serbian lands</i>
	<i>White Serbia</i>	<i>The Serbs were permanently (by tradition) settled in the Balkans by 610. The Sclavenes lived in Serbian lands by early 500s.</i>	

The Creation of the 1st Croatia

- -in 925, Duke Tomislav united Slavic tribes and created the first Croatia
- -by the 12th century, Croatian Kings had died out and Hungary, Venice and Byzantium threatened Croatian independence



A map of Croatia and surrounding regions, including parts of Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Adriatic Sea. Major cities like Zagreb, Rijeka, and Dubrovnik are labeled. The map is overlaid with a semi-transparent text box containing the title and bullet points.

Foreign Rule: Hungarians

- -for the sake of preservation, the Croats entered into an alliance w/ Hungary in 1102 (eventually Hungary exerted more and more force on the Croats)
- - they would be ruled by foreign powers for the next 900 yrs
- -What internal factors led Croats to seek an alliances and eventually to be controlled by foreign powers?

Foreign Rule: Venetians & Ottomans

- -Venetians, who were prominent traders due to their access to waterways, conquered most of the coast except for the Republic Dubrovnik, which paid whatever the cost to remain free, it became a leader in European shipbuilding and maritime powers
- -15 century, Ottomans conquered most of Croatia & unsuccessfully challenged Venetians for the coastline (most city walls and fortifications you see today, resulted from the Venetians of this time period striving to keep out the Ottomans)
- How did Dubrovnik remain free?
- How did external forces lead to conflict w/n Croatia?

Venetian Occupation of Croatia

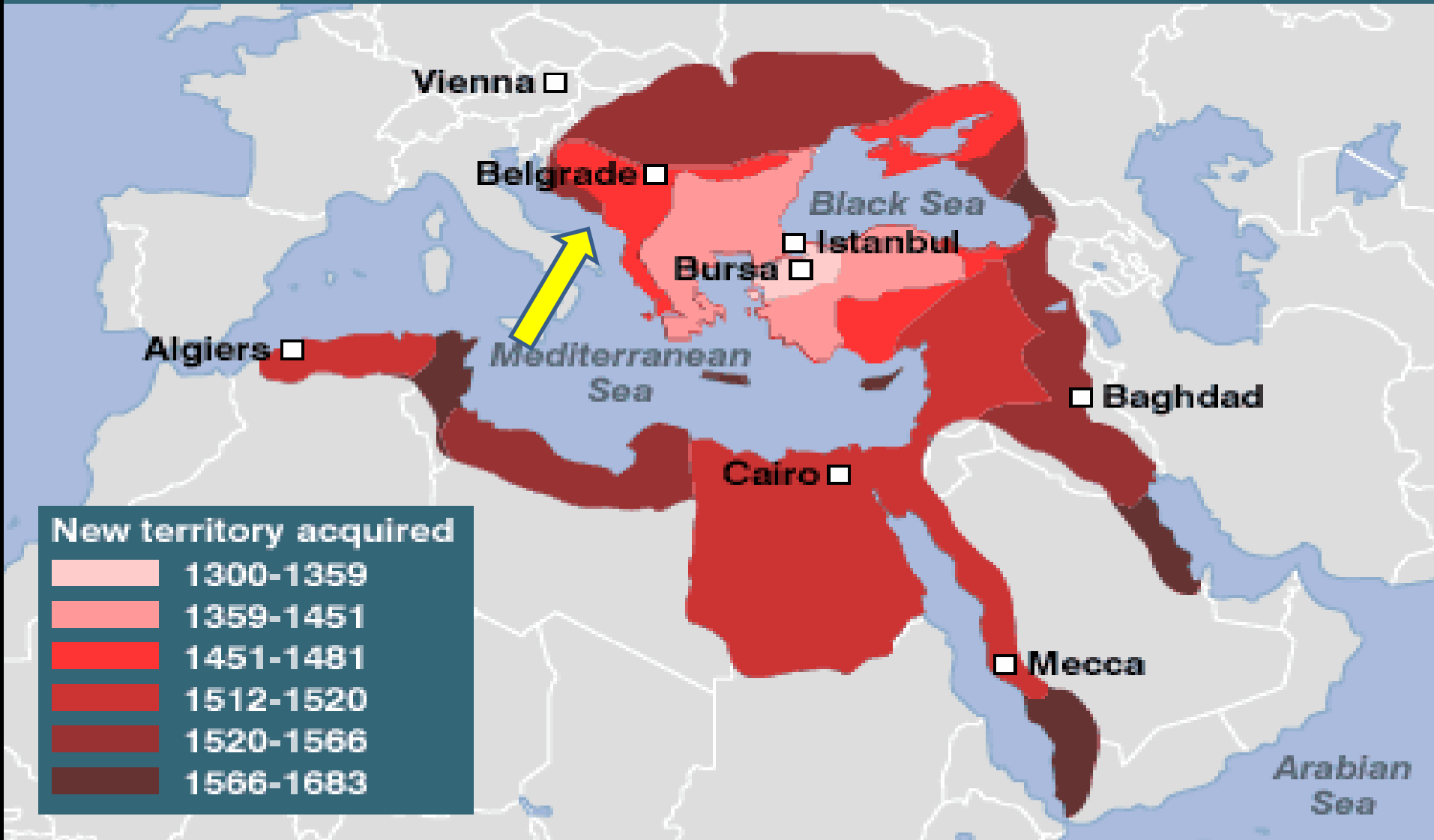


Venetian fortifications to keep out the Ottomans



Ottoman Occupation : Croatia & the Balkans

THE GROWTH OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE



An interesting note: Dubrovnik (aka Ragusa)




- -500 yrs. ago, Dubrovnik was a major maritime power w/ 3rd largest navy in the Meditteranean, it's nickname is The Pearl of the Adriatic
- -The city's most valued commodity has always been its freedom (you will often see its motto *Libertas* displayed all over town).
- - Even though many parts of Croatia through history became parts of Venice or Hungary, Dubrovnik always remained proudly independent.
- -In fact, it valued independence so much, it was the first state to formally recognize the U.S. in 1776


Dubrovnik 'playing politics' to keep its freedom

- -In the middle ages (then known as Ragusa) Dubrovnik bought its independence from who ever was strongest (Venice, Byzantium, Hungary, the Ottomans) sometimes paying off more than one at a time.
- -The ships would fly whoever's flag was necessary to remain free. It became known as the "town of 7 flags".
- -Eventually Europe was glad to have Dubrovnik as a major seafaring power in order to balance the power of the Venetians (so a free Dubrovnik became more important than a pillaged & plundered Dubrovnik so they played along)
- ?: Did Dubrovnik use the competition for power among empires to its benefit?

Plan Backfire?



Do you think that this is bound to happen when you play powerful forces against one another?



Do you think Dubrovnik was clever to use this tactic?

Did they have any other choice?

- entered a long period of decline.
- - The idea of liberty has remained alive in Dub. (for a period during the break up of Yugoslavia, there was talk about est. another Republic of Dubrovnik or even a free Dalmatia...although it never came about
- ? : How did Dubrovnik's plan to use competing alliances to its advantage backfire?

World Wide Thought provoking question?!?



- **What do people tend to do when they no power?**

Croatia

Traded off again!:

Hapsburgs (Austro-Hungarian Empire)

- -17th century, the Hapsburgs forced out the Ottomans
- -After Venice & Dubrovnik fell to Napoleon in the 19th century (1808)
- -Later, the Congress of Vienna grants control of Croatia to the Hapsburgs (Austrians) took control of Croatia (Croats were not consulted)
- ?: What influences have struggled for dominance in Croatia? (6)
- Answer: Croatia, Hungary, Venice, Ottomans, Napoleon then the Hapsburgs/Austro-Hungarian Empire

The Diverse Ethnic Makeup of the Hapsburg Empire



A map of Central Europe and the Balkans, showing countries like Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and parts of Hungary and Slovenia. Major cities like Zagreb, Ljubljana, Trieste, Rijeka, and Dubrovnik are labeled. The map is overlaid with a semi-transparent text box containing the title and bullet points.

The Rise of Nationalism

- **-The problem w/ this diverse make up was that the early twentieth century was a time of growing Nationalism (the aspiration for national independence felt by people under foreign domination)**
- **No longer did people want to be controlled by large empires, having foreign rulers that held different religious beliefs, spoke different languages, and had different ancestry and history**

A map of the Balkans and surrounding regions, including parts of Central Europe and the Mediterranean coast. Major cities like Zagreb, Ljubljana, Trieste, and Sarajevo are labeled. Rivers like the Drava and Sava are shown. The map is highlighted in yellow and cyan colors.

After WWI

- **-After the breakup of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of WWI, Croats banded together w/ Serbs, Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims)* and Slovenes to create Yugoslavia**
- **-Almost immediately, Croats (who were Roman Catholic Christians)* feared that the Serbs (who were Orthodox Christians)* would try to steer Yugoslavia in a Serbian direction (because they believed that almost everyone in the Balkans were ultimately Serbian...whether they knew it or not)**
- ***Although most people in the Balkans can trace their ethnicity back to the Slavic migrations in the 7th Century, “ethnicity” in the Balkans is largely determined by religious beliefs**

**Yugoslavia
After WWI
includes all
colored areas**

Former Yugoslavia



A map of Croatia and surrounding regions, including parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Hungary. Major cities like Zagreb, Rijeka, Zadar, Split, and Dubrovnik are labeled. The Adriatic Sea is to the west. The word 'Croatia' is written in large letters at the bottom left. The word 'Ethnicity' is written in large letters at the top center, overlaid on the map.

Ethnicity

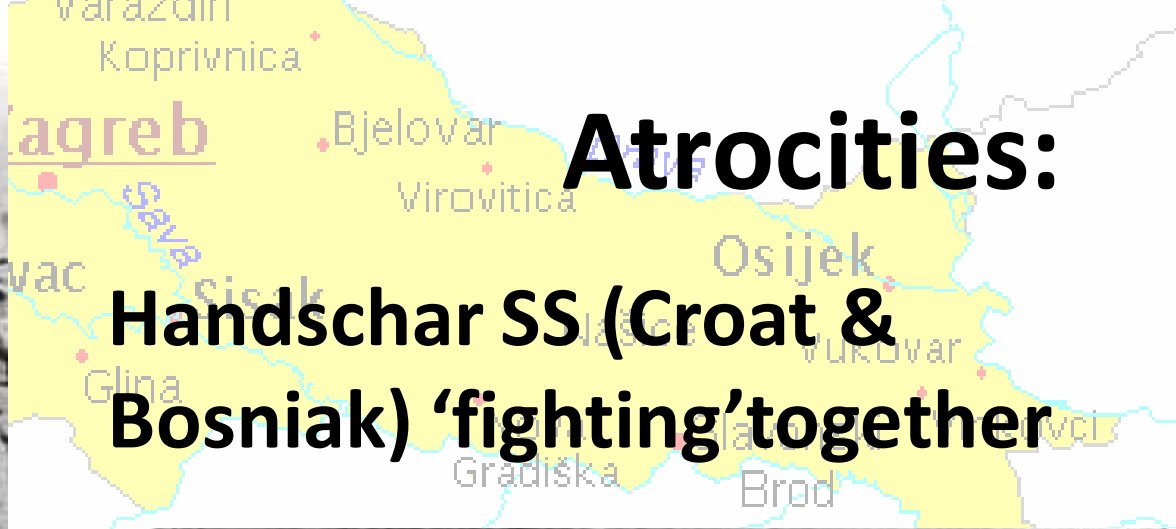
- An ethnic group is a group of people whose members identify with each other, through a common heritage that is real or assumed-sharing cultural characteristics. This shared heritage may be based upon (alleged) common ancestry, history, kinship, religion, language, shared territory .

Croatia

A map of Croatia and surrounding regions during WWII. The map shows the coastline of Croatia, major cities like Zagreb, Karlovac, and Osijek, and the Adriatic Sea. The text is overlaid on the map.

Croatia & WWII

- **Because of this growing fear of the Serbs, the Croats supported the Nazis when they invaded Yugoslavia because the Nazis installed members of the Croat's own fascist group, Ustase, into positions of power.**
- **-in cooperation with the Nazis, Ustase concentration camps murdered Jews, Gypsies and Serbs**
- ***During WWII, Bosniaks were considered ethnic Croats and some joined the Handschar division of the SS with Croats (led by German commanders, over 21,000 strong)**



Atrocities:

Handschar SS (Croat & Bosniak) 'fighting' together

Ustase getting ready to behead a Serb

Croatia



The ?:

Why do you think people to come to think and act in such a way? What makes humans capable to committing such atrocities?



Cruelty & hatred become values to proudly display

Ustase family



Bo
Her



A pivotal figure: Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac

** increases tensions between Croats & Yugoslavia*



- -Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac was a Croat who backed the Ustase, although he did not agree with the extremism of the Ustase, he did little to fight it
- -When Tito came to power, he had Stepinac arrested, tried and imprisoned and died under house arrest in 1960
- -Stepinac has become a martyr for Catholic and Croat Nationalists (he remains unpopular with the Serbs and is still a controversial figure today)



The Rise of Tito: Yugoslavia part II



- -Josip Broz, aka Tito, helped to force the Ustase out of Yugoslavia at the end of WWII, with the help of his homegrown army
- Because of this, unlike other Eastern European countries that were liberated by the Soviets, Yugoslavia did not fall under *direct* Soviet control
- - Tito became president for life and Croatia once again became a part of Yugoslavia which remained together for over 40 years



**Good Guy or Bad Guy?
Unifying leader or harsh dictator?**

...like most things in history, the answer lies somewhere in between

- For more info see history of Balkans, the 2nd Yugoslavia, after WWII**

Croatian Independence...a bloody finale (Serbo-Croatian War)

- -Croatia claimed independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, despite the fear and anger of nearly ½ million Serbs living in Croatia
- -even before their independence, Croatian Serbs declared their independence from Croatia, forming their own state and forcing out or murdering any Croats in 'their' own state...w/ the thinly disguised support of Slobodan Milosevic
- -the country experienced a tense cease fire until 1995 when Croatia pushed back through Serb dominated country and reclaimed it for Croatia
- -Croatia had been dominated by other nations for 9 centuries, so when they received their independence, their nationalism bordered on fascism

Franjo Tudjman

- -Croatia's first president Franjo Tudjman proposed impossible directives for Croatia such as privatizing all of the nations natural resources by handing them over to 200 super elite families (never happened)
- -Tudjman started out his career w/ Tito on the left but later dramatically swung to the far right, his highly nationalistic HDZ party was the driving force for Croatian independence but as he began to rule he became more and more authoritarian



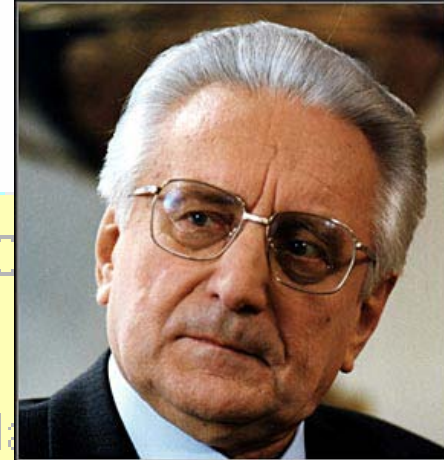
Prehodnik Republike
i Vrhovni zapovjednik
oružanih snaga Hrvatske



Umm...Note to future world leaders: Nazis are not the group to associate with!

- -when he entered politics, he was a historian and revered the Ustase (because he viewed them as 'freedom fighters' since they were the 1st Croatian state since the 12th century).**
- When he became president he reintroduced many Ustase symbols (which alarmed many Serbs and raised many eyebrows world wide)**
- -Tudjman also espoused many of the same ideas about ethnic divisions. Croat forces may or may not have been acting under Tudjman's orders when they carried out large-scale ethnic cleansing against Serb and Muslim minorities**

More bad signs



- -Tudjman also kept tight control on the media even if true, when Croats turned on the TV and saw the flag flapping gallantly to the national anthem, they knew something was up and had to turn to CNN to get the real story
- -even though they attacked one another rhetorically, Tudjman and Milosevic had secret relations (much like Stalin and Hitler, during one meeting they purportedly divided up Bosnia-Herzegovina between themselves on a cocktail napkin) when Tudjman's successor moved into his office, he discovered a secret direct line to Milosevic's office

A map of Croatia and surrounding regions, including parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Slovenia. Major cities like Zagreb, Rijeka, and Dubrovnik are labeled. The map is overlaid with text.

A Controversial leader

- -because of this oppressive environment, many young Croatians fled the country causing a ‘brain drain’
- -Tudjman is a controversial figure still today, many view him as a hero, others view him as a criminal
- Note: the government also began calling the language ‘Croatian’ instead of Serbo-Croatian and started creating new words from specifically Croatian roots.

Croatia Today

- -after Tudman's death in 1999, he was replaced by the more democratic Stjepan Mesić
- was once aligned w/ Tudman but broke away from him when his views became too extreme.
- Tudman had tampered w/ the constitution to give himself more power; Mesić reversed those changes when he came to power and gave power back to parliament





Living with the past

- -In 2003 Croatia applied for membership into the EU and it is officially an EU candidate country capable of joining as soon as 2011.
- It's largest hurdle to overcome in being accepted is human rights violations
 - several Croatian officers were charged w/ war crimes during the Serbo-Croatian War but many Croats view them as heroes
 - Ante Gotovina, who after 4 years of hiding was found and arrested in Spain and sent to the Hague to stand for charges of war crimes.
 - As a sign of support, photos of Gotovina appear in towns throughout Croatia. His name means 'cash' so many Croats say 'to get into the EU we must pay cash (gotovina)'



Losing land to foreigners and becoming a part of another Empire?

- -Other concerns for joining the EU include Westerners buying up Adriatic beachfront property and joining another union again after so recently achieving their freedom but the re-election of pro-EU Mesic in 2005 shows the country's overall willingness to be a part of a united Europe

Croatia





The Question



- **In regards to the Serbo-Croatian war:**
- **Did Serbs and Croats kill each other out of an ancient hatred and years of pent up frustration?**
- **Did they really never live peacefully together?**
- **Or... did Tudman, accentuate their differences in order to gain more control for himself?**
- **Do you think happens more than once in Balkan history...in world history?**
- **OR...**

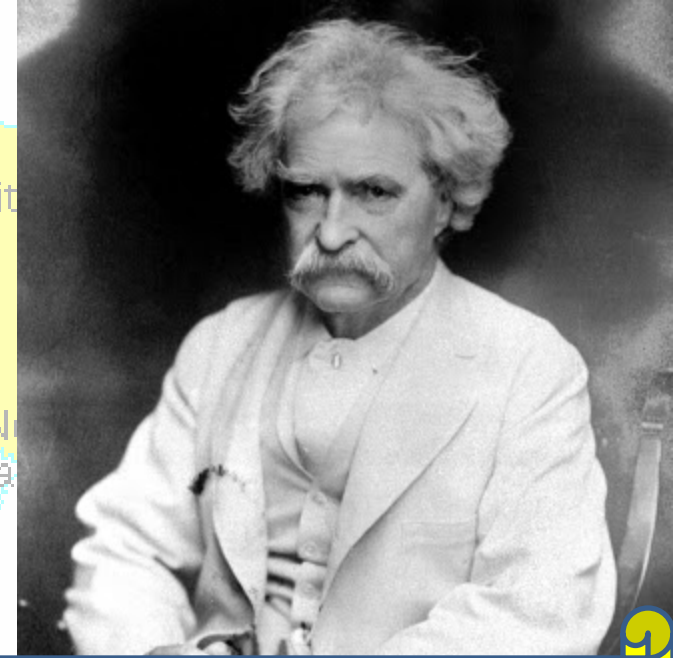


“Otherness”



- Do you think the people of the Balkans are just violent bloodthirsty people?
- Many people throughout history have thought this?
- What does thinking this about Balkan people do to your perception of their humanity?
- Does it make it easier for you to think of them as “those people”, “others”, different and a little less human than you?
- Do you think these are the same tactics that Tudman encouraged Croats to think about Serbs?
- What were the consequences of this line of thought?

Mark Twain on the Balkan Wars



“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 mislead the public and sell falsified "black level" propaganda to the masses in the form of grossly exaggerated and even fictional "atrocities", half-truths and outright lies about what happened; but even more importantly, what did NOT happen - before, during and after the actual military conflicts involved.

Next the statesmen 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 apply to the Serbo-Croatian war?

- Mark Twain, *The*

Could this apply to any current events?