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How Roman are you?  
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# Croatia on the way to democracy



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The image shows the national flag of Croatia, which consists of three horizontal stripes of red, white, and blue. In the center is the coat of arms, a shield with a red and white checkerboard pattern. Above the shield is a crown with five smaller shields containing various symbols: a yellow star, a golden lion, three golden suns, a blue and red striped field, and a yellow star above a white crescent moon. The text "Croatia from 1900 until now" is overlaid in a large, bold, black serif font.

**Croatia from  
1900 until now**

# Dictatorship in Croatia

- dictatorship = a political regime in which an individual or group has unlimited and complete power
- under the dictatorship was the Habsburg Monarchy, Austro-Hungarian Empire the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, the Independent state of Croatia and Yugoslavia



# Croatia was a part of Habsburg Monarchy and Austro - Hungarian Empire

- Habsburg Monarchy = the name of the state ruled by the Austrian branch of the Habsburg dynasty
- the capital was Vienna
- the Monarchy was called the Austro - Hungarian Empire from 1804 to 1867 , and Austria-Hungary from 1867 to **1918**



Austro-Hungarian Empire flag



## Croatia in Austro-Hungarian Empire



# Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

- the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was formed on December 1, 1918. Since 1929 it was called the Kingdom of Yugoslavia
- it included the territory of Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina



the flag of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, Slovenes



crest of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

It was a monarchy ruled by the Serbian Karadjordjević family, by **Alexander I**.

When he was assassinated in France in 1934, his son Petar became king **Petar II**, but as he was only 11 years old, his uncle Pavle became the regent.

The king and the government left the country in 1941 and settled in London.



King Alexander I



King Petar II



## Croatia in Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes



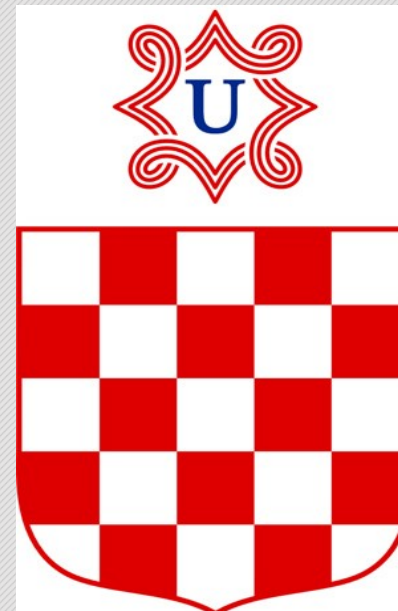


# Independent State of Croatia

- the Independent State of Croatia was a puppet state created during the World War II
- it was founded on April 10, 1941 during the April War - aggression of the Axis Powers on the Kingdom of Yugoslavia
- it was influenced by Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy
- the capital was Zagreb



the flag of Independent State of Croatia



crest of the Independent State of Croatia

# Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

- Yugoslavia - the name for the former socialist country that consisted of 6 republics: Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Macedonia
- Serbia had autonomous 2 provinces: Vojvodina and Kosovo
- it was proclaimed in 1943 on the territory of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia under the name Democratic Federative Yugoslavia and it existed until 1992
  - the capital was Beograd



the flag of Yugoslavia



republics in Yugoslavia



President Tito and Russian leader Stalin had a long conflict which escalated in 1948.

Yugoslavia did not want to be a part of the eastern block and became

a leader of Non-alignment movement.



Yugoslav citizens could travel to foreign countries. There were elections, but as there was only one political party, they were pointless.

Factories belonged to workers and they could make decisions through workers' councils. It was a social and economic model introduced in 1950.



Josip Broz Tito

After Tito's death in 1980, Yugoslavia did not have a president, but a presidency which consisted of members from all republics and they took turns in being **President of the Presidency.**

Slovenia and Croatia wanted to become independent countries.

A majority of Croats wanted Croatia to leave Yugoslavia and become a sovereign country, while many ethnic Serbs living in Croatia, supported by Serbia, opposed this idea.

**Croatia had an independence referendum in May 1991, the vast majority of citizens voted for independence.**

**Croatia declared independence, which led to a terrible war.** The Serb controlled Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), attacked Slovenia and Croatia. By **1995**, only eastern part of Croatia was still occupied and, to prevent further loss of lives, UN decided to intervene.



Croatia (Republika Hrvatska) was first internationally recognized by Iceland, in December 1991.

In January 1992 Croatia was recognized by 44 countries and other countries did the same soon.

In May 1992 Croatia became a member of the United Nations.



In January 1996, UN established a peace-keeping mission **UNTAES**: United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium.

The UNTAES mandate ended on January 15 **1998**, ending the process of peaceful integration of the Croatian Danube region into the constitutional and legal order of the Republic of Croatia.



Finally free!



Franjo Tuđman,  
the first Croatian  
president





# Croatia = democracy

- democracy = a form of government in which political decisions are made most often through elections or referendums in which all citizens participate
- How do we choose authorities for:
  1. the Croatian parliament
  2. the government of the Republic of Croatia
  3. the county (there are 20 counties + the capital city Zagreb))
  4. The President

# How do we choose authorities?

## 1. for the Croatian parliament (Sabor)

- members of the Croatian Parliament are elected in direct elections, by secret ballot
- regular elections for members of the Croatian Parliament are held every four years (can have 100 - 160 members)
- the President of the Republic of Croatia makes the decision to call elections for members of the Croatian Parliament.
- citizens of the Republic of Croatia over the age of 18 have the right to vote, on the basis of general and equal voting rights





## 2. for the government:

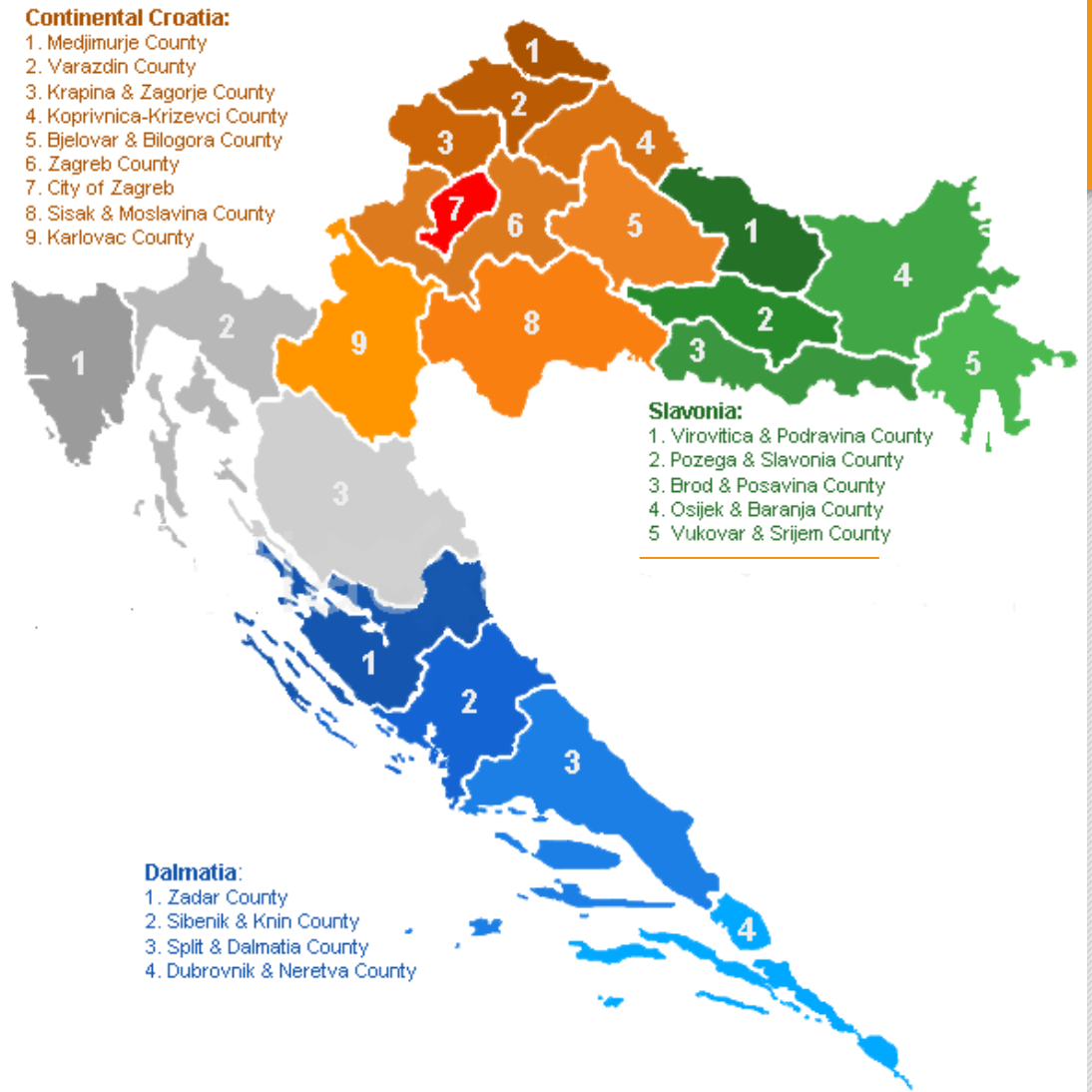
after the official announcement of the results of the election of representatives to the Croatian Parliament (parliamentary elections),

The President of the Republic of Croatia entrusts the mandate to form the Government to the person who, based on the allocation of seats in the Croatian Parliament and the consultations carried out, enjoys the trust of the majority of all representatives. Prime Minister is currently Andrej Plenković and he chose 20 government members.



- 3. for the county (županija)

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- the prefect (župan) and deputy prefects are elected in direct elections for a period of four years.
- regular prefect elections are held every fourth year, simultaneously with elections for members of representative bodies of local and regional self-government units.
- elections are announced by the Government of the Republic of Croatia





#### 4. for the president:

the President of the Republic of Croatia is elected in direct elections by secret ballot for a term of five years.

The decision to call elections is made by the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

In the elections for the President of the Republic of Croatia, citizens of the Republic of Croatia who happen to be outside the country's borders at the time of the election, as well as those citizens of the Republic of Croatia who do not reside in the Republic of Croatia, are also entitled to vote.



Croatian president  
Zoran Milanović



Living in Croatia, we can enjoy elements of democracy:

- equality - all people are equal and have equal rights without any discrimination on the basis of sex, religion, ethnic group
- accountability - elected and appointed officials have to be responsible for their actions and accountable to the people
- citizen participation - voting, being a member of voluntary organization, ...
- rule of law - no one is above the law, everyone must obey the law
- political tolerance - the majority of people rule, but the rights of the minorities must be protected
- transparency - people must know what is happening in the country
- economic freedom - the private ownership of property and business is allowed
- multi party system - there are about 160 political parties, the biggest is The Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), founded by Franjo Tuđman in 1989
- regular free, fair election
- accepting the result of election





There are also problems:

- corruption - elected officials sometimes abuse entrusted power for private gain
- inefficiency
- decision making is very slow as many people have to be consulted
- voter ignorance - citizens often do not understand the programs of candidates
- lack of political education
- voter apathy - lots of people lack interest in the elections and feel that their vote will not make a difference, they do not vote, voter turnout is less than 50%
- bad decisions by elected leaders



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