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Bosnia and Herzegovina: a country at the Balkan crossroads

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country rich history and diverse cultural heritage which is located in the heart Balkan peninsula , on crossroads different civilization and influence , which shaped her specific and complex identification . Like geographically and political entity , Bosnia and Herzegovina is always was on border , not only between different empires and religion , but and between different political , cultural and social system . This country , which is today integral part southeast Europe , was on different ways center conflict , but and meeting culture , ideology and national tradition . Passing by through different historical phases, from the medieval ones Bosnian kingdom to the Ottoman Empire domination , Habsburg monarchy , up to the Yugoslav one period and contemporary post-war society , Bosnia and Herzegovina has shaped unique mix ethnic and cultural Political characteristics and social landscape of the country , however , is marked deep divisions , how among nations inside countries , so and in relation on wider regional and international factors . In the Balkans crossroads , Bosnia and Herzegovina became symbol complexity identity , depending on which historical , political and social frame dominates in a certain period .

Geographical viewed , Bosnia and Herzegovina occupies strategic position on Balkans , located between central Europe , the Mediterranean , and Middle east , making it natural by bridge between different culture and civilization . In progress their own history , this position enabled Bosnia to be goal conquests and influence , but and space meeting and mergers different people and tradition . Since time immemorial Roman empire to the Ottoman period , the country was under different empires which are left yours trace on hers cultural and ethnic mosaic . Under the rule Romans and Byzantium , Bosnia was partly wider civilizational circle , but will Ottoman invasion in the 15th century largely to shape her religious , social and cultural landscape . Ottoman government brings Islam in Bosnia , which had deep influence on identity countries , creating significant Muslim entity in the region , while Catholicism and Orthodoxy other present among other nations , especially To the Croats and To the Serbs . During Ottoman reign , Bosnia and Herzegovina was country in which were mixing different religions and ethnic group , but in which are

at the same time existed and deep divisions , which they later reflected in political and social relationships .

After to fail Ottoman empire , Bosnia and Herzegovina becomes part of Austria- Hungary Monarchies at the end of the 19th century , and later , in the 20th century , it enters the frame Kingdoms Yugoslavia and Socialist Federative Republics Yugoslavia . During these period , Bosnia and Herzegovina was part wider Yugoslav context , where are the policies centralization and federalism mixed with questions national rights and autonomy . In the second half of the 20th century , especially in the period after Second World War II, Bosnia and Herzegovina became federal unit inside Socialist Yugoslavia , where are ethnic and religious differences were settled through political structures , but they are not completely disappeared . Although the Yugoslav period made it possible development modern infrastructure and educational system , and economic progress , ethnic tensions and different political interests among nations they are not stopped . The beginning of the 1990s brought dramatic changes , because are ethnic divisions escalated into conflicts , which will culminate by war and brutal ethnic cleanings .

War in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995 represents one from the darkest period in modern history countries . As part of disintegration Yugoslavia , Bosnia and Herzegovina declared independence , which caused armed conflict between the three main ones peoples : Bosniaks , Serbs and Croats , with significant international involvement . The conflict , which was marked wartime crimes and ethnic cleanings , he left deep ones wounds on society , physical , political and psychological . Dayton peace agreement from 1995 he ended the war but left it behind Bosnia and Herzegovina political divided on two entities , Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic Serbian , with additional mechanisms ethnic autonomy . Although the peace agreement brought stability , achievements on field reconciliation are was limited , but political stability the country is and further under the big challenges .

Bosnia and Herzegovina, as contemporary the state is facing numerous challenges in trying construction common identity and reconciliation among with their own nations . State frame Bosnia and Herzegovina , according to Dayton agreement , makes political system exceptionally complex , based on ethnic presentation on all levels authorities . This system , although it caused a break conflict , too creates political paralysis and makes it difficult bringing key decision necessary for further development countries . Regardless on efforts international communities , including the EU and the US, for help in the process stabilization and integration into European and global structures , Bosnia and Herzegovina and further lagging behind in development , facing with serious problems in the economy , rights minorities , corruption and political manipulation .

Social life in Bosnia and Herzegovina is also divided and ethnic differences they remain key factor in everyday life , although many people and organizations they work on recognizing common interests and build inclusive society . However , and further there is significant number obstacles , including and educational and cultural barriers , which direct people according to with their own ethnic communities instead of according to wider Bosnian-Herzegovinian identity . At the same time , Bosnia and Herzegovina is i further the place where they meet and intertwine different traditions , languages , customs and religions , which her gives wealth and complexity which is rare seen in others in parts of the world .

From perspectives international relations , Bosnia and Herzegovina is a state which is located on crossroads between east and west , and which heavier membership in the European Union to the union and NATO, but which must also balance relationships with neighboring countries and global forces . Process accessions European the union , which lasts already more from decades , represents key goal countries , but and huge political and economic a challenge . Confidence in your own capacities for bringing decision and political coherence The problem remains that requires serious engagement all political and social actors .

Bosnia and Herzegovina, therefore , i further represents unique case on the Balkans , where the overall development must understand through prism historical experiences , political and ethnic division , but and through possibility construction future based on dialogue , reconciliation and European integrations . Considering on yours geographical position , Bosnia is a country which must balance between of their own internal complexities and external political pressures , with the aim of construction stable , calm and prosperous states which will to be able to fully to use yours potential . In the Balkans crossroads , Bosnia and Herzegovina remains symbol hopes and caution , but and lighthouse possibilities for future based on common construction .