

THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA—GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTANTS OF THE NEW CENTRAL-EUROPEAN STATE

Ivan Gams

Abstract

The territory of this new European state is crossed by strategically important passes, the lowest in the entire Alps, leading from the Danubian basin to the Mediterranean (Italy). Thus, the Slovenes had been under cultural, civilizational and political domination of centers from these two parts of Europe until 1918. Because the mountainous land forms, dissected also by valleys and basins, were prone to processes of diffusion rather than fusion, the Slovenes became a national and political subject of their own as late as the nineteenth century. From 1918 to 1990 they were joined to Yugoslavia, a South-East European state, and learnt, to their cost, all the differences between the cultures of West and Central Europe on the one hand, and South-East and Eastern Europe and the Near East on the other. Hence the plebiscite decision by the nation for an independent state.

General Data

The Republic of Slovenia (in Slovene language: *Republika Slovenija*, abbreviated in text as RS). Independence proclaimed by the Parliament of RS on June 25, 1991, on the basis of the referendum of December 23, 1990. 20,256 square kilometers, 2 million inhabitants (census 1991), density: 99 people/km². 91% Slovenians, other autochthonous inhabitants: Hungarians (0.5%) and Italians (0.2%), the rest: immigrants from other Yugoslav republics of various nationalities. Legislative body: Parliament of RS with 240 deputies in three chambers, the members of which were elected by democratic elections in spring 1990. Representatives of 9 parties in the Parliament. Collective presiding body: President and four members. Executive authorities: Executive Council of the Parliament of RS. Capital: Ljubljana (288,000 inhabitants). Social product (1988): 5,463 USD per capita. Borders: Italy (202 km.), Austria (324 km.), Hungary (88 km.), Croatia (546 km.) sea coast (Adria): 46 km.

First Geographical Constant:
Tectonic and Relief Dissection of the Land

Most of the land is mountainous; 25% belongs to high karst plateaux and ridges rising above them. The average altitude of RS is below the world average (580 meters). Only 10% of the land exceeds the altitude of 1,000 meters, which is the average limit of settlements; and only 2% exceeds 1,600 meters, which is the approximate upper forest line. Since the territory belongs to the Alpine orogenies and was intensely dissected by vertical tectonic movement following the Old Pliocene, the average steepness of slopes is above average (above 13 degrees). Plains cover only 17% of the land, and are distributed on the beds of larger river valleys, basins and karst poljes.

Everywhere in the world such relief obstructed communication among peoples before modern communications systems were established, thus helping to preserve small, old, ethnic and religious groupings. In the area of Slovenia, it restricted linguistic assimilation of the Slovenians by their more numerous neighbors who had ruled over them. The terrain was unsuitable for formation of ethnic communities even in larger river basins, because wider river valleys are interrupted by gorges, and so fall within intermediary basins where the people collected (e.g., along the Sava: the basins of Ljubljana, Litija and Krško). Thus, the 37 dialects of the Slovenian language are not just limited to larger river basins of the main rivers, the Drava, Sava and Soča.

After the great migrations of peoples in the sixth and seventh centuries, the territory at the meeting-point of Central, South and South-east Europe was inhabited by a group of Slavs—Slovenians, linguistically already articulated. Administrative and political independence in the early Middle Ages was achieved by the peoples in the largest basin, nowadays called after Klagenfurt. This political formation was then called Carantania, and all Slovenians were called Carantanians for many years afterwards. Because of pressure from the Hungarians with whom the Slovenians had formerly settled, Carantania joined with the more powerful Bavarians in the ninth century, all merging into the Frankish State. Since German colonists were prevalent, Klagenfurt basin ceased in the Middle Ages to be the central Slovene region. With the loss of autonomy, a twelve centuries-long period began during which the RS territory was governed by state administration bodies located in larger lowlands, centers and basins outside it, such as in the Bavarian, Viennese or Pannonian basins respectively (Vienna, Budapest), and Veneto-Friuli lowlands (Venice, ecclesiastical patriarchy in Aquilea). Only once in the whole Middle Ages, did the feudal authorities with their

center on the present RS territory claim leadership in the larger Danubian basin; it was in the time of the Dukes of Celje, named after the town of the same name (1991: 42,155 inhabitants), the center of the Celje basin. But the ambitions of these state rulers to gain dominance over the state were stopped abruptly by a sudden dying-out of the family.

Minor administrative-political formations which comprised RS territory had their centers in larger basins around it: on the German territory in the Graz basin (Styria, with the capital of Graz), in the Klagenfurt basin (Carinthia, with Klagenfurt), in the Italian Gorizia (Gorizia County) on the margin of the Friuli lowland, and in the last few centuries, in the biggest Austrian port, i.e., Italian Trieste (Primorska - Littoral). The whole Littoral region was under Venetian rule until the fourteenth century, and the Istrian part until the nineteenth century. The Kranjska (Carniola) Crown Province was the only one that had its center in the largest Slovene basin (790 km²), named after the city Ljubljana. As in other basins, tectonic sinking in the Neogene and Quaternary had made a confluent river network. Its concentric valleys make traffic connections possible with larger surroundings. This basin became a "Piedmont" for uniting Slovenes in the past century.

Late (when compared with other nations in West and Central Europe), a uniform Slovene literary language was formed in the nineteenth century, although the first Slovene written documents originate from around 1,000 A.D., and the first Slovene books were printed as early as the period of the Reformation, i.e., in the second half of the sixteenth century. In the nineteenth century, the name "*Slovenci*" began to predominate over the names according to the provinces, like Styrians, Carinthians, Littorals and Istrians. The present Slovene region north of the Mura was part of the Hungarian Monarchy, and in the period of the Austrian and Austro-Hungarian Empires, respectively, it was governed by Hungarians. After free elections in the second half of the nineteenth century, Slovene political parties gained a majority in the provincial Parliament of Carniola only.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, a movement called "United Slovenia" was born; its striving was directed towards uniting all Slovenian ethnic territory in a single administrative-political unit. Immediately before the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, its program was extended to the idea of joining with other Yugoslav nations, but still under the Habsburg dynasty.

The prevailing mountainous character of RS dictated the direction of internal migrations of population in the period of capitalism and socialism. Similar to other Central European mountainous regions, the so-called "population erosion" (from hills to valleys) started in Slovenia a century ago (Table 1). Simultaneously, the population became more dense at lower altitudes (Table 2).

After World War I, Slovenia became part of agrarian Yugoslavia, whose north-east part offered far better conditions for agriculture than Slovenia. Thus, during the deagrarianization process, areas of intense cultivation diminished, benefiting the forests (Table 3). The Statistics Office delayed in registering the change in land use. According to unofficial data, forests already occupy 52% of the surface. With such forestation, RS is the third most forested European country, following Sweden and Finland. In the areas of mountains of medium height, approximately one-third was forest two centuries ago, but now, forest constitutes two-thirds.

Second Geographical Constant:

Contact of Four European Natural Geographic Regions

The following four physio-geographical units spread from neighboring countries into the RS:

1) *The Alpine mountains* cover 40% of RS. High mountains of the Kamnik-Savinja, Karavanke and Julian Alps occupy 11% of RS territory. As in other European Alps, farming as a main economic activity was replaced in RS in the last half-century by industry and tourism. The latter is based on skiing, lake recreation and mountaineering. Since high mountain groups belong to the South Limestone Alps, the peaks are pointed and slopes are steep and rocky—in some parts far below the timber line - which increases the appearance of high-mountainous scenery.

The greater part of Alpine mountains of medium height belong to “ridge-and-valley” land forms, i.e., 28.9% of RS; there, the peaks do not reach the timber line. In the cultivated landscape, there is an evident division into two parts. At the bottom of the valleys, cultivated land in uninterrupted and dense settlements is serried, but in the mountains, sporadic and rare settlement predominates with the only exception of former miners’ settlements. Due to minor tectonic dissection, mineral deposits are frequent but small-sized, convenient for some mining in the past (a quick-silver mine at Idrija, lead-and zinc mine at Mežica), but which has been abandoned. From among the many coal mines, exploitation of lignite in the Velenje basin has been preserved, as well as exploitation of brown coal (1 million tons) surrounding the industrial towns of Trbovlje, Hrastnik and Zagorje. Coal is burned mostly in power plants. Their production of electricity exceeds the production of hydro power plants on the Drava, Sava and Soča rivers, and the nuclear power plant at Krško (which is a joint property of RS and the Republic of Croatia).

Slovene Alpine and Subalpine mountains merge with the hilly land and lowlands of Subpannonian Slovenia in the east. Slovene geographers restrict

the Alps to the southern relief, where according to past statements (Neumann, 1882; Melik, 1963; and Gams, 1987), transition to the karst plateau denotes the junction with the Dinaric Mountains.

The greatest concentration of population in the Slovene Alpine region occurs in the Ljubljana basin, the central and most economically developed region in Slovenia (Kranj, 37,109 inhabitants in 1991) with a prevalent fluvio-glacial gravel bottom, and an altitude of between 260 and 520 meters.

Since there were, in past centuries, close connections with the north and west parts of the Eastern Alps (from where many colonists came who were settled by feudal masters in the Middle Ages), the cultural importance of the Alps in Slovenia exceeds their size. The stylized peaks of Triglav, which is with its 2,864 meters the highest mountain in Slovenia and Yugoslavia, make part of the new coat of arms of RS, which has also been included into the Slovene flag. With its 40% of territory lying in the Alps and 44% of all inhabitants living there, RS ranks, as to its portion of the Alps, after Austria and Switzerland and before France, Italy and Germany, where large areas of territory lie outside the Alps (Gams 1987).

2) *Subpannonian Slovenia* stretches like a prong towards the North-East, into the Pannonian basin. Viniferous hills made of Tertiary deposits of Neogene Pannonian sea prevail there, and larger basins are interlaced, where important urban centers are located (Maribor, 105,431 inhabitants; Celje, 42,155; Novo mesto, 22,618). This is a densely populated macro-region, where 33% of the inhabitants of RS live on 21.8% of Slovene territory. Even though the climate and soil are the most favorable for agriculture, Subpannonian Slovenia is the most economically underdeveloped region.

3) *The Dinaric Karst* of continental Slovenia is the North-West corner of the Dinaric Mountains which extend between the Sava and the Adriatic Sea towards SE as far as Greece. This proportion of territory (25%) by far exceeds the proportion of population. There are no deep valleys. The surface is mostly formed of plateaux (400-600 meters), and two-thirds of them are covered by forests which service the timber industry. The population is concentrated in karst depressions, dry valleys and blind valleys, uvalas and karst poljes in particular, which do not allow larger economic and settlement centers because of their small size (up to 100 sq. km.).

4) *The Slovene Littoral* (Primorska), or Submediterranean Slovenia, is a macro-region lying in the hinterlands of the Trieste bay. It is essentially smaller (7.8% of RS) than the former Austro-Hungarian Littoral region (together with Goriška region). Its characteristics are Mediterranean:

agrarian cultures (vine in the hills, in the coastal region olive trees) and cultural history. This region belongs to the categories Submediterranean/Mediterranean/South Europe. Besides the flysch area, the region also encloses the Kras plateau, the name of which became an international term at the beginning of the last century (English—karst, Italian—carso, German—Karst). The North-West Littoral is separated from the sea coast by a 2-8 kilometer-wide belt, which connects the Italian Friuli region with Trieste. As a substitute for the Trieste port, post-war Yugoslavia built a new one in Koper (Capodistria)—5 million tons of cargo—and connected it by railroad with the hinterlands. A shipping company holds approximately half a million GRT of transoceanic liners.

Slovenia is associated through its macro-regions as follows:

- through its Alpine regions with five countries, which extend their territory to the Alps (France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Italy);
- through its Subpannonian region with five Pannonian countries (Hungary, Czech and Slovak Federation, Romania, Yugoslavia);
- through its part of the Dinaric Mountains with four countries (Yugoslavia, Albania, Greece, and Italy with its small South-East part of Trieste Karst);
- through the coast of the Adriatic Sea with fourteen countries which share the Mediterranean coast.

Third Geographical Constant:

Location on SE Margin of the Alps at the Lowest Alpine Passes,
Strategically Important for Traffic between Central and
South Europe

The bow of the Alps and the Dinaric Mountains, which encircles the Mediterranean basin in the North over a distance of 1,500 kilometers—between the Ligurian coast and the Morava and Vardar valleys in east Yugoslavia—has its lowest height (600 meters) at the junction of both mountain ranges in RS, i.e. the Postojna gate. In the present time of tunnel construction, the importance of Alpine passes and the Postojna gate has diminished, but it had been very important in the history of the Slovene nation. In the period of great migrations of peoples, “barbaric tribes” from Central and East Europe made inroads into Italy across the territory of RS. Larger state formations became established in the Middle Ages and later, with their centers located in the West of Central Europe and their authority extending to the Alps, including Slovenia and neighboring Croatia.

In the periods of the Holy Roman Empire and the German Reich, respectively, the territory of RS was part of the Eastern March (Ostmark) in the Middle Ages, and, later, part of Austria until 1918. For twelve centuries, Slovenes experienced the same spiritual currents and social order as the rest of Central Europe. Cultural influences from the Mediterranean also affected the cultural landscape in other parts of Slovenia. Gothic and Baroque styles prevail in numerous (Roman Catholic) churches, often located on hilltops.

The importance of the Postojna gate for trade (as the meeting-point of communications from continental hinterlands to the Mediterranean basin), grew in the time of mercantilism and the following era of railroads. The so-called "Southern Railway," built in mid-nineteenth century, connecting Vienna with Trieste via Graz, Maribor, Ljubljana, and Postojna and continuing farther into Italy, was one of the most important and oldest railroads in Austro-Hungary. Once the economies of the once socialist countries of Central Europe have recovered, the importance of this arterial railway will increase again. Since Greece and Turkey are now more closely connected with the European Common Market, the arterial traffic line (Munich-Salzburg-Villach-Jesenice-Ljubljana-Beograd-Niš and points beyond: Niš-Istanbul, and Niš-Athens) has become more important. A third arterial road of international importance is the Phyrn highway from Salzburg to Graz, which crosses the territory of RS between Maribor and Krapina, and continues toward Zagreb. In 1990, 101,957,000 travellers crossed the Slovenia state border, and 90% of these by road; 25% is the result of local frontier traffic.

In a time of national awareness in the multinational Austro-Hungary of the mid-nineteenth century, opposition to Germanization grew among the then Slovene intelligentsia, still few in number. They felt it an injustice that since the Middle Ages ethnic Slovene territory had shrunk from about 60,000 kilometers to 24,000 sq. km., due to German colonists who had settled among the far-flung Slovene settlements in the Eastern Alps. The northern Slovene lingual frontier continued to move southwards in Carinthia (where 17,000 Slovenians "officially" live nowadays). When the victorious Allies united the Southern Slavs into a new state in 1918, called until 1929 the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, the head of the Roman Catholic Church and the majority of intelligentsia in Slovenia welcomed this change, hoping for greater national and lingual rights. More so because the victorious Italian army approached Ljubljana to within 20 kilometers after the fall of Austro-Hungary, and then occupied one-third of South-West Slovene territory, keeping it until 1945.

Fourth Geographical Constant:
Poor Natural Conditions for Agriculture

On mountainous terrain, steep slopes make ploughing and cultivation difficult, as it is in marshes on plains, due to a humid climate. Annual precipitation, less in the North-East, is up to 3,500 millimeters on the western margin of RS (South border of the Julian Alps) and about 800 millimeters by the Hungarian border. Annual evapotranspiration is between 450 and 750 millimeters (when the range of annual temperature is between 14°C at the seaside, and -1.8°C at an altitude 2,514 meters). Specific run-off is high, between 15 and 90 i/s.k., which is favorable for an urban water supply but unfavorable because of rapid erosion of nutritious substances in the soil. Even the old Pleistocene thick soil is acid and gluey. The best soil for growing crops is brown thin soil (cambisols and fluvisols) on the permeable base which, however, covers only 10% of the territory of RS. Most of the carbonate rocks, which spread over 40% of the land, are covered with shallow stony soil (Gams, 1983).

All the above factors restrict the extent of arable land and of cereal production. The country imports approximately 20% of its food. Before a non-agrarian economy began to develop prior to World War I, surplus inhabitants had been forced to emigrate abroad (the Americas, Western Europe) where they mostly became assimilated. The formation of Yugoslavia in 1918 led to intense deagrarianization.

In 1918, Slovenes were, for the first time, joined to a state with the center in South-East Europe, Belgrade (Beograd). In the new, initially completely agrarian state, Slovenia represented the most industrially advanced area (metal, textile, wood industries). Yugoslavia protected its industry with high import taxes, by which it fostered the industrialization of the country (Vrišer, 1990). After 1945, the communist regime put into effect the so-called socialization of the means of production in Slovenia (a policy known by different names: state, socialist, or social property, associated or self-managing labor, etc...). Due to the mountainous relief, most of the land remained private property (1989: 69% of all land, and 89% of arable land). In 1989, 94% of the entire means of production, land not included, were "nationalized," and only 3.7% of working people were in the private sector. In the same year, 45.5% of people employed, worked in industry and mining. The highest numbers of active people were employed in the following branches: manufacture of electrical appliances and machines, textile products, metal processing, etc. Due to older industrial traditions in RS, most of the more complex production was developed there. The industry of

RS contributed 44% of all refrigerators and TV sets; 38% of radio sets; 50% of paper, etc., to the Yugoslav market in 1988. RS, where 8.4% of Yugoslav population lived (1981), had 6.25% of the general national income in 1981, and in 1984, it produced 15.7% of domestic production, 18.7% originating from industry and mining.

Twenty-five percent of annual hard currency export from Yugoslavia has been generated by RS in the last few years. Due to a higher degree of employment, including women (who represented 46% of the active population in RS, and 73% of the employees in non-industrial branches in 1987), the living standard in RS has been above the Yugoslav average. (In 1985, the average income was 35.2% higher than the Yugoslav average.) For this reason, during the last four decades, Slovenia has attracted seasonal workers from other Yugoslav republics, and some of them have settled down in RS. Thus, the percentage of native Slovene population declined to 90.5% in 1981.

Because of the ease of sales within state borders, Slovene industry was oriented mostly toward the home market (approximately 60%) and Yugoslav market (approximately 25%), while the foreign market represented only 14.3% of sales. Among the exports, electrical appliances, chemical and metal products predominated, together with agricultural products like meat (cattle and poultry breeding), wine, hops, etc.

The tertiary sector of the economy, however, has remained underdeveloped, for 40% of active people work in industry, 6.9% in building trade, 5.9% in traffic and communications, 9.5% in trade, 3.3% crafts and services, 4.4% in finances and business services, and 6.4% in education (1990). In 1981, 13.8% of the active population worked in agrarian activities and fishing industry, 37% in industry and mining, 6.1% in building trade, 5% in traffic and communications, 8.3% in trade, 5.5% in crafts and personal services, 5.3% in education, culture and information, 5.3% in health service and social security, etc.

The Place of Slovenia in History and in the Regional Geography of Europe

Stagnation of economic development in the 80's, characteristic of European communist countries, was deepened in Yugoslavia by national conflicts. Slovenes experienced even greater differences in the standards of living between the bordering neighbor countries, Austria and Italy, and Slovenia itself, as a result of the capitalist system between the World Wars and the post-war communist system in Yugoslavia. Ever since 1918, they had been lacking autonomy and had been exposed to attempts to create one uniform Yugoslav nation. In the 80's, conflicts with Yugoslav bodies of

government increased because of Slovene demands for greater democratization throughout the whole country, including Kosovo. (It is now, according to Mundro 1990, one of the 29 conflict areas in the world.) The discontent led to a referendum in December 1990, when 88.2% of the citizens of RS declared their support for an independent and sovereign Slovenia. The newly elected Parliament composed of different political parties decided that within six months' time the government should prepare laws for attainment of independence. Independence was declared by the Republic Parliament on June 25, 1991—in spite of incomplete adaptation of Slovenia's administration and economy to West European standards and in spite of the difficulties common to all ex-communist countries of Central Europe during their transition to market economy and multi-factional political systems.

The reproach that the motive for partitioning RS from Yugoslavia is separatism and nationalism does not take into account the following facts:

- 1) Slovenia is not part of the Balkans. Most Yugoslav geographers will limit the Balkan peninsula to the Danubian lowlands in the north, i.e., the lowlands by the Danube and the Sava, and to the Karlovac basin in the northwest. However, the name of "the Balkans" has acquired the quality of an idea, rather than a geographical name (Gams, 1967). The fact that Slovenia differs from the Balkans has also been ascertained by foreign authors of geographical monographs on Yugoslavia (Péchoux, 1971, p. 215: "La Slovénie n'a que bien peu des traits balkaniques...").
- 2) From the point of regional geography, RS is not part of southeast Europe which includes Yugoslavia, together with Slovenia, particularly by Central European regional geographers (Detler, 1975, et al.). RS experienced Turkish invasions but not Turkish occupation which left its stamp on the cultural landscape, civilization, and structures of religions (i.e., Islam) in South-East Europe.
- 3) RS is not a part of Eastern Europe. In spite of the forty-five years-long rule of the communist regime in Yugoslavia, Slovenes have always looked upon themselves as Central Europeans, regardless of several regional geographies of the world and Europe which separate Europe into two parts (Norris, 1990,; Pinder, 1990; et al.). The text-book on geography for Slovene secondary schools classified most of the territory of RS as Central European, and in view of traditional architecture, the small South-West Slovenia as Sub-Mediterranean, or borderland Southern European (Gams,

1983, reprinted 1991).

If the states were ranked into macro-regions according to social order, RS would belong to many different macro-regions of Europe in our era. This is shown in Table 4.

After almost seven decades of living in Yugoslavia, public opinion in Slovenia agrees with the characteristics of Southeast Europe as stated by H. Sundhaussen (1991, No.5, p. 4) in the introduction to this article: "Presentation of the development in four states, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, and Albania, since their foundation to the present time, explains that they succeeded neither between World Wars I and II nor in the four-and-a-half decades of 'socialism' in solving the problems of national tensions, latent border conflicts, and economic retardation. The lack of permanent political culture represents a hindrance for the future of the region." Most of these characteristics are not true of Slovenia. It has no nationally disputable state borders and no larger continuous units of other nationalities within its ethnic territory.

The most intense mixing of nations in most parts of Yugoslavia was caused by the half a millennium-long Turkish occupation (Figures 3, 4). The majority of Serbian refugees from the Ottoman Empire were settled along the border with Turkey by the Austrian and Venetian governments; they were armed and helped to maintain the so-called "Military Frontier Province." This territory between the Drava and the Adriatic has become, in 1990 and 1991, the territory of Serbo-Croatian conflicts for its role.

In 1981, the proportions of nationalities intermingled in the Yugoslav Republics and Autonomous Regions (abbreviated AR) were approximately as follows:

- AR Voivodina: 54.4% Serbs, 18.9% Hungarians, 8.2% Yugoslavs;
- R Serbia (without the two ARs): 85.4% Serbs, 2.7% Moslems;
- R Macedonia: 67% Macedonians, 19.8% Albanians;
- AR Kosovo: 77.4% Albanians, 13.2% Serbs, 3.7% Moslems, 1.7% Montenegrins (most Albanians are Moslems, but they declared themselves according to their nationalities and not religion);
- R Montenegro: 68.5% Montenegrins, 13.4% Moslems, 3.3% Serbs, 6.5% Albanians, 5.3% Yugoslavs (a lot of Montenegrins have lately been declaring themselves as Serbs);
- R Bosnia and Herzegovina: 39.5% Moslems, 32% Serbs, 18.4% Croats;
- R Croatia: 75.1% Croats, 11.6% Serbs, 8.2% Yugoslavs (Berčić, 1987).

Note: The census of 1981 offered the possibility of declaring oneself not only according to nationality but also simply as “citizen,” as Yugoslavs, an option taken by 5.4%, or according to religion (Moslems), or regional adherence.

There are now in Slovenia more than 100,000 immigrants, Croats (2.9%) and Serbs (2.2%); they live mostly in industrial and tourist areas. Among the non-Slovenes, there are two autochthonous nations in RS: Italians in the Littoral region (1981: 2,187), and Hungarians (9,496) along the border with Hungary. In both these areas, bilingual communication is officially guaranteed in offices and schools, as well as in the RS Parliament.

Croats developed similar tendencies for independence. Their history has been very similar to Slovene history, except for the fact that in recent times they were ruled by the Hungarians, or belonged territorially to the Hungarian part of Austro-Hungary. Croats also use the Latin alphabet and are mostly Roman Catholic by religion, in contrast to the prevailing Cyrillic alphabet and Orthodox religion of their eastern neighbors. Keeping close connections between an independent Slovenia and Croatia is, therefore, self-explanatory.

Yugoslavia has been the only European country to join nations who adopted culture and civilization from the West on the one hand and from the border areas of Southeast and Eastern Europe on the other. The result is evident: ethnic turmoil and general discontent.

(August 1991)

REFERENCES

- Berčić, I. (ed.) Great Geographical Atlas of Yugoslavia. (Croatian). SNL, Zagreb, 1987
- Detlev, G. K. (ed.) "Jugoslawien". Südosteuropa Handbuch. Vandenoeker-Ruprecht, Göttingen, 1975
- Gams, I. "How Much is Yugoslavia a Balkan Country?" (Croatian) *Geografski horizont* 63-67, 3-4. Zagreb, (1967)
- "Delimitation of the Alps in Slovenia," (Slovene) *Geografski vestnik* 69, 13-20. Ljubljana (1987)
- "Landschaftsökologische Gliederung Sloweniens," *Klagenfurter Geographische Schriften*, Institut f. Geographie d. Universität f. Bildungswissenschaften 4, 13-25. Klagenfurt (1983)
- Geographical Characteristics of Slovenia. (Slovene) *Mladinska knjiga*, 1st. ed. 1983, 2nd. ed. 1991
- Georgescu, V. Handbooks Series. Nyrop R.F. (ed.) Headquarters, Dept. of the Army, 1981
- Melik, A. "Slovenija," (Slovene) Slovenska matica. Ljubljana (1963)
- Munro, D. A World Record of Major Conflict Areas. Ed. Arnold, London-Melbourne-Auckland, 1990
- Neumann, C. "Die Grenzen der Alpen," *Zeitschrift d. österr. Alpenvereins* 13 (1982)
- Norris, R. *World Regional Geography*. West Publishing Co., St. Paul, 1990
- Péchaux, R. Y. Les Balkans. Press Universitaires de France, Paris, 1971
- Perko, D. "Digital model of Relief of Slovenia," (Slovene) Geografski zbornik 38, 1, 19-23 Ljubljana (1971)
- Pinder, D. Western Europe: Challenge and Change. Belhaven Press, London-New York, 1990

Statistical Yearbooks of the Republic of Slovenia. (Slovene) Ljubljana

Sundhaussen, H. "Südosteuropa. Eine historisch-geographische Abhandlung zum Verständnis aktueller Probleme," *Praxis Geographie* 21, 5, 4-11 (1991)

Tietze, W. "What is Germany—What is Central Europe (Mitteleuropa)?" *GeoJournal* 19, 2, 173-176 (1989)

Turnock, D. The Human Geography of Eastern Europe. London-New York, 1990

Vrišer, I. "The Economic-Geographical Regionalization of the Republic of Slovenia," (Slovene) Geografski zbornik, SAZU, Ljubljana (1990)

Žuljič, S. "National Structure of Yugoslavia and Trends of Changes," *Ekonomski Institut* 108, 0-174, Zagreb (1989)

TABLE 1
Classes according to surface inclination and the share of population in 1880 and 1981 (Perko, 1991)

| Surface Inclination in Degrees | Share of Population | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------|
| | 1880 | 1981 |
| 0-1 | 15.1 | 28.1 |
| 2-5 | 19.8 | 26.5 |
| 6-11 | 32.6 | 25.9 |
| 12-19 | 25.3 | 14.9 |
| 20-30 | 7.0 | 4.5 |
| more than 30 | 0.2 | 0.1 |

TABLE 2
The share of altitude belts and the share of population
in 1880, 1981 and 2001 (according to Perko, 1991)

| Altitude belts - above sea level | Share of area % | 1880 | 1981 | 2001 |
|--|-----------------------|------|------|------|
| 0-200 m | 9.0 | 14.6 | 14.5 | 12.2 |
| 200-400 m | 31.2 | 51.1 | 62.4 | 62.4 |
| 400-600 m | 23.0 | 22.1 | 17.8 | 15.5 |
| 600-800 m | 15.6 | 9.5 | 4.2 | 2.7 |
| above 800 m. | 19.8 | 2.7 | 1.1 | 0.6 |

Note: Between 200 and 400m, fluviglacial gravel plains are the largest

TABLE 3
Changes in land use in years 1900, 1960 and 1989

| Land use category | 1900 % | 1960 % | 1989 % |
|--|--------|--------|--------|
| Fields and gardens | 18.1 | 14.6 | 12.2 |
| Orchards | — | 1.4 | 1.8 |
| Vineyards | 2.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Meadows | 15.9 | 15.2 | 16.8 |
| Pastures | 17.0 | 13.9 | 11.0 |
| Forests | 41.6 | 47.3 | 49.8 |
| Infertile areas, water areas reads, marshes | 5.4 | 6.5 | 7.3 |

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the RS, and Melik, 1963, p. 373

TABLE 4

| Our era (approx. dates) | RS as part of a macro-region of Europe | RS territory as part of a state |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| 0-568 | S (Mediterranean) Europe | 568: Fall of Roman Empire, site of present Ljubljana, caused by inroads of “bar- barians”; end of Roman rule |
| 745-12th C | W, Central and partly S Europe | Most of Slovene territory in Frankish Empire |
| 12th C-1809 | Central Europe | Slovenia part of German Empire: later in autonomous Austria. Border areas of RS under Hungarian or Venetian rules, respectively |
| 1809-1813 | W & Central Europe | Within French Illyrian Provinces; rest in Austria |
| 1813-1918 | Central Europe | Austria, or Austro-Hungary |
| 1918-1941 | SE Europe | Yugoslavia (monarchic) |
| 1941-1945 | Central & S Europe | Slovenia occupied by Italy (S & SW parts), Germany which annexed N part, and Hungary (in E) |
| 1945-1990 | SE & E Europe | Yugoslavia (communist) |
| after 1991 | Central Europe | |