

## 46. South-Eastern Europe

= region of great ethnic diversity

= *Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yugoslavia, Macedonia* = former communist Yugoslavia together with Slovenia (leader: general Tito)

= *Albania* – the poorest country of Europe

= *Romania, Bulgaria* – they will join the EU in the future (2008-2010)

### Croatia

*Capital:* Zagreb

*Population:* 4.5 million

*GDP/capita (2001):* 4,800 USD

= crescent-shaped country, border rivers Sava and Drava + Dinaric Alps, independence in 1991

Regions: *Slavonia and Dalmatia*

- after the war with the Serbs and Bosnians => many historic towns/cities were destroyed, but Croatian economy was quick to recover ⇔ *tourism*
- long coastline with hundreds of bays, islands and beaches => famous tourist destination nowadays especially for people from CZ, SK, H, BiH, I, D
- other large cities: Osijek, Rijeka, Pula, Zadar, Šibenik, Split, Dubrovnik



### Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Capital:* Sarajevo

*Population:* 4.2 million

*GDP/capita (2001):* 2,500 USD

- independent in 1992, mixture of Muslim Bosnians, Catholic Croats and Orthodox Serbs => tension between these ethnics => civil war => many thousands of people were killed
- *ethnic cleansing* = removing or “cleansing” of Muslims and Croats from areas they inhabited alongside Serbs => thousands of non-Serbs were murdered => many refugees in Germany, Italy, Sweden and Turkey
- other cities: Mostar, Visoko, Banja Luka, Tuzla



### Yugoslavia

*Capital:* Belgrade

*Population:* 10.6 million

*GDP/capita (2001):* 3,000 USD

= Serbia and Montenegro (since 2002), industrial heartland of former Yugoslavia (engineering, food and textile industries)

= reserves of coal and hydro-electricity from the Danube river, Balkan mts.

- >60% of the people are Serbs, Hungarians in Vojvodina
- *bribery and mafias*
- variety of languages (+ Cyrillic script and Latin alphabet)
- famous gastronomy (cevapcici, raznjici)
- other cities: Novi Sad, Priština, Podgorica



## **Macedonia**

*Capital:* Skopje

*Population:* 2 million

*GDP/capita (2001):* 1,200 USD



- poor country => many emigrants, no access to the sea, historically linked to Greece
- tension between Macedonian Slavs and ethnic Albanians
- cultivation of fruit crops and industrial crops, e.g. rice, cotton + tobacco
- location determines the import of machinery, fuel and manufactured goods
- *seismic zone* => plenty of earthquakes

## **Albania**

*Capital:* Tirana

*Population:* 3 million

*GDP/capita (2001):* 900 USD

= the poorest country of Europe



- rugged relief was ruled by Ottoman Turks, during the 20<sup>th</sup> century ruled by a fascist king and communist dictator => *corruption and economic collapse* in 1997

## **Keywords**

ethnic diversity, communist Yugoslavia, Sava, Drava, Dinaric alps, Slavonia, Dalmatia, Muslim Bosnians, Catholic Croats and Orthodox Serbs, civil war, ethnic cleansing, refugees, Montenegro, Vojvodina, industrial heartland, bribery, gastronomy, Macedonian Slavs and ethnic Albanians, industrial crops