

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ethnicity in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Power relations

The demographic data for 1992-1995 are from the 1991 Census and include information from before the war. Since no Census data exists after 1991, the data for 1996-2009 are from the CIA World Factbook from 2000, and are coded for the political situation after the war (Dayton Agreement of 1995).

1992-1995: During the civil war, Bosnia and Herzegovina was broken apart into three parts, separatist Republika Srpska, the Croatian state of Herzegovina, and the Muslim Bosniak central government. Therefore the Serbs are coded as having separatist autonomy, the Bosniaks as senior partner and the Croats as junior partner. In 1994, the Muslim-Croat Federation was formed, which stopped the fighting between these two sides. The Dayton 1995 agreement ended the Bosnian civil war.

1996-2009: The Dayton Accord established a system of consociationalism. The Presidency rotates between representatives of the three ethnic groups - Bosniaks, Serbs, Croats - and similarly the Parliament and Constitutional Court have precisely determined shares of seats guaranteed to each ethnic group. Thus, all three groups are labeled "senior partners". The building of a common state for the two warring sides ended the fighting, but did not really lead to a stable "nation-state". It is more like a loose ethnic confederation which - while ostensibly ruled by a central, multi-ethnic government under a rotating presidency - is in fact held together largely by its status as an EU protectorate ruled by the High Representative. Each ethnic group is dominant in its traditional areas, especially as a result of the massive ethnic expulsions that occurred during the war. The Roma are discriminated, because many "Roma lack birth certificates, identification cards, or a registered residence, preventing them from access to health care and public education services or registering to vote" (253).

²⁵³ [U.S. State Department, 2006 – 2009]

2010-2013: On 28 December 2011, fifteen months after the October 2010 parliamentary elections, leaders of the main political parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) - the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the Union of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD), the Party of Democratic Action (SDA), the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), its sister party HDZ 1990, and the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) - reached an agreement to form a state level government. The government consists of ten ministers, four Bosniaks, three Serbs and three Croats, thus there were no changes in the power states of the ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁽²⁵⁴⁾. The Tuzla Canton is the first in Bosnia and Herzegovina to receive a new government since the mass protests that started in February 2014 forced four cantonal governments to resign ⁽²⁵⁵⁾.

The preliminary unofficial results of the Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2013 census state ethnic composition of 48.4% Bosniaks, 32.7% Serbs and 14.6% Croats. No results were released for the Roma population. The final results of the census, including ethnic data, will be published after mid-2014, when data processing is completed ⁽²⁵⁶⁾. Roma reportedly face difficulties in the areas of health care, education, employment and housing and experience a high level of poverty ⁽²⁵⁷⁾.

²⁵⁴ [European Forum, 2014a]

²⁵⁵ [European Forum, 2014b]

²⁵⁶ [European Parliament Research Service, 2014]

²⁵⁷ [Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 2010]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina

From 1992 until 1995

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Bosniaks/Muslims	0.437	SENIOR PARTNER
Serbs	0.313	SELF-EXCLUSION
Croats	0.173	JUNIOR PARTNER
Roma	0.01	DISCRIMINATED

From 1996 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Bosniaks/Muslims	0.484	SENIOR PARTNER
Serbs	0.327	SENIOR PARTNER
Croats	0.143	SENIOR PARTNER
Roma	0.01	DISCRIMINATED



Figure 72: Political status of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 1992-1995.



Figure 73: Political status of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 1996-2013.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina

From 1992 until 1995

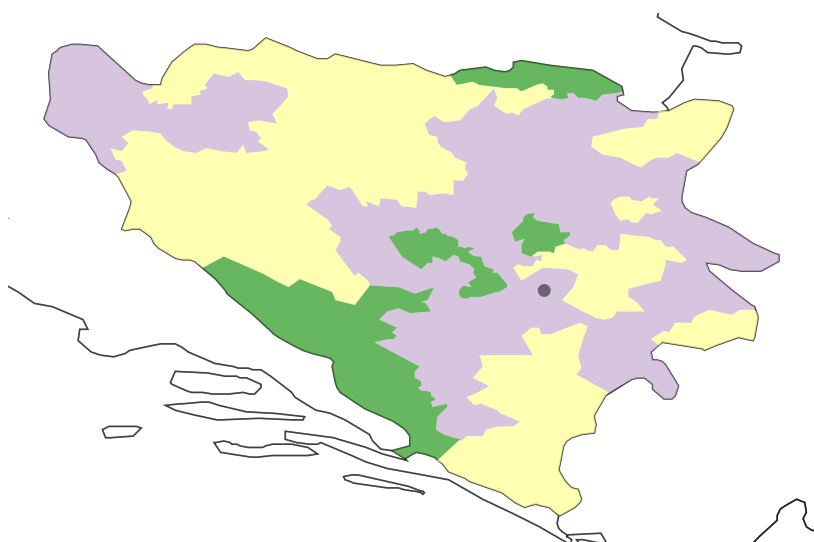


Figure 74: Map of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 1996-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Serbs	22 701	Regional & urban
■ Bosniaks/Muslims	21 984	Regional & urban
■ Croats	6738	Regional & urban
Roma		Dispersed

Table 25: List of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 1992-1995.

From 1996 until 2013

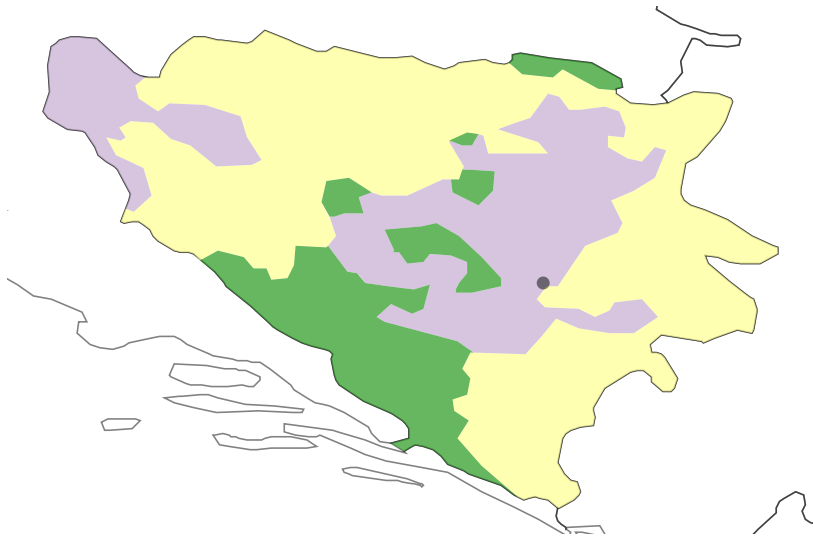


Figure 75: Map of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 1996-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Serbs	28 363	Regional & urban
■ Bosniaks/Muslims	14 493	Regional & urban
■ Croats	8566	Regional & urban
● Roma		Dispersed

Table 26: List of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 1996-2013.

Conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Starting on 1992-04-27

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina	Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina	Serbs	1992-04-27	Explicit	Yes	Yes
Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina	Serbian irregulars	Serbs	1992-04-27	Explicit	Yes	Yes

Starting on 1992-10-20

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina	Croatian Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina	Croats	1992-10-20	Explicit	Yes	Yes
Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina	Croatian irregulars		1993-05-31			

Starting on 1993-07-21

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina	Autonomous Province of Western Bosnia	Bosniaks/Muslims	1993-07-21	No	Yes, from EGIP	Split