

Serbia

Ethnicity in Serbia

Power relations

In 2006, Montenegro declared independence from Yugoslavia/Serbia after the majority of the population of Montenegro voted affirmative on this issue. Thus, Serbia as single country, starts to exist in 2007. Since 2007, the remaining Montenegrins are powerless in Serbia. There is one party representing the Montenegrins in Serbia (Crnogorske partije) founded in 2008, but they have not received enough votes to gain a seat in the national assembly. Since the NATO intervention in 1999, the Albanians in Kosovo had separatist autonomy, because Serbia lost its influence in Kosovo and the region was under UNMIK control with strong inclusion of the Albanians. The Roma minority became politically relevant in the 00ies, two Roma parties were founded, e.g. the Roma Union, which was also elected in the parliament with two deputies. Although the Roma face strong economic and educational discrimination (²⁹³⁸), there is no actual evidence that Roma are politically discriminated, thus the Roma are coded as powerless.

²⁹³⁸ [U.S. State Department, 2000-2009]

In 2008, Kosovo declared independence from Serbia. The remaining Albanian minority, concentrated in Southern Serbia in the municipalities Presheva, Bujanovc and Medvegja, is powerless since 2009. The Albanian Coalition from the Presheva Valley has one seat in the national assembly.

Update 2010-2013: No changes in the power states of the ethnic groups in Serbia. The Serbs remain the dominant majority in the state. The situation of ethnic minorities remains precarious, especially for Roma. They continue to experience harassment, threats, discrimination when accessing education, and problematic forced evictions, but there is no explicit political discrimination. Tensions rose in the Vojvodina region, between members of the Serb majority and Hungarian minority. In September 2012, approximately 20 Serbs armed with iron rods attacked eight Hungarian children and young adults in the town of Subotica, allegedly because the victims spoke Hungarian. Relations with Kosovo remain tense, exemplified by Kosovo and Serbian police carrying out tit for tat arrests of Serbian election officials and Kosovo Albanian activists in the run-up to the May 6 2012 Serbian elections. There was no significant improvement in human rights protection in Kosovo in 2012. Tensions in the divided north sometimes flared into violence. Roma, Ashkali, and

Egyptian (an Albanian speaking group that claims roots in Egypt) continue to be marginalized and vulnerable to discrimination. The justice system remains poor with large case backlogs. Mechanisms for human rights protection remain weak (²⁹³⁹).

²⁹³⁹ [Human Rights Watch, 2013]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Serbia

From 2007 until 2008

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Serbs	0.66	DOMINANT
Albanians	0.21	SELF-EXCLUSION
Hungarians	0.031	POWERLESS
Bosniak/Muslims	0.014	POWERLESS
Roma	0.014	POWERLESS
Croats	0.007	POWERLESS
Montenegrins	0.007	POWERLESS

From 2009 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Serbs	0.838	DOMINANT
Hungarians	0.035	POWERLESS
Bosniak/Muslims	0.023	POWERLESS
Croats	0.008	POWERLESS
Montenegrins	0.005	POWERLESS
Roma	0.004	POWERLESS
Albanians	0.001	POWERLESS



Figure 642: Political status of ethnic groups in Serbia during 2007-2008.



Figure 643: Political status of ethnic groups in Serbia during 2009-2013.