

Institutional Chronology of Nation Building

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Bosnia and Herzegovina declared independence from Yugoslavia on 15 October 1991. Since 1944 it had been one of the six constituent republics of socialist Yugoslavia. The war of 1992–1995 was ended by the Dayton Peace Accord, which established two entities within Bosnia-Herzegovina: The "Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina" (*Federacija Bosne i Hercegovine*, also known as the Bosniak-Croatian Federation) and the "*Republika Srpska*". The Federation consists of ten cantons with significant powers, and the district of the northern Bosnian town Brčko is administered by both entities. The nation state is responsible for foreign and defense, monetary and foreign trade policies, while other issues belong to the competency of either the two entities or the cantons. The de facto most powerful authority in the country is the *Office of the High Representative*, i.e. the representative of the International Community. The International Community has also a military presence in Bosnia-Herzegovina, implementing and observing the Dayton Peace Accord. Until 2004, these troops were under UN-command (IFOR, SFOR), and since then under EU command (EUFOR).

1. Census-related Issues (after 1945)

Years of censuses

1948, 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991

The first census in Bosnia and Herzegovina after the Second World War was carried out in 1948. The Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims), at that time, were not able to declare themselves under that name, but rather under the term "**uncommitted Muslims**", which meant Muslims without a clear national identification (In Yugoslav censuses, people had to choose from certain given labels when declaring their nationality). In the 1948 census, 788,403 persons declared themselves as uncommitted Muslims, or 30.7 % of the total population of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The 1953 census offered, besides the recognized nations, i.e. *narod* (Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Macedonians and Montenegrins), two other identifications, i.e. "**Yugoslavs**" and "**uncommitted Yugoslavs**". This could be seen as manifesting the idea that the Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina were either Yugoslavs, or not committed to any particular nation, hence uncommitted Yugoslavs. In the census, 891,800 people in Bosnia and Herzegovina identified themselves as "**uncommitted Yugoslavs**", i.e. 31.3 % of the total population. This indicates that practically all people, who in 1948 had been "uncommitted Muslims", now declared themselves under this label, because the previous one was not available any more and they did not want to identify as Serbs or Croats.

The third census was carried out in 1961, and now, aside from the recognized nations, the following options were possible: "Yugoslavs", "uncommitted Yugoslavs" and, for the first time, "Muslims (as ethnic belonging)". 842,248 persons declared themselves as "Muslims (as ethnic belonging)" or 25.7 % of the total population; 275,833 chose "uncommitted Yugoslavs" (8.4 % of the total population). These two groups, which comprised almost the total Muslim population, amounted to 1,118,131 persons (34.1 % of the total population of Bosnia and Herzegovina).

The next Yugoslav, in 1971, brought another innovation. This time, the Muslims of Bosnia and Herzegovina had the possibility of declaring themselves "**Muslim in the sense of nationality**" – with stressed importance of the capital M in Muslim (Musliman), which alluded to the national, and not religious, meaning of Muslim in this case. The census showed 1,482,300 persons who declared themselves as "Muslims in the sense of nationality", or 39.6 % of the total population. The number of persons declaring themselves as Yugoslavs declined to 43,796 or 1.2 % of the total population. It is reasonable to believe that the increase of 640.182 Muslims in comparison to the 1961 census was not only due to natural population growth but also the fact that most people, who in 1961 had declared themselves "uncommitted Yugoslavs" identified as Muslims in 1971.

The census of 1981 had a column "**Muslim**" and, aside from the recognized nations, also a column "**Yugoslav**". In this census, 1,630,033 people declared themselves Muslims (39.5 % of the total population), while the number of Yugoslavs was 326,316 or 7.9 %. In the census Yugoslav census of 1991, the number of Muslims was 1,902,956 or 43.5 % of the total population, and the number of persons declaring themselves as Yugoslavs was 242.682.

No census has yet been carried out in independent Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In 1993, the Bosnian parliament changed the ethnonym of the Bosnian Muslims into "Bosniaks" (*Bošnjaci*).

Tabular Summary of Census Results and Categories

<i>Years of census</i>	<i>Ethnic Categories for the Muslim Population</i>	<i>Number</i>	Percentage
1948	Serbs-Muslims	71,991	
	Croatians-Muslims	25,295	
	Uncommitted Muslims	788,403	30.7
1953	Uncommitted Yugoslavs	891,798	31.3
1961	Uncommitted Yugoslavs	275,883	8.4
	Muslims (as ethnic belonging)	842,248	25.7
1971	Yugoslavs	43,796	1.2
	Muslims (in the sense of nationality)	1,482,430	39.6
1981	Muslims	1,630,033	39.5
	Yugoslavs	326,316	7.9
1991	Muslims	1,902,956	43.5
	Yugoslavs	242,682	5.6

Institution in charge for statistical data and censuses

Institute for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, established in 1945.

First use of the ethnonym

The name *Bošnjak* (Bošnjanim) is first mentioned in the Middle Ages.

Changes in the name

During the 20th century, Bosniaks were usually called Muslims (if not claimed as Croats or Serbs). Since 1993, their national name is the Bosniaks.

2. National History

2.1 Institutions for the Production of (National) History

- **Orijentalni Institut** (Institute for Oriental Studies)
Founded in 1950 in Sarajevo.
Internet: <<http://www.ois.unsa.ba/>>
Its tasks are:
 - to collect, organize, process and publish the written and archive material of Oriental studies as well as sources of the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
 - to study Arabic, Turkish and Persian languages and their literatures and cultures, and examine their elements in the Bosnian language and culture;
 - within Ottoman studies, to study problems of the social, political, economic and cultural history of Bosnia and Herzegovina during Ottoman rule;
 - to study Oriental art, primarily at the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The institute publishes the *Prilozi za orijentalnu filologiju* ("Contributions for the Oriental philology") magazine, since 1950.

- **Filozofski fakultet sa Odsjekom za istoriju** (Faculty of Philosophy with the Department for History), established in 1950.
Internet: <<http://www.ff.unsa.ba/>>
It trains historians and history teachers.
- **Institut za istoriju** (Institute for History), founded in 1958 in Sarajevo under the name of **Institut za istoriju radničkog pokreta** ("The Institute for History of the Working Movement"). In 1973 it changed the name into *Institut za istoriju*.
Internet: <<http://www.iis.unsa.ba/>>
Since 1965, it has been publishing the professional magazine *Prilozi* ("The Contributions"). It does not exclusively promote the Bosniak national identity, but does study all the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina and by that the history of the Bosniaks as well.
- **Akademija nauka i umjetnosti Bosne i Hercegovine** (Academy of Science and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina), founded in 1966 as the continuation of the *Naučno društvo* (Scientific Society), which had been established in 1952.
Internet: <<http://www.anubih.ba/>>

The Academy has no separate history section, but in its work also deals with history.

- **Institut za proučavanje nacionalnih odnosa Marksističkog studijskog centra CK SKB&H "Veljko Vlahović"** (Institute for the Study of National Relations at the Marxist Studying Center of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Bosnia-Herzegovina "Veljko Vlahović") founded in Sarajevo in 1982. It published the journal *Sveske* ("Notebooks"), and dealt with national questions in Bosnia and Herzegovina in general, not exclusively with Bosniak national identity. It was discontinued.
- **Institut za istraživanje zločina protiv čovječnosti i međunarodnog prava** (Institute for the Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law), founded in 1993 at the University of Sarajevo, and studying war crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina committed during the 1990s.
Internet: <<http://www.inzl.unsa.ba>>
- **Muzej revolucije Bosne i Hercegovine** (Museum of the Revolution of Bosnia and Herzegovina) established in 1945. Today it works as **Historijski muzej Bosne i Hercegovine** (Museum of History of Bosnia and Herzegovina).
- **Bošnjački Institut** (Bosniak Institute) was founded by Adil Zulfikarpašić – a prominent Bosnian émigré during communism, who promoted the Bosniak identity - in Zurich in 1988 and moved to Sarajevo in 1991. It is a cultural and scientific institution, hosting also a museum.
Internet: <<http://www.bosnjackiinstitut.org/>>
- **Društvo istoričara Bosne i Hercegovine** (Society of Historians of Bosnia and Herzegovina), established in 1946 and operational until 1992. It used to publish the journal "*Godišnjak*" ("Yearbook") magazine.

2.2 Authoritative Historical Publications, shaping the national narrative

- Mustafa Imamović: *Historija Bošnjaka* (The History of the Bosniaks). Sarajevo 1997 (the third edition was published in 2006)
- Atif Purivatra (ed.): *Ko je ko u Bošnjaka* (Who is who among the Bosniaks). Sarajevo: Vijeće Kongresa bošnjačkih intelektualaca (The Congress Assembly of the Bosniak Intellectuals) 2000.

3. Institutionalization and Representation of Folk (or Popular) Culture

- **Institut za proučavanje folklor**a (Institute for Folklore Studies) in Sarajevo, founded in 1946 at the Country Museum (**Zemaljski muzej**) in Sarajevo. It was discontinued in 1958, and its staff moved to the Ethnographic Department at the Country Museum.

The tasks were:

- to write down, collect and process folk work: songs, laments, tales, soothsaying, riddles and proverbs, musical and dance folklore, folk costume, embroidery, carpets and other artistic fabrics, woodcut, pottery and other homemade items
- It published the journal *Bilten Instituta za proučavanje folklor* ("The Bulletin of the Institute for Folklore Studies"), of which, however, only three issues were published (1951, 1952, 1953).

- **Zemaljski muzej Bosne i Hercegovine** (National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina) in Sarajevo was established in 1888.

It is divided in three sections: Archeology, Ethnology and Natural Sciences. It publishes the magazine *Glasnik* ("The Herald"), which comes out in three sections: *Glasnik Zemaljskog muzeja za arheologiju* ("The Herald of the Country Museum for Archeology"), *Glasnik Zemaljskog muzeja za etnologiju* ("The Herald of the Country Museum for Ethnology") and *Glasnik Zemaljskog muzeja za prirodne nauke* ("The Herald for the Country Museum for Natural Sciences").

Internet: <<http://www.zemaljskimuzej.ba/>>

4. National Language and its Formalization

The Bosniak language standardization is still in process. The designation of the official language in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1945 onwards was Serbo-Croatian, respectively Croatian-Serbian, written either in Cyrillic or Latin. Since 1991, the term Bosnian has been in use for the language of the Bosnian Muslims. In 1996 Senahid Halilović, "according to the decisions of the Orthographic Commission" by the Bosniak Cultural Society *Preporod*, wrote the "*Pravopis bosanskog jezika*" ("The Orthography of the Bosnian Language"), which is considered as the standard orthography of the Bosnian language. However, no specific dictionary and grammar of the Bosnian language exist, reflecting the lack of a universally accepted standard of the Bosnian language. One attempt in that direction was Alija Isaković's "*Rječnik karakteristične leksike bosanskog jezika*" ("The Dictionary of the Bosnian Language Characteristic Lexicon") published in 1992.

- The main scientific institution involved in language policies was the **Institut za jezik i književnost** (Institute for Language and Literature), established in 1973. Today it is called **Institut za jezik** (Institute for Language), after the Department for Literature had been discontinued in 1992. The Institute publishes the academic journal "*Radovi*" ("Works"), "*Bosanskohercegovački dijalektološki zbornik*" ("The Bosnian-Herzegovinian Dialectal Anthology") and "*Godišnjak*" ("Yearbook"). In cooperation with the Department of Literature at the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo, the Institute for Language edits the journal "*Književni jezik*" ("Literary Language").
- The **Muzej književnosti i pozorišne umjetnosti Bosne i Hercegovine** ("The Museum for Literature and Theater of Bosnia and Herzegovina") established in 1961.

Its tasks are:

- to collect material referring to the life and work of writers and stage-artists of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- to scientifically valorize and systematize, process and keep it for the museum, and to prepare this material for scientific use and for the study of the history of the literature and theater in Bosnia and Herzegovina, respectively.

It publishes catalogues from exhibitions.

An important association for the literary life of Bosnia-Herzegovina is the **Društvo pisaca Bosne i Hercegovine** (Writers' Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina, <<http://www.drustvopisacabih.com.ba/>>) founded in 1945 and still operating. It publishes the literary journal "*Život*" ("Life"). Another significant literary association is the **P.E.N. centar Bosne i Hercegovine** (P.E.N. Center of Bosnia and Herzegovina, <<http://www.penbih.ba/>>) founded in 1992. It publishes the journal *Izraz* ("Expression") magazine for literary and art criticism.

5. Arts and Nation-building

Several institutions and cultural events promote the culture of the country. The most important ones are:

- **Umjetnička galerija Bosne i Hercegovine** (Art Gallery of Bosnia and Herzegovina), founded in 1946. Its main task is the presentation and protection of works of art from Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **Bihaćko ljeto** (Bihać Summer), a festival of theater, founded in 1998 and taking place in the middle of June every year.
- **Bašćaršijske noći** (Bašćaršija Nights), a cultural festival held in Sarajevo at the beginning of July every year.
- **Dani Ajvatovice** (The Days of Ajvatovica), a religious and cultural festival held in the village of Prusac, municipality of Donji Vakuf, in central Bosnia at the end of June every year. This Islamic festival has a long tradition and was revived in 1990, after being suppressed during Communism.
- Aside from these events of national importance, there are many local cultural manifestations - e.g. **Ljetne večeri pod lipama Gračanice** (Summer Nights under the Limes of Gračanica), a cultural event organized in the town of Gračanica during July and August.

Reflecting the fragmentation of the country in two entities and ten cantons and the continuing animosity between the three main nationalities, no nation-wide, multi-national professional organizations in the realm of culture (as well as in other professions) exist (in contrast, for example, to sports where nation-wide leagues and associations do exist).

The nationalities have rather their own cultural associations. For the Bosniaks, the most significant one is the **Bošnjačka zajednica kulture "Preporod"** (The Bosniak Cultural Community "Rebirth", <<http://www.preporod.ba/>>), which had been formed in 1903 but was dis-

continued in 1949. It was renewed in 1990.¹ Despite respective demands, the Bosnian Muslims did not receive their own national cultural association during Communism even after their official recognition as a nation, whereas the other Yugoslav nations had their own cultural associations (*Matica*).

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croats and Serbs have their own national cultural societies as well: *Napredak* (Progress) and *Prosvjeta* (Enlightenment) respectively. The Jewish cultural association is *La Benevolencija*. There is even a Croatian Science Society, which functions similar to the Academy of Sciences.

Some national associations exist at the local level.

6. Official (State-sponsored) Religion

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, religious institutions have played an important role for the development of national consciousness, as the three main nationalities also belong to three different faiths.

The main religious body for the Muslim population (Bošnjaks) is the **Islamic Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina**, which emerged in 1992 from the previous all-Yugoslav Islamic community, which had existed since 1945 (Islamic Religious Community of Yugoslavia)

A Catholic Archdiocese was founded in 1882; aside from the church hierarchy, the order of the Franciscans has long played an important role for the collective identity of the country's Catholic (Croatian) population.

There is no independent Bosnian Orthodox Church, as the Orthodox clergy in Bosnia-Herzegovina belongs to the Serbian Orthodox Church, with its centre in Belgrade.

7. State Symbols

State holiday, national flag and coats of arms are uniform in the whole country, on paper at least as Croats and Serbs often boast the national symbols of their kin-states.

7.1 State Holiday

The official state holidays are *Independence Day* – March 1, and *Sovereignty Day* – November 25.

7.2 National Flag

From 1945 until 1992, the flag of Bosnia and Herzegovina was of a red-colored rectangular shape. In the upper left corner was a small Yugoslav blue-white-red-colored flag with a red star in the middle. Since 1998 the official flag is a blue-colored rectangle. On the right side from the center there is a yellow triangular. Parallel with the left side of the triangular, from the upper edge of the flag to the lower one, spreads a row of white five-pointed stars.

¹ For a history of the Preporod see Husnija Kamberović's text at <http://www.preporod.ba/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=28>.

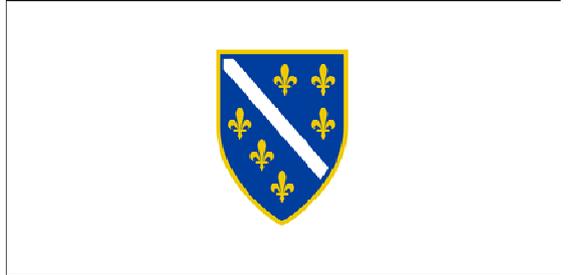
The Bosniaks still use the *fleur de lys* flag (which was used 1992 until 1998 but has no official recognition any more), the Croats consider as their national flag the one in use in Croatia, and the Serbs use the national flag of Serbia.



Left
Official national flag



Center
Coats of Arms of BiH



Right
Flag of the medieval Bosnian state

7.3 National Anthem

The current national anthem, "*Intermeco*" was adopted in 1998 and has no lyrics, as the three the political parties could not find a common decision. The previous national anthem, "*Jedna si Jedina*" (1992—1998) was considered by Serbs and Croats to be too closely associated with the Bosniak community, hence the decision to take a new one.

8. Finalized (Achieved) or Pending Membership to Main International Organizations

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a member in:

United Nations (1992), **OSCE** (1992)

The country is not a member of the **European Union** (it currently negotiates for a Stabilization and Association Agreement, SAA, with the EU), neither of the **Council of Europe** nor **NATO** (though it participates in the Partnership for Peace program since 2006).

9. Main NGOs involved in nation-building

Aside from state driven efforts to consolidate the national identity of the Bosniaks, several non-governmental organizations also play an important role in this process, though not necessarily as stated purpose of their work. The most influential ones are:

- **Međunarodni forum *Bosna*** (International Forum *Bosna*) founded in 1997; it publishes the *Forum Bosnae* journal.
Internet. <<http://www.ifbosna.org.ba/engleski/pocetna/index.html>>

- **Helsinški komitet za ljudska prava u Bosni i Hercegovini** (Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina), established in 1995.
Internet: <<http://www.bh-hchr.org/>>
- **Udruženje građana Selam** (Citizens' Association *Selam*) founded in 1999 in Zenica. It publishes the journal *Novi horizonti* ("The New Horizons") for scientific, cultural and spiritual affirmation.
- **Muslimansko žensko udruženje Kewser** (Muslim Women's Association *Kewser*), which publishes the *Zehra* family journal.
- **Udruženje žena muslimanki Sumejja** (Muslim Women's Association *Sumejja*), founded in 1993. It published the women's journal *Sumejja*. The branch in Sarajevo was discontinued but the one Tuzla is still active.
- **Udruženje Mladi Muslimani** (The Young Muslims Association) founded in 1939 in Sarajevo with the purpose to facilitate the political and religious affirmation of Bosnia's Muslims. It was suppressed by the Communists and renewed in 1990.
Internet: <<http://www.mm.co.ba/>>