

Unit 12 d: Country Area Studies--Republic of Slovenia

Objectives

At the end of this unit you will

Be aware of the following

- Freedom of religion--in law and practice--within Slovenia
- Status of ethnic communities within Slovenia
- Growing realization of Slovenian spousal abuse and violence against women
- Customs and courtesies unique to Slovenia

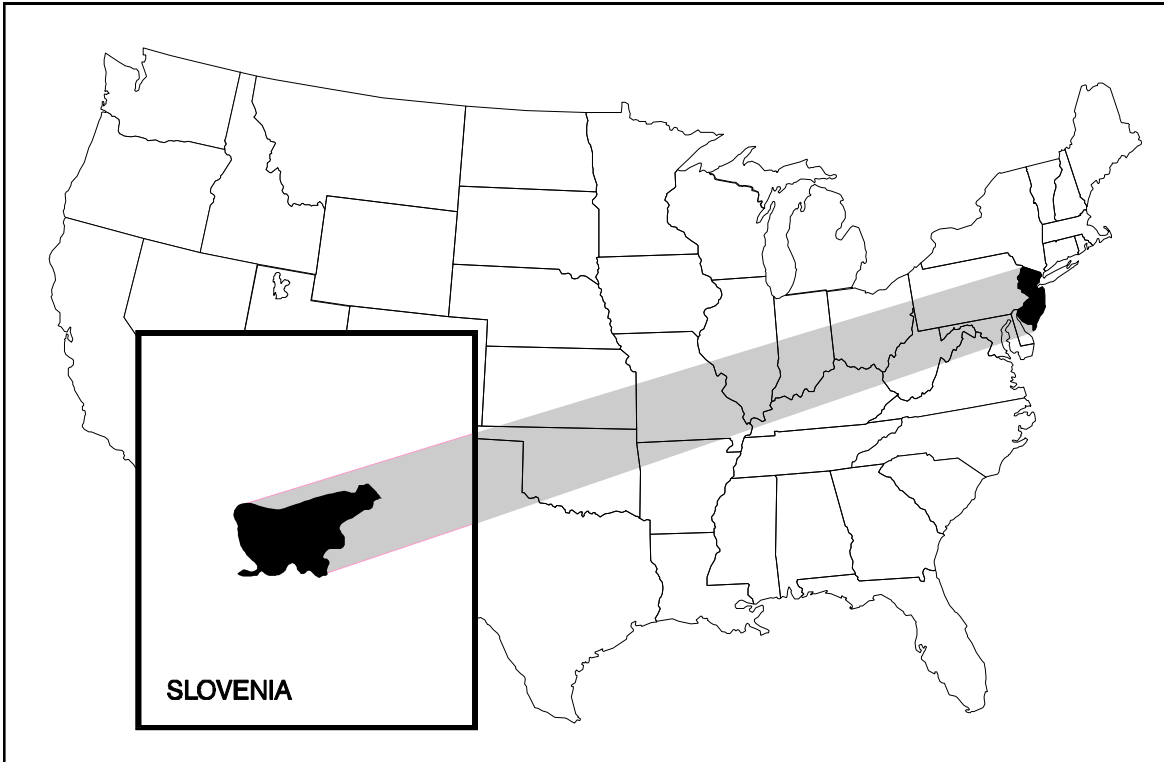
Identify

- Uniates
- Romani
- Partnership for Peace (PfP)
- Joint Contact Team Program (JCTP)
- International Military Education and Training (IMET)

Realize

- Many dialects of the Slovene Language
- Orientation of many Slovenes to Western Europe rather than other Balkan states
- Variety of combined operations occurring between United States and Slovenian military forces

Unit 12 d: Republic of Slovenia (sloh-VEE-nee-ah)



Local long form: Republika Slovenije; short form: Slovenija

<u>Population</u>	1,951,443
% under 15 years	17%
<u>Commo</u>	
TV	1:3
Radio	1:2.6
Phone	1:3
Newspaper	185:1000
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	71 men 79 women
Hospitals	1:173
Doctors	1:943
IMR	7:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$11,000 per capita
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	not available

1. Religious Groups

a. Roman Catholic (96% including 2% Uniates [Eastern Orthodox practitioners who acknowledge the Pope as their leader yet maintain distinct Orthodox practice]. Actual statistics vary on the percentages of the Catholic population.)

b. Muslim (1%)

c. Other (3%)

d. Human Rights--Freedom of Religion



"The Constitution explicitly provides for the unfettered profession of religious and other beliefs in private and in public, and the Government respects these rights in practice. No person can be compelled to admit his religious or other beliefs. There is no state religion."

About 70 percent of the population adheres to the Roman Catholic faith, and 2.5 percent to the Orthodox.

There are also Protestant congregations, especially in the eastern part of the country. Clergy, missionaries--some from abroad--churches, and religious groups operate without hindrance.

The appropriate role for religious instruction in the schools continues to be an issue of debate. The Constitution states that parents are entitled 'to give their children a moral and religious upbringing...' Before 1945 religion was much more prominent in the schools, but now only those schools supported by religious bodies teach religion" (Human Rights Report--1997).

2. Ethnic/Racial Groups

- a. Slovene (91%)
- b. Croat (3%)
- c. Serb (2%)
- d. Muslim (1%)
- e. Other (3%)

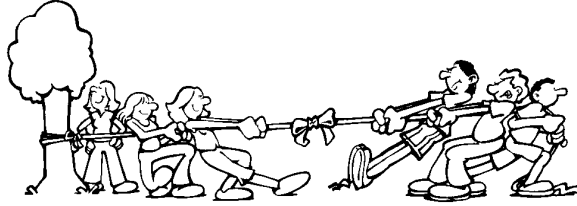


f. Human Rights--Ethnic Minorities *"Minorities make up about 12 percent of the population; most are nationals of the former Yugoslavia. The Hungarian and Italian ethnic communities (under 1 percent) enjoy constitutionally provided representation in the National Assembly. Minorities are generally treated fairly in practice as well as in law. However, 5,000 to 10,000 non-Slovene (former Yugoslav) residents are without legal residency status due to the Government's slow processing."*

"The Constitution provides special rights for the 'autochthonous Italian and Hungarian ethnic communities,' including the right to use their own national symbols, enjoy bilingual education, and other privileges. It also provides for special status and rights for the small Romani (Gypsy) communities, which are observed in practice."

3. Languages The Slovene language is one of the oldest of Slavic tongues. There are 36 dialects and 29 subdialects. Of these dialects, many are so distinct that Slovene speakers from different regions cannot understand each other. The first Slovene grammar appeared in 1584.





4. Gender Issues *"The Constitution provides for equality before the law, and the Government observed this provision in practice.*

a. Spouse abuse *"The awareness of spousal abuse and violence against women is on the rise. There are two shelters for battered women, which are partially funded by the State; a third was expected to open during the winter. The existing shelters operate at capacity (about 30 beds combined) and turn away numerous women every year. In cases of reported spousal abuse or violence, the police are active in intervening, and criminal charges are filed."*

b. Equal rights *"Equal rights for women are a matter of state policy.*

There is no official discrimination against women or minorities in housing, jobs, education, or other walks of life. Marriage, under the Constitution, is based on the equality of both spouses. The Constitution stipulates that the State shall protect the family, motherhood, and fatherhood. Equal pay for equal work for men and women is the norm.

Although both men and women suffer from the loss of work and both sexes have the same average period of unemployment, women are still found more often in lower paying jobs."

c. Workload

"In rural areas, women, even those employed outside the home, bear a disproportionate share of household work and family care because of a generally conservative social tradition. However, women are frequently encountered in business and in government executive departments."

5. Conflicts International disputes
"Maritime border dispute with Croatia over direct access to the sea in the Adriatic; the border issue is currently under negotiation."



6. Holidays/Observances

a. Independence (25 June) National Statehood Day remembers independence from Yugoslavia in 1991.

b. Religious commemorations See Unit 6, Holidays and Observances, for religious events.

7. Customs The following guidance, adapted from SAIC Country Profile of Slovenia (pp. 40-42), is helpful.

a. Civility Appropriate, conservative dress speaks of a professional makeup and appearance. It gives a dignified impression of the United States Armed Forces. In avoiding boisterous, loud talk, personnel demonstrate courtesy and tact.



b. German/Austrian connection Slovenian orientation is to these West European countries rather than to Serbia, Bosnia or Macedonia. Statements and comments associating the Slovenes with the Balkans are best avoided.

c. Stare Expect to be stared at, especially in rural areas, by Slovenes.

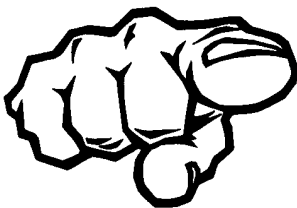
d. Handshakes Many Slovenes appreciate firm handshakes, done often, which leave a positive impression.

e. Distance "Body space" when talking is similar to that of most reserved Americans. On crowded Slovenian buses, this reserve often vanishes.

f. Smokers Be tolerant of Slovenian smokers who have few restrictions on their smoking.

g. Safety Expect chaotic, fast, reckless drivers. If you drive, do so defensively. Watch carefully for bicyclers.

h. American presence Though most Slovenes accept and like Americans, to some of the older generation, Americans may be a symbol of another foreign army. Patience and a calm, non-confrontational manner are the best approaches for such cool or hostile attitudes.



i. Direct Make promises, even casual "come and see me sometime" ones, with every intent on honoring them.

j. Sunbathing Slovenians at the beach may be in various stages of nudity. This is often a common European practice. It is rude, and considered intrusive and offensive, to stare at such individuals.

8. Combined Operations

a. Partnership for Peace (PfP) NATO initiated this program to build ties with former Communist nations in Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States. Slovenia joined PfP on 2 March 1994. Combined operations with the United States and other NATO nations, plus Central and Eastern European countries, occurs as a result. Combined exchanges also take place with CONUS (Continental United States) U.S. Army forces as well.

b. Joint Contact Team Program (JCTP) USEUCOM (U.S. European Command) established this program to provide military liaison teams with former Communist states participating in PfP. Traveling contact teams (TCTs) involved U.S. personnel who visit Slovenia, providing a variety of presentations. Familiarization visits see Slovenian military personnel observing and training at U.S. military facilities in CONUS or Europe. In fiscal year 97, Slovenia participated in 44 such events.

c. National Guard State Partnership Program. This program pairs state Guard or Reserve units with a Central and East European or former Soviet Union nation. Slovenia is linked with Colorado.

d. Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Since 7 March 1996, Slovenia is able to purchase U.S. defense articles and services. As a result, Slovenia now has a rapid-reaction peacekeeping battalion using funds for language training, NCO development, training equipment and NATO-compatible radios.

e. International Military Education and Training (IMET) To aid development of new, non-political professional officer and NCO cadres, IMET funds courses in military subjects. A limited number of Slovenian military personnel attend U.S. military schools under IMET.



"Encourage success."

Vocabulary List: Country Area Studies-- Republic of Slovenia

International Military Education and Training (IMET) To aid development of new, non-political professional officer and NCO cadres, IMET funds courses in military subjects. A limited number of Slovenian military personnel attend U.S. military schools under IMET.

Joint Contact Team Program (JCTP) USEUCOM (U.S. European Command) established this program to provide military liaison teams with former Communist states participating in PfP. Traveling contact teams (TCTs) involved U.S. personnel who visit Slovenia, providing a variety of presentations.

Partnership for Peace (PfP) NATO initiated this program to build ties with former Communist nations in Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States. Combined operations with the United States and other NATO nations, plus Central and Eastern European countries, occurs as a result.

Romani One of the ethnic branches of Gypsies who live in the Balkans.

Uniates (YOO-nee-ahts) Eastern Orthodox Church practitioners who acknowledge the Pope as their leader yet maintain distinct Orthodox practices and beliefs.

Review Quiz: Country Area Studies--Republic of Slovenia

Fill in the Blanks Fill in the blanks with the most correct word listed that follows. Not all words will be used.



Of Slovenia's majority Catholic population, some two percent are (1) _____, who are Orthodox faithful and acknowledge Papal authority yet maintain distinct Orthodox practices. The Slovenian (2) _____ respects constitutional freedom of religious rights of citizens. Ethnic minorities are generally treated (3) _____ in practice as well as in law.

The (4) _____, composed of many dialects, is one of the oldest of Slavic tongues.

In (5) _____ areas, women bear a disproportionate share of household work and family care.

At present, there is a dispute within (6) _____ over direct access to the Adriatic Sea. The orientation of Slovenia is to the (7) _____ countries.

"Body space" when talking with Slovenians is about (8) _____ as that of reserved Americans. Slovenian

drivers, for the most part, are (9) _____.

Under the State Partnership Program, (10) _____ is Slovenia's partner state.

Eastern European
Minnesota
fairly
urban
rural
the same
double
Uniates

fast and reckless
Colorado
Slovene language
Croatia
Italy
Western European
safe and courteous
Constitution



Army Values

Loyalty: Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit and other soldiers.

Duty: Fulfill your obligations.

Respect: Treat people as they should be treated.

Selfless-Service: Put the welfare of the nation, the Army, and your subordinates before your own.

Honor: Live up to all the Army values.

Integrity: Do what's right, legally and morally.

Personal Courage: Face fear, danger, or adversity (Physical or Moral).

Resources for Further Study



Bennett, Linda, ed. Encyclopedia of World Cultures, Vol IV--Europe. New York: G.K. Hall, 1994.

Article on "Slovenes" (pp. 247-249) by Irene Portis-Winner gives an excellent cultural history overview.

Curtis, Glenn. Yugoslavia, A Country Study. Washington, D.C.: Headquarters, Department of the Army, DA Pam 550-99, 1992.

Kaiser, Phillip. Country Profile of Slovenia. Regional Security Division, National Security Studies and Strategies Group, Science Applications International Corporation, Contract MDA 903-92-D-0053.

Richmond, Yale. From Da to Yes: Understanding the East Europeans. Yarmouth, Maine: Intercultural Press, 1995.

Spinka, Matthew. A History of Christianity in the Balkans. Archon Books, 1968. Chamberlain: 949.6 Spi

A study in the spread of Byzantine Culture among the Slavs. Church history at its best by an eminent scholar.

U.S. Department of State. Slovenia Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1997. Released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, 30 January, 1998. <http://www.state.gov/www/global/hu...ghts/1997_hrp_report/slovenia.html>

U.S. Department of State. United States Policies in Support of Religious Freedom: Focus on Christians. Released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Affairs, 22 June 1997. <http://www.state.gov/www/global/human_rights/970722_relig_rpt_christian.html>