

Glossary

Abraham and Moses The greatest of the Prophet-Messengers. The phrase "peace be upon them" is often written after their names.

Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.) Ruler of the Greek Hellenic tribes, king of Macedonia and conqueror of city-states and the Persian empire.

Apostles Early disciples of Jesus, sent forth by him to proclaim his teachings.

Autocephalous (o-tah-SEF-ah-las) Self-governing nature of Orthodox Eastern churches. Each national church is independent of others, yet possesses full agreement on matters of doctrine and faith.

Axis Powers (AK-sis) German, Italian, Japanese and often Bulgarian, Hungarian and Rumanian forces which fought the Allies in World War II.

Ban Kulin (bahn koo-leen, 1180-1204) 12th century Bosnian noble/leader who embraced Bogomil thought for a time then recanted under torture.

Bektashi A Dervish order Muslim group, an offshoot of the Shia branch, found in parts of Albania. It is a tolerant group, which incorporates elements of pagan and Christian thought and practice.

Belgrade (bel-GRAYD) Capital of Serbia

Besa Albanian pledge to keep one's word--a solemn obligation.

Bogomils (boh-goh-meels) Religious faction which incorporated aspects of Roman Catholic, Orthodox and heretical faith. These landowners, with the arrival of the Ottomans, readily converted to Islam. They form the heritage of the Bosnian Muslims (Bosniaks) today.

Bosniak (BAHZ-nee-ahk) Current term of identification for Bosnian Muslim peoples

Bride stealing Practice of taking a bride, with or without her consent, which occurs in parts of Bosnia and Dalmatia

Byzantine (BIZ-ahn-teen) The Eastern Roman Empire, centered in Constantinople, which flourished from 476 A.D. to 1453.

Canonization Process by which Catholic or Orthodox churches infuse sainthood on a person

Canonize Process by which the church identifies those who will be saints. Canonization first examines the life and history of the respected individual, then declares them, in successive stages to be blessed, beatified and then canonized a saint.

Central/South Central Europe (SCE) Term identifying countries comprising the former Yugoslavia. It is a less fractious and emotion laden designation than "the Balkans" or "Eastern Europe." South East Europe (SEE) is another interchangeable, identifying term for this region.

Cetnik (CHET-nik) Ultranationalist Serbian forces during World War II, often guilty of atrocities.

Chrismation (KRIZ-may-shun) When the priest anoints a newly baptized infant or adult with holy oil, symbolizing the seal of the Holy Spirit.

Commentary Comments or explanations of scripture. Usually scholars of the texts provide detailed analysis and application in their explanations.

Counter Reformation Reform which took place in the Catholic Church after the Protestant Reformation. The Counter Reformation did much to enhance cultural development in Croatia.

Creative generalizations Concepts--tempered with care and refinement, always subject to modification and open to change--which enable us to make careful statements. When kept dynamic, flexible and tentative, this conceptual format enables us to make intelligible statements about others.

Cultural sensitivity Possession of attitudes and knowledge which enables one to be aware of and interact with differing ethnic, racial and national groups.

Culture That which guides people in their thinking, acting and feeling. Language, values, customary behaviors; ideas, beliefs and patterns of thinking; these attributes describe social characteristics of a people. The total way of life of a group--passed on from generation to generation.

Culture shock The disorientation and upset which often accompany traveling to a new country or situation. Emotions vary including euphoria, distress, resentment, hostility, rebellion, and negativity.

Cyril and Methodius (SIR-ahl and mah-THOH-dee-ahs) 9th century Greek brothers who served as missionaries to bring many Slavs to the Orthodox faith. They helped create the Glagolitic alphabet, a forerunner of Cyrillic.

Dalmatia (dal-MAY-shah) Region of Croatia located in the northeastern area of the Adriatic Sea. Inhabitants carry strong historical ties to Europe.

Dar al-Islam (DAHR ul-is-lam) Abode of Islam. Social justice, solidarity of purpose, political stability are enjoyed by those living under the umbrella of Islamic law.

Dayton Agreement Serb, Croat and Bosniak leaders met at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio to iron out a peace accord for the Bosnian region. Formally signed on 14 Dec 1995 in Paris, the agreement formed the basis for an end to bloodshed in Bosnia.

Dervish (DUHR-vish) Members of Muslim ascetic orders who may participate in ecstatic observances--dancing, whirling, chanting or shouting.

Divine Decree Belief that everything is decided by God and in some sense comes from Him.

Dowry (DOU-ree) Custom of the woman's bringing money, animals, household goods or land to her husband as part of the marriage agreement.

Dukagjin, Lik (leek doo-kahg-yeen) 15th century Albanian leader who formalized a legal code based upon honor and blood, including the importance of one's extended family ties.

Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople The "first among equals," the figurative head of Orthodox Eastern Churches.

Epiphany (ih-PIHF-ah-nee) Orthodox Eastern celebration remembering the baptism of Jesus and manifestation of divinity by a dove descending upon his head.

Erdut Agreement (ehr-doot) November 1995 agreement signed by Serbs and Croats of Eastern Slavonia, returning this area to Croatian control.

Ethnocentrism Seeing other people's way of life only through one's own "glasses," regarding your own culture as superior in all ways, which leads to unhealthy, proud attitudes, arrogant self-righteousness, and feelings of haughtiness which can destroy personal relationships.

Eucharist (YOO-kah-rihst) Receiving the bread and wine, the presence of Christ, for reasons of obedience to Scripture and spiritual/physical nourishment. Communion

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina One of two entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Federation incorporates areas with a Bosniak and Croat majority, comprising some 51 percent of the territory.

Gegs (gehgs) Ethnic Albanian subgroup who live north of the Shkumbin River. Gegs are primarily a mountain people.

Great Schism 1054 division of Roman Catholic and Orthodox Eastern Christian bodies. Catholics followed leadership from the Pope in Rome, Orthodox tended to allow national or Constantinople to be the authoritative power base.

Greater Jihad (ji-HAD) The Greater Jihad (al-jihad al-akbar) refers to the personal struggle of the heart, where the believer strives to overcome personal temptations and the carnal self. This inner struggle is Jihad's highest form. During Jihad, Muslims strive to internalize the Islamic message through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Gusle (goos-leh) One stringed musical instrument used to accompany epic poetry in mountainous Balkan regions.

Habsburg (HAPS-buhrg) German princely family prominent since the 11th century, which provided leadership for Austria and other European states.

Hadith (hah-DEETH) The report of the Prophet's utterances in his role as guide. They serve to assist the faithful.

Hajj (al-HAHJ--pilgrimage) At least once in a lifetime, preferably during the twelfth month of the calendar, a Muslim takes a trip to Mecca. No one goes on Hajj without first ensuring that family members are provided for in their absence.

Hajj, Day of (al-HAHJ) Day remembering the concluding revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.

Hermit Person who lives a solitary, withdrawn life due to religious persuasion.

Hijab (HEHZH-yahb) Traditional Muslim dress of women, often including covering of the head.

Hoxha, Enver (HOH-jah, EN-vehr) Stalinist Communist who ruled Albania from 1945-1985.

Icon (*i-kon*) Flat picture bearing the image of Christ, Mary the Mother of God, or one of the saints. Done in paintings, enamels and stained glass, they receive veneration (reverence) by Orthodox Christian faithful, because of the figures the images represent.

Id al-Adha (*i-EED ahl-OOHD-hah*) Festival of sacrifice in remembrance of Abraham offering up his son Ismail on the altar. Called "Kurban Bairam" (*koor-bahn bah-ee-rahm*) in Serbian.

Id al-Fitr (*i-EED al FAHT-eh*r) Festival of the breaking of the Ramadan fast. Called "Ramasan Bairam" (*rahm-ah-sahn bah-ee-rahm*) in Serbian.

IFOR United Nations Implementation Force, deployed currently to keep the peace and ensure the Dayton Agreement is upheld.

Illyrian (*i-LEER-ee-ahn*) First historically recorded peoples who lived in Dalmatia. An Indo-European people who ruled the northwestern section of the Balkan Peninsula.

Imam (*EE-mahm*) Leader in Muslim prayers who often gives a sermonic talk.

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.

International Peacekeeping Force (IFOR) 60,000 military personnel who initially entered Bosnia in 1995 to implement the Dayton Accords. After one year, IFOR changed to SFOR (Stabilization Force).

Islam (is-LAHM) Obedience or peace through submission to the will of God.

Izetbegovic, Alija (AHL-ee-yah EEZ-eht-BEG-oh-veech) Chairman of the Bosnian and Herzegovina collective presidency.

Janazah (jah-NAH-zah) Prayer service for Muslims at the graveside.

Jibril (jib-REEL) (Gabriel), most important angel in Islam. Delivered the Qur'an.

Jihad (ji-HAD) Sometimes seen as a sixth foundational element of Islam, Western media stereotypes it as "holy war." A more accurate portrayal sees jihad as an exertion or struggle in achieving the ways of God. It (jihad) describes an attentiveness against distractions from God, and exertion to do His will within ourselves and the world at large.

Jinns Invisible beings who possess extraordinary powers, being capable of either good or evil

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.

Jumma (JUH-mah) Friday noon Muslim congregational prayers.

Karadzic, Radovan (KAHR-ah-jeech, rah-DOH-vahn) Former Bosnian Serb president, convicted war criminal, and leader who still influences Bosnian politics.

Kosovo (KOH-soh-voh) Province of Serbia and Montenegro, inhabited by roughly two million ethnic Albanians and 200,000 ethnic Serbs. It is a region filled with much strife due, in part, to its being the center of Serbian Orthodox history.

Kosovo Polje (KOH-soh-voh POHL-yeh) The field, some five km west/ southwest of current Pristina, where Serbian Prince Lazar lost a battle against the Ottoman Turks on 28 June 1389. The battle takes on a mythical legend similar to the Alamo for Texans.

Krajina (krah-EEN-ah) One of Croatia's enclaves populated by many Serbs. The region was historically used as a buffer zone to stop Ottoman expansion.

Kumstvo (koomst-voh) Godfatherhood ties established early on in childhood which carry significance in many parts of Serbia and Montenegro.

Laszlo (LAHZH-loh) King of Hungary (Magyars) who in 1091 accepted a rulership offer from Croatian nobles. This event linked a Croatian/Hungarian tie which lasted until World War I.

Lay ministries Work in the church which is open to non-clergy people

Lent Time of fasting, prayer, study and worship some seven weeks before Easter

Lesser Jihad The Lesser Jihad (al-jihad al-asghar) is the outward struggle of Muslims against those attacking the faith and requires using the tongue, hands, or sword. Only in the last instance, however, do Muslims engage in mortal combat by taking up arms against Islam's enemies.

Liturgy (LIT-ahr-jee) Set form of public worship or ritual

Ljubljana (lyoo-BLYHAN-ah) Capital of Slovenia.

Lustration In formerly authoritarian ruled countries, laws which prohibit former high Communist officials from holding public office in new, more democratic governments.

Macedonian Orthodox Church (MCO) Orthodox Church in Macedonia, not officially recognized within worldwide Orthodox circles due to its suspect origins. In 1958, Marshal Tito sought to reduce Serbian Orthodox power and promote the Macedonian autonomy through establishment of the MCO.

Magyar (MAG-yahr) National language of Hungary

Mahdi (MAH-dee) Millennial leaders who will defeat enemies of Islamic religion at the end of history, establishing peace and justice upon the earth

Martyr (MAHR-tahr) One who dies for his or her faith.

Mass Roman Catholic celebration of the Eucharist (communion), a central part of each worship service.

Mawlid al-Nabiy (MOW lid oon-NA-bee) Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad.

Medjugorje (mehd-yoo-gohr-yeh) Village, southwest of Molstar, where since 1981, villagers claim daily visits from the Virgin Mary.

Mi'Raj al-Nabiy (mehr-raj al-NEB-bee) Remembers the ascension of the Prophet Muhammad to heaven following his night journey.

Mihrab (MEE-rahb) A niche in a Mosque prayer room (musallah) which indicates the direction of Mecca.

Monastic communities Gatherings of monks or nuns who separate themselves from society at large to devote themselves to contemplation and service of God.

Monochronic time Having a tendency to do only one thing at a time. Describes the approach to time held by many Americans

Mother Teresa of Calcutta Roman Catholic nun, founder of the Order of the Missionaries/Sisters of Charity. Born in Skopje of Albanian parents, Mother Teresa became one of the 20th century's most respected women.

Muezzin (MOO-ah-zin) One who calls the faithful Muslims to prayer

Muhammad (moo-HAM-mad) The last of the Islamic prophets. Founder of the Muslim faith and most revered messenger of God.

Musallah (muh-SAL-ah) Main prayer room of a mosque.

Muslim (MOOS-lim) Obedient one (to the will of God)...one who submits.

Nations in transition Term applying to countries formerly under Soviet domination who are now emerging democracies. "Nations in transition" is a substitute term for the more negative, Communist era designation of Eastern Europe.

Nominal In name only. Having the label of a religion but being very lax in practice of that religion

Novi Sad (noh-vee-SAHD) Main city of Serb province of Vojvodina

Obrenovic, Milos (oh-BREHN-oh-veech, mee-losh) Serbian leader who established Serbia in a semiautonomous state in 1830.

OHR Office of High Representative who oversees civilian implementation of the Dayton Accords

OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Currently, from headquarters in Sarajevo, this organization monitors voting procedures, supervises elections, fosters a free press in the region, encourages stabilization and watches over human rights issues.

Otto von Bismarck German statesman who convened the Berlin Congress of 1878, establishing Austrian and Hungarian oversight in the Balkan region.

Ottomans Turkish peoples who built the Ottoman Empire, which flourished from 1300-1919.

Paradise Heaven

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.

Pascha (PAS-kah) Orthodox Eastern Easter

Patriarch (PAY-tree-ahrk) Senior bishop within Orthodox Eastern practice.

Patriarch Pavle (pahv-leh) Current head of the Serbian Orthodox Church

Peace Operations An umbrella term that encompasses the following types of activities--those that diplomatically lead (preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace building) and other complementary, (predominately military), peacekeeping and peace-enforcement activities

Penance Act of reconciliation, confessing sins, and sorrow for those sins, before being declared right before God.

Pentecost Day marking the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit upon the early church

Perceptions Our mental grasp of others and their ideas of us

Podgorica (pohd-GOHR-eets-ah) Main city of Montenegro

Polychronic time Tending to be involved in many things at once. Describes those who live in many non-European countries of the world

Pope Roman Catholic bishop of Rome, the one who governs church policy and practice

Pope John Paul II Current Pope who made a historic Sarajevo visit in 1997. In celebrating mass for some 35,000 participants, the Pope offered a message of reconciliation to the fractured ethnic factions of the former Yugoslavia.

Prejudice Rigid, negative attitudes based on faulty, preconceived, inflexible generalizations, which numb our ability to understand others. Prejudice too readily violates objective standards of fairness, justice and impartiality.

Pristina (PREESH-tee-nah) Main city of Serb province of Kosovo

Proverb Short, pithy saying commonplace in most every culture

Pyramid Investment Schemes Dubious investment schemes for quickly doubling one's money--often in a two to three month period. In January 1997, many Albanians lost their life savings due to such fanciful practice.

Qur'an (QOOR-ahn) Holy Book of Islam, revealed by God to the prophet Muhammad.

Raki (RAH-kee) Traditional Albanian alcoholic drink, extremely potent and high in alcoholic content.

Ramadan (RAH-mah-dahn) Holy month of fasting for Muslims. No eating, drinking, smoking or engaging in sexual relations occurs from sun up to sun down.

Relic Surviving memorial, fragments, souvenir, or memento of a saint, martyr or sacred person

Religious Orders Communities of Christians, within the Orthodox and Roman Catholic tradition, who observe vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Monks and nuns are part of these holy orders.

Religious terrorism Violence done in the name of strongly held belief or violence which uses religion as a pretext for its justification

Reminders Qur'an quotes in architecture and on household objects, calls to prayer, beautiful mosques and minarets, designed to instill right practice within Muslims.

Republika Srpska (RS) One of two major entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. RS incorporates some 49 per cent of the territory and is made up primarily of Serbs.

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

Sacrament Sign or symbol which instills God's special grace. The Orthodox Eastern and Roman Catholic Churches have seven sacraments.

Saints Persons of exceptional holiness of life, formally recognized as such by the church.

Salat (shul-LAHT--prayers) Five times each day, Muslims pray in Arabic. Salat consists mainly of verses from the Qur'an, praises to God, and requests for guidance. Adherents bow toward the Kaabah in Mecca when praying.

Sarajevo (sahr-ah-YAY-voh) Capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sawm (SOO-uhm--fasting) During the month of Ramadan, thanksgiving is expressed, discipline shown, and communal solidarity and reconciliation affirmed. Practitioners abstain from food, drink, smoking and sexual relations from dawn to sunset.

Shahada (sha-HAHD-ah--witnessing) This first pillar of Islam is the essential creed of Muslim belief. It is repeatedly invoked as part of daily prayer. The shahada states: 'There is no god but God and Muhammad is the messenger of God.'

Sharia (sha-REE-ah) Divine law in its totality...maps the road men and women are to follow in this life

Shiptare Term meaning "sons of the eagle" used to identify Albanian peoples.

Skopje (SKOHP-lyee-ah) Capital of Macedonia

Slava (slah-vah) Feasts held in honor of patron Orthodox saints

Slavonia (slah-VOH-nee-ah) Section of Eastern Croatia which historically was inhabited by many ethnic Serbs.

Slivovitsa (shlee-voh-VEETS-ah) Serb fruit (plum) brandy

Slobodan Milosevic (mil-OH-sha-veech) Current president of Serbia

St. Sava's Day Day set aside to honor the founder of the Serbian Orthodox Church (5 Dec).

St. Sava Nemanjich (neh-mahn-jeech) Son of Stefan I. Founded the Serbian Orthodox Church in the 1200s. His tomb was in Milesevo (mee-LEHSH-eh-voh).

Stabilization Force (SFOR) Term given to the 60,000 military personnel who stayed in Bosnia after the initial year (Dec 1996 onward) to implement the Dayton Accords. Replaces IFOR.

Stefan I Nemanja (neh-mahn-YAH) Noble who laid the foundations for the medieval Serbian state in the 12th century.

Stepinac, Archbishop Alojzije (stehp-ee-nats, ah-loh-yzee-yah) Catholic archbishop of Zagreb who was arrested and tried by the Tito government in 1946. Partially out of retribution for wartime atrocities, the arrest, imprisonment and eventual rehabilitation (at his death in 1961) of Stepinac focused the uneasy state of relations between the Tito government and the Roman Catholic Church.

Stereotypes Rigid biases applied to all peoples of a particular group--thus simplifying and demeaning others. Perceptions become immune to logic and experience. A stereotyped template skews all incoming information. Depersonalization and dehumanization result. Individuals become caricatured, distorted, and seen too often only in a negative light.

Sura (SOO-ruh) A chapter of the Qur'an.

Task Force Able Sentry (TFAS) As a result of United Nations Security Council action, a preventive diplomacy force patrols Macedonia's border with Serbia, Montenegro and Albania. The United States' contingent to this operation, TFAS, is a battalion sized element located along the Serbian border, northeast of Skopje.

Territorial Defense Forces (TDF) Marshal Tito's forces for national defense which used both men and women

Theodosius (thee-ah-DOH-shee-ahs) Roman emperor who died in 395 A.D. Prior to his death, he divided the empire in half between his two sons. The dividing line ran through the Balkan region. Its influence continues to this day.

Theotokos (the-oh-toh-KOHS) Praise given to the Virgin Mary as the Mother of Christ

Tito, Josip Broz (YOH-sef BROHZ) Marshal who led Federal Yugoslavia after World War II until his death in 1980.

Tomislav (TOHM-ee-slahv) First king of Croatia (910-928).

Tosks Ethnic Albanian subgroup who live south of the Shkumbin River.

Tudjman, Franjo (fran-yo TOOJ-mahn) Current president of Croatia

U.N. Sector East Another term used to describe Eastern Slavonia

U.N. Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia
(UNMTAES) United Nations force responsible for overseeing the reintegration of Eastern Slavonia into Croatia proper.

Umma (OOM-muh) Peoplehood--the majesty and mystique of being a part of the Muslim community

Uniate (YOO-nee-aht-ay) Orthodox Eastern Church branch which pays allegiance to the pope in Rome as the supreme leader, yet keeps distinct Orthodox liturgy, discipline and rite.

UNPROFOR United Nations Protective Forces called to implement a cease-fire in the former Yugoslavia during the spring of 1992.

Ustashi (OO-stash-ee) Croatian fascists who patterned themselves after the Nazis during World War II. Many Croats fought against the Ustashi.

Usury (YOO zhuh-ree) Lending money at excessively high interest

Venerate To hold in high esteem, reverence or regard.

Verses of the Sword Two verses of the Qur'an which describe the obligatory nature of fighting (under certain conditions) within Islam

Vojvodina (Voi-voh-DEE-nah) Northeastern province of Serbia

Vracara (vrah-chahr-ah) Folk medical practice where elderly women use herbal knowledge and ritual incantations to treat the ill.

Vukovar (voo-koh-vahr) Primary city in Eastern Slavonia, destroyed during the recent conflict. Many Croats look to it as a sort of "Alamo" due to the heroic stand which took place there.

Wadu (WAH-doo) Facilities in a mosque where the faithful can wash hands, face and feet.

Zadruga (zhahd-roo-geh) Kin based corporate group, often patriarchal, which is the traditional framework for holding society together in rural SCE areas. Many generations live together in what appears as a clan organization. Property, land and machinery belong to the group, not individuals.

Zadushnice (zah-doosh-nee-tseh) Remembrance days, held four times a year, where Serbs honor their dead.

Zagreb (ZAH-grehb) Capital of Croatia

Zakat (ZA-kat--almsgiving) The faithful demonstrate tangible worship by giving "a kind of loan to God" of from two to ten percent of one's income, payable at year's end. Charitable causes receive support in more spontaneous manners, as needs arise.