

The intent of this cultural/religious overview of the Central/South Central European world is to

1. Provide a context, a schema, a broad knowledge of the SCE world. The audience is Serbian and Croatian students, faculty who instruct these students, military personnel deploying to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Department of Defense community at large.

2. Address content Final Learning Objectives (FLOs) This work treats the basic, commonly understood themes of the following FLOs:

- a. Holidays/Observances
- b. Customs
- c. Religious Groups
- d. Ethnic/Racial Groups
- e. Gender Issues
- f. Conflicts

The goal is establishment of a "level playing field" where readers can possess competency in a common cultural literacy for this area of the world. In addition, this project introduces entry level military intelligence personnel to critical elements of the Balkan intelligence picture.

Unit 1. Cultural Awareness (a2cultur)

- Importance of sensitivity by military intelligence linguists to SCE cultures
- Cultural awareness advantages inherently possessed by military personnel

Unit 2. Historical Overview (a3histor)

- Long-lasting effects of history within the SCE region
- Interwoven nature of religion and history within SCE

Unit 3. Religious History (a4hisrel)

- Distinct religious expression and impact of Roman Catholic, Muslim and Orthodox Eastern thought and practice on the region

Unit 4a. Foundational Beliefs--Islam (a5belisl)

- Common beliefs held by most Muslims
- Unique expressions of Islam within the Balkans

Unit 4b. Foundational Beliefs--Orthodox Eastern and Roman Catholic (a6belort)

- Common beliefs and worship practices
- Unique expressions of Orthodox Eastern and Roman Catholic practice in SCE

Unit 5. Gestures and Taboos (a7gestur)

- Foundational principles to apply when interacting with a new culture
- Importance of manners and customs to cultural understanding

Unit 6. Holidays and Observances (a8holida)

- Distinctive Muslim, Orthodox Eastern and Roman Catholic religious/cultural holidays and observances
- Significance of holidays and observances for tactical, operational and strategic military missions

Unit 7a. Islamic Texts--Societal Implications (a9txtisl)

- Ethical practices and views toward violence within Islamic thought
- Importance of internal motivation within Islam

Unit 7b. Orthodox and Roman Catholic Texts--Societal Implications (b1txtort)

- Distinct Orthodox Eastern church/state relations
- Nature of current conflict as a "religious war"

Unit 8. U.S. Relations--Bosnia and Herzegovina (b2usrela)

- Principles of United States foreign policy within Bosnia and Herzegovina

Unit 9. Ethnic Groups (b3ethnic)

- Common Slavic heritage of South Slav peoples
- Serbian, Croatian and Bosniak distinct cultural traits

Unit 10. Gender Issues (b4gender)

- Unique Muslim, Orthodox Eastern and Roman Catholic perspectives concerning women
- Impact of prostitution on U.S. Armed Forces

Unit 11. Resources (b5resour)

- Book, periodical, audio-visual, and electronic (World Wide Web) resources available for further study
- Necessity of discernment in dealing with the overwhelming amount of information available on SCE cultures/religions

Unit 12. Country Area Studies

- An overview of (a) Serbia and Montenegro [b7serbia], (b) Bosnia and Herzegovina [b8bosnia], (c) Republic of Croatia [b9croati], (d) Republic of Slovenia [c1sloven], (e) Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [c2macedo], and (f) Republic of Albania [c3albani].

- Distinctive religious practices within the region
- Country locations
- General and commonly understood treatment of the following Final Learning Objectives (FLOs) for each country:

1. Holidays/Observances
2. Customs
3. Religious Groups
4. Ethnic/Racial Groups
5. Gender Issues
6. Conflicts