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2.1. CROATIA'S HISTORY AND APPLICATION FOR EU MEMBERSHIP

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Some basic facts about Croatia

- ❑ Capital: Zagreb
- ❑ Population: (2022 est.) 4,008,000
- ❑ Currency Exchange Rate: 1 USD equals 7.556 Croatian kuna
- ❑ Head Of State: President: Zoran Milanović
- ❑ Head Of Government: Prime Minister: Andrej Plenković



Historical regions of Croatia

- ❑ The present-day republic is composed of the historically Croatian regions Slavonia, Istria, and Dalmatia and Zagreb (central Croatia)
- ❑ For centuries these regions were ruled by foreign powers
- ❑ Roots in Western-oriented culture, legacy of Roman law, the Latin alphabet, and western European political and economic traditions and institutions.



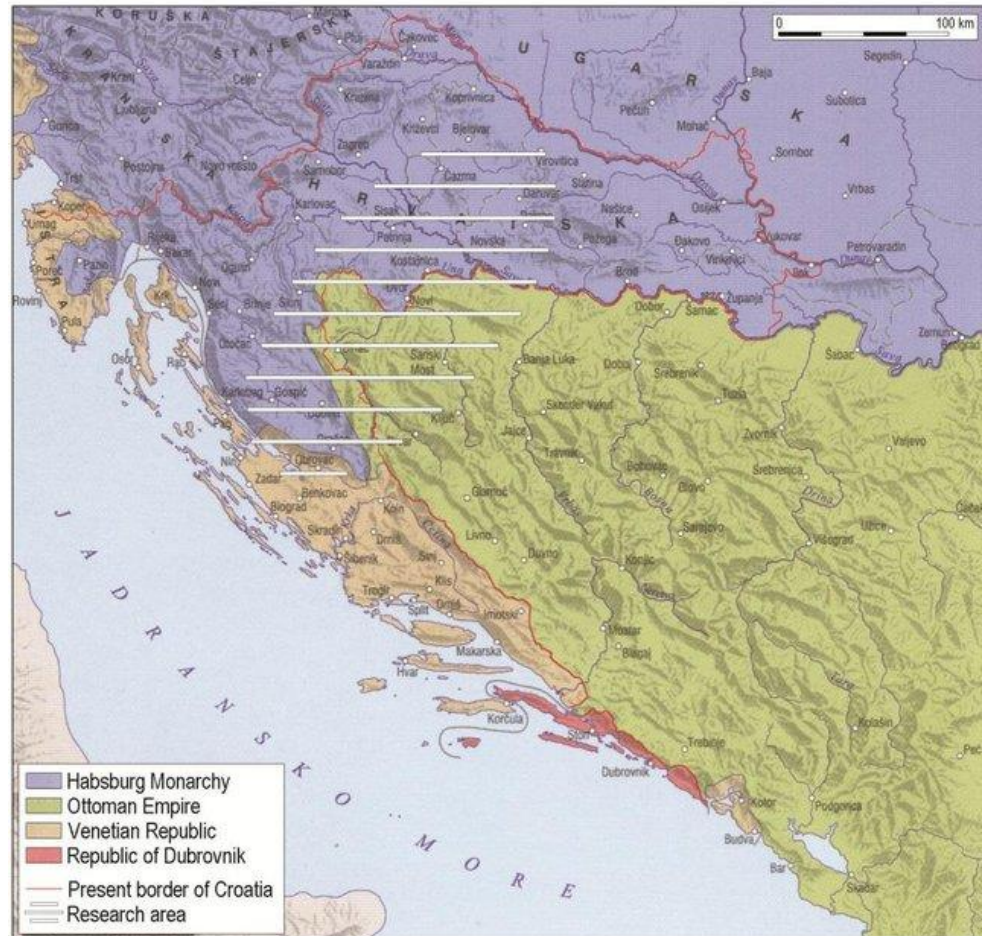
Fun historical fact about Dubrovnik Republic (15th Century)

- ❑ Prior to Morocco, the Nation-State of Dubrovnik officially recognized the United States in 1776, and was the first to send merchant marine vessels into New York Harbor.



Croatia's rich and troublesome history

- ❑ Croats living in this area since 7th Century
- ❑ Meeting place of two religions
- ❑ Meeting place of 3 empires
- ❑ 1102 – 1526 Austro-Hungaria
- ❑ Habsburg Monarchy 1527 -1918



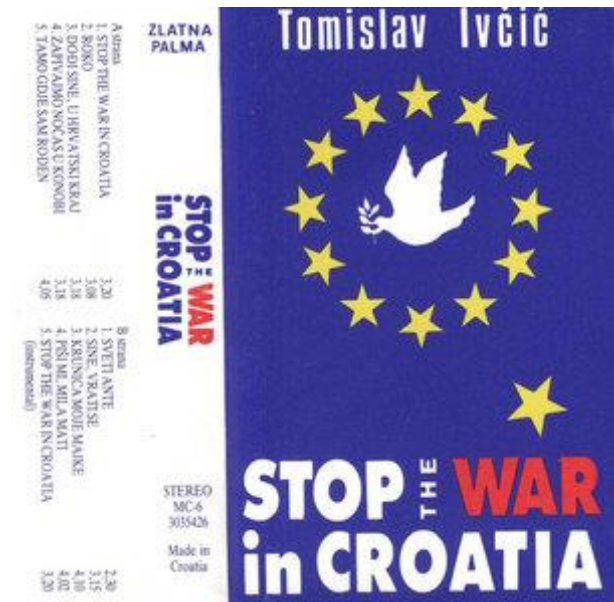
Short 20th Century for Croatia (1918 -1991)

- ❑ 1941 -1945 - Independent State of Croatia - Nazi puppet state of Hitler
- ❑ Croatia in two Yugoslav states - Monarchial before WW II , Communist after WW II
- ❑ Communist party leader was Josip Broz Tito
- ❑ From 1963 – Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY)



Breakup of Yugoslavia

- ❑ in 1991 Croatia left the SFRY
- ❑ From 1991 -1995 Croatia fought the homeland war



Croatian independence

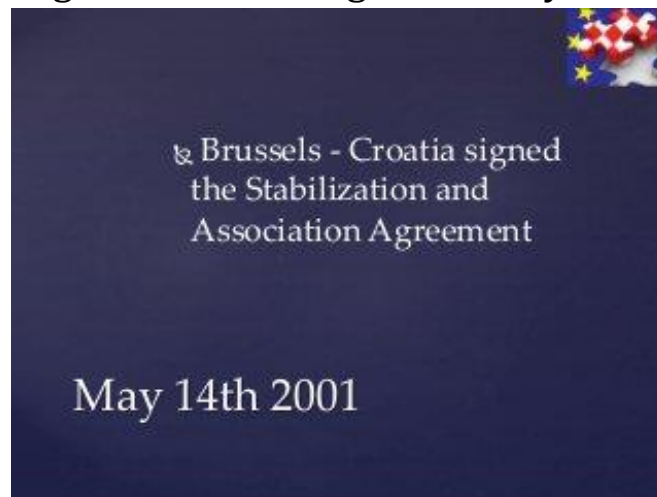
- ❑ Croatia internationally recognized on January 15th 1991
- ❑ Member of UN since 1992
- ❑ The Vatican one of the first Countries to recognize Croatia as independent state
- ❑ in 1995 – operation STORM - freeing up of occupied territory in Dalmatia (Serbian Krajina)



CROATIA

The start of the European dream for Croatia in new Century...

- ❑ in the period 1995 -2001 no formal relationship with the EU
- ❑ Long desired “return to Europe” starts in early 2000s
- ❑ January 2000 elections – left wing government – SDP democratization and economics and social reforms
- ❑ Stabilization and Accession Agreement was signed in May 2001



Political preconditions towards candidate status (apart from Copenhagen criteria)

❑ Cooperation with ICTY (International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia)

❑ Refugee return

❑ Judiciary reform



Guilty of war crimes

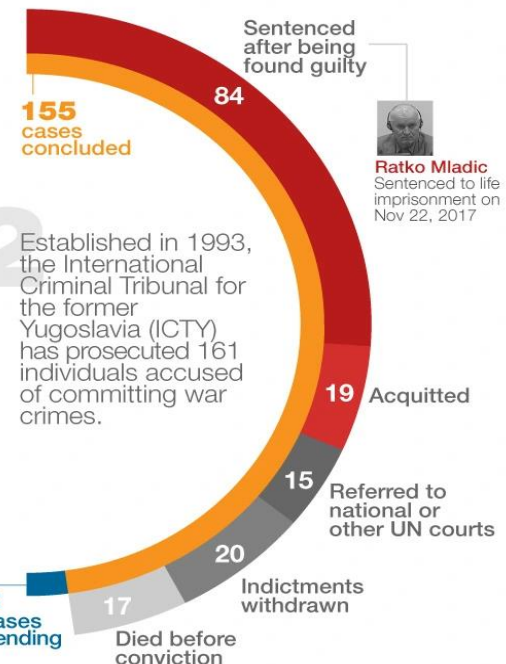
Ratko Mladic is the latest of 161 individuals indicted for war crimes committed during the conflicts in former Yugoslavia.

1 A series of conflicts in the 1990s led to the breakup of former Yugoslavia into several states.



2 Established in 1993, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) has prosecuted 161 individuals accused of committing war crimes.

3 The ICTY plans to cease its operations after prosecuting the six remaining cases.



The continuation of the European dream for Croatia...

- ❑ Parliament's adoption of the resolution to the accession the EU (Dec 2002)
- ❑ Application for EU membership was submitted in February 2003
- ❑ Broad consensus for EU integration at that time – citizens and Political will
- ❑ **73 -78 % of population had positive attitude towards integration to EU**



The Thessaloniki summit 2003 ...THE EU PROMISE

- ❑ Confirmed European perspective of the 5 (at that time) countries of SAP (Stabilization and accession process)
- ❑ Western Balkan countries will become an integral part of the EU once they meet the established criteria
- ❑ Principles of “Own merit” and “catching up”



After Thessaloniki ...European partnership

- ❑ in accordance with specificities of each country
- ❑ Needs to access the pre-accession funds in the near future were more stressed
- ❑ Enhanced support for institution building - adjustment of laws related to functioning of the internal market
- ❑ TAIEX, Twinning
- ❑ CARDS, PHARE , IPA



Positive Avis from ECa milestone breakthrough

- ❑ In April 2004, the European Commission issued a positive opinion ('avis')
- ❑ June 2004 European Council who decided that Croatia is a candidate country and that the accession
- ❑ Negotiating framework with a view to opening the accession negotiations in 2005 provided that there is full cooperation with ICTY.



COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



Brussels, 21 December 2004
16049/04 (Presse 361)

**The Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Croatia
will enter into force on 1st February 2005**

Press release

Thank you for your attention!

My contacts:

klezaic@gmail.com

send me an email, discuss, debate.....

Questions for discussions...

- ☐ Do you think Croatia's history was troublesome?
- ☐ Do you think that military operations to regain occupied territory are legitimate?
- ☐ Do you think that Croatia always belonged to EU values ?
- ☐ Is Croatia a Balkan Country ?
- ☐ **Is national consensus crucial for EU membership?**