

SERBIA

Continent: Europe

[Population](#): 6.8 million

[Life Expectancy \(at Birth\)](#): 76.5

[Governance System](#): Republic

Capital: Belgrade

[Area](#): 87,460 km²

Major Languages: Serbian

[GDP \(2021\)](#): 63,068 US\$ millions

Select Global Rankings

[Human Development Index](#): 63rd

[Fragile States Index](#): 86th

[Soft Power 30 rank](#): NR

[Human Freedom Index](#): 67th

[World Happiness Ranking](#): 43rd

[Good Country Index](#): 38th

Elite Sport System Rankings

[Global Cup Ranking](#): 32nd

[Per Capita Cup Ranking](#): 7th

[Olympic Medals – Summer '20](#): 9 (28th)

[Olympic Medals – Winter '22](#): 0 (NR)

Football/World Cup Profile

[FIFA Region](#): UEFA

[FIFA Ranking](#): 21

World Cup Appearances: 13

Best World Cup Performance(s): 4th (1930 as Kingdom of Yugoslavia, 1962 as SFR Yugoslavia)

Qualification: UEFA Group A winner

[World Cup Group](#): G

Last World Cup Appearance: 2018

SERBIA in INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (by Matt Olsen)

Officially independent as of 2006, Serbia is a relatively new state with a long, tumultuous history. Existing as the Principality of Serbia as far back as 780 AD, [Serbia](#) faced conquest from the Ottoman Empire between 1459 and 1556, underwent years of revolution, and eventually became Yugoslavia after the First World War.

[Yugoslavia](#) existed from 1918 to 1992 and was made up of six constituent republics, including SR Bosnia and Herzegovina, SR Croatia, SR Macedonia, SR Montenegro, SR Serbia, and SR Slovenia, along with two Socialist Autonomous provinces, Vojvodina and Kosovo.

Yugoslavia held an interesting position for much of the 20th century, attempting to remain neutral in the Second World War though eventually suffering an Axis invasion, and it founded the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961. [The Non-Aligned Movement](#), headed in Belgrade, originated during the Korean War and the early division of the [Eastern and Western Blocs](#). Yugoslavia, though itself a socialist republic, along with others including India and Egypt, sought a middle course in the cold war and saw the NA Movement as an attempt to maintain sovereignty.

As such, Yugoslavia hosted the first Non-Aligned movement summit in September 1961. Later, in 1977 and 1978, Yugoslavia hosted the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe with the goal of implementing the Helsinki Accords, to further progress the détente in the Cold War.

Eventually, and in spite of its non-aligned existence, Yugoslavia broke up in 1991 and 1992 after a period of increasing political and ethnic tensions, resulting in the independence of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia. This resulted in the Yugoslav Wars, taking place from 1991 to 2001, which led to UN-imposed sanctions against Yugoslavia, devastating its economy.

In 2006, the state of Serbia rose from the ashes of the conflict and was officially established.

Today, Serbia has good relations with most states around the world, although some remain strained over their respective recognitions of Kosovo. It has referred to relations with the EU, Russia, the United States and China as the four pillars of its foreign policy.

Serbia is a UN member state, a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Council of Europe, though it is not a member of the European Union, however, its accession to the EU has been on the agenda for the future enlargement of the EU since 2012. It is hopeful to join the EU in 2025.