

## Bosnia

- Parties Involved:**
1. Bosniaks (Muslims)
  2. Croats (Roman Catholics)
  3. Serbs (Eastern Orthodox)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>Interests:</b> All parties fought for self-determination and self-rule. The Serbs wanted a “Greater Serbia” and used “ethnic cleansing” to rid towns of their Muslim or Croat inhabitants.</p>
<p><b>History:</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kingdom of Yugoslavia was formed after World War I.</li> </ul>
<p>The government was a monarchy controlled by Serbs and resented by other groups.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ethnic tension erupted into a civil war during World War II. Croatian Fascists helped Germans and got an independent state that encompassed Bosnia. Serb groups resisted the Nazis, even though Serbia was occupied by the Germans.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1945 Marshal Tito, a former anti-Nazi fighter, became the leader of Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia became a Communist state.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dictator died in 1980, but the country remained intact until 1989, when the Berlin wall fell and the Soviet Union began to crumble.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1992, Bosnia held a referendum in which the population voted for their independence from Serbia and the former Yugoslavia. Bosnian Serbs boycotted the referendum and took up arms in protest.</li> </ul>
<p><b>War:</b> Serbs took over half of Bosnia and began ethnic cleansing (pushing out Muslims or killing them)</p>
<p>The war became very complicated: Muslims and Serbs fought together against Croats in Herzegovina, two different groups of Muslims fought each other in north-west Bosnia, and Croats and Serbs fought together against Muslims in central Bosnia</p>
<p>1992-1995: About half the population of Bosnia was displaced during and after the war. 200,000 people were killed.</p>
<p><b>Peace:</b> 1995 Dayton Peace Accord – set up two complete and separate governments- one a Bosniak – Croat Federation and a Bosnian Serb Republic. Above these two governmental systems is a central government with a rotating presidency.</p>
<p><i>In light of the few facts that you have read about the war in Bosnia, how do you think that a country that lost nearly half its population to violence can recover? What are its next steps?</i></p>
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Resources:  
 PBS [http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/rough/2006/09/bosnia\\_dividedlinks.html](http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/rough/2006/09/bosnia_dividedlinks.html)  
<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/bosnia502/additional.html>  
 Friends of Bosnia [http://www.friendsofbosnia.org/edu\\_bos.html](http://www.friendsofbosnia.org/edu_bos.html)