

## Croatia in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

### Croatian transcript:

Zoran: Ne znam, znači, Hrvatska je bila dio Austro-Ugarske, i onda je poslije Prvog svjetskog rata bila dio Kraljevine Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca, gdje isto nije imala autonomiju. Onda je slavodobitno stekla tu autonomiju 10. travnja '41. Ta autonomija je bila potpuno lažna, je li, dakle oni su bili još... Bila je samo nominalna, zvala se Nezavisna Država [Hrvatska], iako su bili u direktnom lancu zapovijedanja njemačke vojske i Njemačkog Reicha, ti ostaci zemlje – većinu su prodali Talijanima. Mislim, nisu većinu, ali ove lijepe dijelove baš... Znaju Talijani sebi probrat, je li. Zadar, Dalmacija, otoci, Istra itd. Tako da, to je bilo isto jedna, kako bih rekao, povijesna epizoda katastrofalna, i, završava Drugi svjetski rat, i Hrvatska kao Socijalistička Republika Hrvatska je dio Socijalističke Federativne Republike Jugoslavije.

U sklopu te države, nekakva neovisnost zemlje, ekonomije, kulture se mijenjala kako je Jugoslavija prolazila razne faze. Neposredno nakon rata je Jugoslavija bila jedna ovako centralizirana, rigidna komunistička država, ili hajmo reć diktatura, ugrožena jer se nekako nalazila na toj liniji podjele koja je dogovorena u Jalti... Ona tri su bila, ona naša prijatelja tamo, Staljin, Roosevelt i Churchill. Ili je, je?

Aleksandar: Je li Roosevelt bio živ još uvijek ili? Ne, Truman je kasnije došao.

Zoran: Mislim da je Truman došao kasnije. Mislim da je Roosevelt bio bolešljiv, ali je bio tamo. I onda smo nekako, ta je Jugoslavija bila ugrožena i vjerovatno je kao reakcija na to, to morala biti nekakva rigidna zemlja, a možda i nije, možda je to bila po izboru tadašnjih rukovodilaca, komunističkih. S vremenom je dolazilo do nekog, neke liberalizacije unutrašnje i vanjske, znači mogli smo, ovaj... Pomalo su se i statusi republika liberalizirali, svaka je mogla malo više upravljat vlastitom ekonomijom, kulturom, prosvjetom itd. do Ustava iz 1974, kad je, ovaj, kojim je jasno rečeno da republike imaju, da su republike samostalne, da su, ne znam sad točno pravnu normu kojom je to definirano, ali pozivajući se na odredbe tog Ustava, svaka od ovih današnjih država slijedi taj kontinuitet tih njihovih socijalističkih prethodnica.

### English translation:

Zoran: In any case, Croatia was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and then it was a part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes right after World War I, where it also did not have autonomy. Then it jubilantly gained its autonomy on April 10, 1941. This autonomy was completely false, since it was purely titular. The country was called the Independent State [of Croatia], despite the fact that it was under the direct command of the German army and the German Reich; at least whatever was left of it [Croatia], since most of it was basically gifted to Italians. I mean, not most of it, but the gorgeous parts –

Italians always had a sense for choosing the best, right? – Zadar, Dalmatia, the islands, Istria, etc. In any case, this episode in the history [of Croatia] was also disastrous<sup>1</sup>. When World War II ended, Croatia became a part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as the Socialist Republic of Croatia.

Within that country, the independence of the state [of Croatia], its economy and culture changed as Yugoslavia went through various phases. Immediately after the war, Yugoslavia was a centralized, rigid communist country, a dictatorship if you will; it was under threat because it was right on the line of division which was agreed upon at [the] Yalta [Conference]... Our three friends were there: Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill, right?

Aleksandar: Was Roosevelt still alive? No, Truman came later.

Zoran: I think that Truman came later. Roosevelt was ill, but he was there. This [agreement] put Yugoslavia under threat [of a possible Soviet invasion], so it had to be a rigid country, or maybe it was a choice of the communist leadership of that time. With time, there was an improvement, liberalization, both internally and externally, and we could... Slowly the status of the republics became looser, slowly each could take more control over its own economy, culture, education, etc. until the 1974 Constitution, when it was clearly announced that the republics are independent. I'm not sure what the legal terms used to define it are, but according to the amendments of that Constitution, each of the current countries kept the geographic continuity of their socialist predecessors.

**About CultureTalk:** CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2012 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated

---

<sup>1</sup> The speaker here refers to the fact that NDH (the Independent State of Croatia) was home to the largest concentration camp in the area of former Yugoslavia called Jasenovac, and that it actively participated in the Holocaust. The number of those killed in Jasenovac were never clearly established, with estimates differing between 82,600 to 700,000. A contemporary forensic source places this number at around 500,000. However, this number is often disputed by conservative politicians and parties in Croatia.