

CultureTalk Albania Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
History and Geography in Brief

Southern Albanian Dialect

Albanian transcript:

E para gje qe do i thoshja per Shqiperine eshte qe... Njehere historia komuniste, ajo eshte numri nje; qe Shqiperia eshte nje vend qe ka nje te kaluar 50 vjecare komuniste, ka qene ne bllokun komunist. Ajo eshte e para. E dyta; qe Shqiperia ka qene nji nga pjeset... ne kontinentin evropian te Perandorise Osmane. Dhe e treta, jashtezakonisht e rendesishme; qe perkunder pjeseve te tjera te kontinentit evropian te Perandorise Osmane shqiptaret ia kane kaluar mire. Brenda Perandorise Osmane. Ky eshte nje fakt shume i rendesishem per te kuptuar historine e Shqiperise sot e kesaj dite. Qofte fqinjjet, qofte rajonin etj etj. Keshtu qe kjo eshte sit e thuash piktura e madhe e vendit tim tani. Eshte nje shtet qe ka nje te kaluar me Perandorine Osmane, ka nje te kaluar me, sic e quajme, eksperimentin e komunizmit. Si dhe eshte... ka keto 15 vjetet e fundit qe eshte gjeografikisht jashtezakonisht afer Evropes, por ndan fatin e fqinjeve duke e ndjere veten te perjashtuar nga kjo ideja million-dollareshe qe quhet "Evrope" – qendra e vlerave nderkombetare, njerezore etj etj. Keto jane qe dmth... keto qe thashe jane gjera te pergjithshme. Nga ana gjeografike une jam nga jugu i Shqiperise, por nuk e njoh mire Jugun e Shqiperise, nuk kam shetitur, ne Veri s'kam shkuar pothuajse fare. Gjeografikisht, doemos, do i thoshja ik shiko malet ne Veri, shiko Shkodren qe ka qene qender e rendesishme, si dhe shiko bregdetin. Poshte, dhe ajo eshte pjese e rendesishme e Shqiperise. Nga ana e muzikes nuk do i flisja shume, mund te mos ta permendja se nuk di ca te them. Po, Shqiperia, Jugu ka muzike polifonike. Kam degjuar qe ne Nju Jork shume njerez qe jane etnomuzikologjiste e studjojne me vemendje, u pelqen, andej ketej. Ma do mendja eshte gje me rendesi. Tim ati i pelqen shume, por une nuk kam qene ndonjehere shume i interesuar.

English translation:

The first thing I would say about Albania is that ... first of all, the history of communism, that is number one. Albania is a country that had been under communism for 50 years. It was in the communist block. That is the first thing. Secondly, Albania has been part ... of the European continent of the Ottoman Empire. The third thing, extremely important, as opposed to other countries that were under the Ottoman Empire, the Albanians actually had a good time ... within the Ottoman Empire. This is a very important fact to know in order to understand the Albanian history to this day. Even for the neighbors, regions around, etc. etc. This is a big picture of my country now. It is a country that has a past with the Ottoman Empire, and it also has a past with communism. It also is ... these past fifteen years, it has been extremely close geographically to Europe but has had the same fate as the neighboring countries that feel excluded from this million-dollar idea called "Europe," the center for international values and human values, etc. etc. These are the things ... the things that I mentioned are very general. Geographically, I am from the south of Albania, but I don't really know it. I have not traveled a lot. I haven't even been

in the North of Albania. Geographically, of course I would say go visit the mountains up north, visit Shkodra because it has been a very important center. I would not talk about the music; perhaps I would not even mention it because I don't have anything to say about it, but the south of Albania has polyphonic music. I have heard that in New York a lot of people who study music love it a lot. I am guessing it is an important thing. My dad likes it a lot, but I have never been interested in it.

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