

Borders and Neighboring Countries

Croatian transcript:

Zoran: Da, Hrvatska graniči sa Slovenijom, i ta granica ide od Piranskog zaljeva na moru, znači to je tamo negdje blizu Trsta, nije baš daleko od Trsta, to je blizu te neke nekadašnje zamišljene „željezne zavjese“, jer je Churchill, Winston Churchill dao ime *Iron Curtain*, „željezna zavjesa“, i ta je počinjala kod Trsta dole na početku Istarskog poluotoka. Na Jadranskom moru granica je u Piranskom zaljevu, i onda ide kroz taj jedan planinski dio skroz do blizu Zagreba, i ovako sjeverno do Mađarske. Znači, slijedeći susjed je Mađarska, taj dio-tromeđa se zove Prekmurje. Tamo je rijeka Mura, to je velika jedna austrijska i, teče i kroz Austriju i kroz Sloveniju, i tako, a onda ide granica uglavnom rijekom Dravom, koliko se ja sjećam. To je ravničarski dio, to je granica s Mađarskom prema Osijeku, i onda još malo iza Osijeka granica dolazi do Dunava, i tu se ta granica sa Mađarskom pretvara u granicu sa Srbijom, Srbija, ovaj... I onda to ide uglavnom rijekom Dunavom, malo s jedne obale, malo s druge, itd. I sad, kako točno između, gdje se opet Srbija, jel tamo negdje kod Bijeljine?

Aleksandar: Tromeđa je gore ja mislim, kod Bijeljine.

Zoran: Kod Bijeljine, Brčkog, da. Više kod Bijeljine, da. Znači, imali smo Sloveniju, Mađarsku, Srbiju, i onda je granica sa Bosnom, koja opet ide uglavnom rijekom Savom, i onda na hrvatskom jugo-zapadu je ta granica, ili zapadna granica Bosne, a jugoistočna Hrvatske ide dolinom rijeke Une, i skroz dole do Dubrovnika, malo južnije od Dubrovnika. I imamo morsku granicu sa Italijom, koja je velika, ne znam, stotina i stotina kilometara, sad točno koliko stotina, šta znam: 500-600 kilometara. 500-600 kilometara je morska granica sa Italijom, tako da... Hrvatska sa Crnom Gorom ima nešto, zeru neke granice, da.

Aleksandar: Ima Prevlaku, je li. To je još uvijek aktuelno, ili?

Zoran: Ima vrlo malo. Mislim da su se nešto dogovorili oko Prevlake. Da, dole nekoliko ima, desetaka možda kilometara, nema više. Jer je i u zaleđu Dubrovnika većinom je granica sa Hercegovinom, znači to je baš neki mali komad je sa Crnom Gorom, da. Vidiš, dobro si me podsjetio. I tako, znači, neki zovu Hrvatska, pardon... Neki kažu da ima oblik bumeranga, neki kažu da ima oblik kifla, ja sad ne znam, kifla, to morate naučit šta znači „kifla“, jedna vrsta peciva. Tako da nekako mislim, kako bih vam rekao, nije baš nekakav kompaktan, homogen, malo onako neobičan je prostor, ne? Kad usporediš sa, kad usporediš sa kako druge zemlje...

Aleksandar: Ostalim evropskim, pogotovo.

Zoran: Ostalim evropskim zemljama, ili... Pa i američke su prilično kompaktne države.

English translation:

Zoran: Well, Croatia borders with Slovenia, and that border stretches from the Gulf of Piran at the sea, which is somewhere around Trieste, not too far from Trieste. It is close to the imaginary Iron Curtain, which was named by Winston Churchill. It started around Trieste at the beginning of the Istria Peninsula. The border on the Adriatic sea is at the Gulf of Piran, and then it goes through this mountainous area all the way up to the outskirts of Zagreb and north to Hungary. Our next neighbor is Hungary, and this tri-border area is called Prekmurje, with the River Mura, which is a large Austrian and Slovenian river. The border then follows the River Drava, as far I can remember. This is a flatland area, this border area with Hungary towards Osijek. A little bit outside of Osijek, the border reaches the River Danube, and then this border with Hungary becomes our border with Serbia... And then it follows the River Danube, the border being partially on one shore and partially on the other. I'm not sure how exactly the border changes, is it around Bijeljina?

Aleksandar: I think that the tri-border [between Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina] is up north, near Bijeljina¹.

Zoran: Bijeljina, Brčko², you're right. Closer to Bijeljina, though. So, we talked about the borders with Slovenia, Hungary and Serbia, and now we're at the border with Bosnia, which again, follows the River Sava. Then, in the south-east of Croatia, that is, the western border of Bosnia and the south-eastern border of Croatia, the border follows the River Una valley all the way down to Dubrovnik, or a bit more south. There is also the sea border with Italy, which is several hundred kilometers long. I'd say, 500-600 kilometers³. The sea border with Italy is 500-600 kilometers long, so... Croatia has a small border with Montenegro, yes.

Aleksandar: The Prevlaka Peninsula⁴. Is it still an issue, or?

Zoran: The border is very short. I think they've reached an agreement regarding Prevlaka. Yes, there is about 20⁵ kilometers or so between Croatia and Montenegro, not more.

¹ Bijeljina is a city in Bosnia and Herzegovina, approx. 15 miles from the tri-border area between Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

² Brčko is a city in Bosnia and Herzegovina which lies on the border with Croatia, approx. 10 miles from the tri-border area between Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

³ Approx. between 310 and 375 miles, respectively.

⁴ The Prevlaka peninsula was once subject to a dispute. Following the Croatian War of Independence, Croatia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which included Montenegro at the time, argued over the ownership of Prevlaka. This is mainly because of the strategic position and the proximity of a major naval base within the Bay of Kotor. It is in the process of resolution, following negotiations between Croatia and Montenegro. The two parties have agreed to refer the case to the International Court of Justice.

⁵ Approx. 12 miles.

Because several kilometers north of Dubrovnik there's the border with [Bosnia and] Herzegovina, so there has to be a small border with Montenegro. Thank you for reminding me!

In conclusion, some people say that Croatia looks like a boomerang, some say that it looks like a *kifla*⁶. Now, I'm not sure that people will know what a *kifla* is, so you'll have to look it up; it's a type of pastry. So it's not a homogenous or a compact area; it's somewhat unusual, compared to other countries...

Aleksandar: Especially the European countries.

Zoran: Other European countries, or... Most U.S. states are very compact as well.

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⁶ *Kifla*: A type of pastry shaped into a crescent, popular in the Balkans, Hungary and Austria.