

# SLOVENIA

Slovenia until 1918 was not on maps and was not in history. Slovenes are the most western Slavs in Europe - they border Roman, German and Hungarian neighbors. Slovenia is a state of Slovenes along with two minorities, Italian and Hungarian. Many Slovenes live as immigrants in foreign countries and Cleveland, USA was until recently known as one of the cities with the largest number of Slovenian inhabitants.

Slovenes have had their own language for centuries and their own literature in the Slovene language since 1550. A command of our language does not mean an automatic understanding of other Slavic languages, neither neighboring Croatian nor other languages of the former multinational Yugoslavia. Slovenian territory it is important to keep in mind the fact. Because of its exceptionally important position.

The fact Slovenia has the main roads for commerce from middle and southeastern Europe and from Italy to the Balkans coursed across the Slovenian territory, it is understandable that this region was populated very early. Slovenia had provinces.

Slovenian provinces were Styria (Štajerska), Carinthia (Koroška), Carniola and Gorizia (Goriška), with Istria (Istra) and Trieste (Trst) as an independent city. Of these provinces, only Carniola and Gorizia (Goriška) were almost Slovenian. That was a problem. Almost all Slovenian provinces had another nations.

The reforms of Maria Theresa and Joseph II in the 18th century caused cultural and religious changes. A carefully planned building of roads began and Trieste became the central port in the northern Adriatic.

The time of Maria Theresa also means the beginning of schools.

Trieste became the largest Slovenian city.

In 1809 Ilirian province remained a large part of the Slovene ethnic territory for 4 years.

The word "Slovenia" first appeared in 1816 in an unpublished poem and in 1844 it first appeared in print. Slovenian poet France Prešeren being their main support in the area of language.

The First World War severely affected Slovenes their western ethnic border became a battle front which drove 10 000 people from their homes. At the end of the war, a peace movement was strengthened that demanded a reform of the monarchy.

A state of Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs, as nations of the former monarchy, came into existence on October 29, 1918 and December 1 of that year it united with Serbia to form the kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, that is Yugoslavia.

The birth of Yugoslavia was a terrible tragedy for Slovenes - in accord with the decision of the London Pact a good third of their territory fell to Italy.

The Second World War began German, Italian, and Hungarian might. The worst was expected for the Slovenes who were under Hitler's Germany.

After the end of the Second World War, the communists immediately took power for which they had already been preparing during the same war.

Big part of Slovenia was deported to Italy. After about 10 years into its existence, the new Yugoslavia slowly began to relax.

As is clear today, Yugoslavia's decline began as early as the middle of the seventies. However, Slovenian involvement with culture, can be given the honor for the birth of the independent Slovenian state, which people supported in a special plebiscite. Slovenia came into being with the disintegration of Yugoslavia in 1991, as Yugoslavia was a

multinational entity from its birth in 1918. A Yugoslavian nationality never existed, and there was never a Yugoslavian language and no a Yugoslavian culture. The fact Slovenia became an independent state in year 1991.  
Slovenia is very small country, but it's nice!