



# Serbia

By Kate Acosta  
ULL, UNIV 100-064,  
November 2024

Belgrade (Capital)

<https://www.travelholicq.com/6-gorgeous-places-to-visit-in-serbia/>

# Personal Interest Statement

I chose my country, Serbia, because I'd never heard anything about this country before. I knew nothing about their culture, history, what they are known for, tourist attractions, and many more things. I wanted to challenge myself and try to be more open minded to things I never knew about a country rather than know some bits and piece of another country.



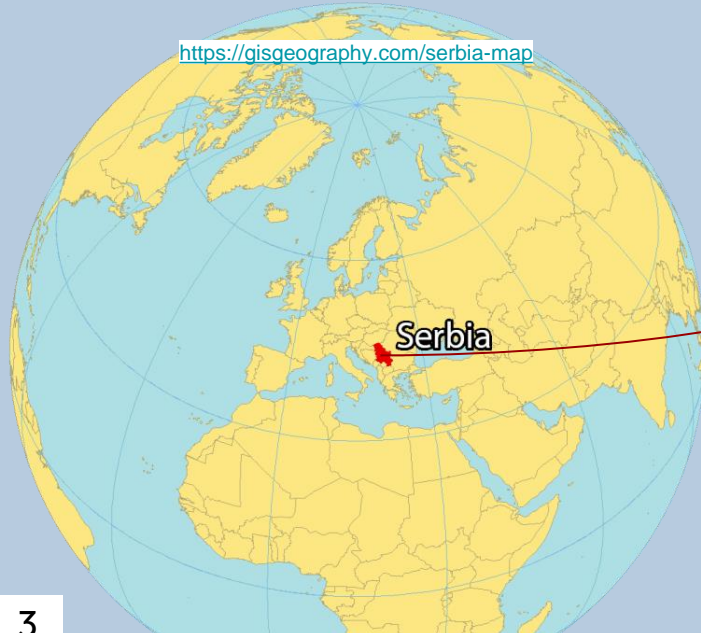
# The Purpose of the Presentation

- For people to learn the culture, history, food, and clothing in Serbia
- For people to discover why Serbians wear the clothes that they wear
- For people to investigate on what makes Serbian people wear these types of clothing
- For people to learn more about a country, like Serbia, they never knew that existed or know little information about

# Location

- Size: 30 thousand sq miles (< South Carolina)
- Population: 7 mil. (Rank: 109th)
- Capital: Belgrade (Population: 1 mil)

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/kosovo/etc/map.html>



<https://www.dreamstime.com/royalty-free-stock-photos-cathedral-saint-sava-winter-belgrade-serbia-image40540728>



<https://mavink.com/explore/Serbian-Language-Alphabet>

### SERBIAN српска ћирилица

А а	Б б	В в	Г г	Д д
Ђ ђ	Е е	Ж ж	З з	И и
Ј ј	К к	Л л	Љ љ	М м
Н н	Њ њ	О о	П п	Р р
С с	Т т	Ћ ћ	У у	Ф ф
Х х	Ц ц	Ч ч	Џ џ	Ш ш

# Serbia Background Facts

- The climate in the North has cold winters and humid summers
- While the climate in other parts is cold & have heavy snow winters and dry summers
- Government: Parliamentary Republic
- Ethnicity:  
83% Serb & 4% Hungarian
- Language:  
88% Serbian & 3% Hungarian
- Religion:  
85% Orthodox & 5% Catholic



<https://orthodoxtimes.com/patriarch-of-serbia-celebrated-in-the-church-of-saint-george-in-bezania/>



<https://www.si.com/tennis/2022/01/10/no-vak-djokovic-wins-court-battle-australian-open>

# The History of Serbia

- Earliest settlements in Serbia were found in the Paleolithic age (10,000 BCE)
- In the middle ages (1400–1450 A.D), a tribe named, White Serbs took control over Serbia until 1459
- The Ottoman Empire takes control over Serbia and a Serbia prince and his army attack the Empire
- In 1912, the Ottoman Empire was defeated
- In June 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, setting a spark on WWI
- After the Yugoslav Wars (1991-2001), between Croatia and Bosnia, Serbia received many refugees
- In December 2023, President Vučić won the election as President and people started to protest

<https://serbia.com/visit-serbia/natural-beauties/caves/risovac-a-cave-a-prehistoric-house/>

Prehistoric Sculptures founded



<https://www.alamy.com/ottoman-troops-marching-towards-the-border-of-serbia-image352829171.html>

The Ottoman Empire traveling to Serbia



The President of Serbia



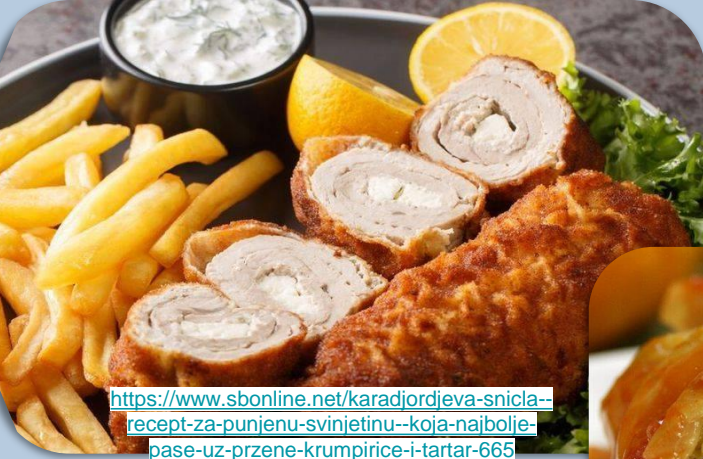
<https://www.alamy.com/ottoman-troops-marching-towards-the-border-of-serbia-image352829171.html>

The Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand



<https://historybombs.com/2024/06/exploring-gavrilo-princip/>

# Popular Serbian Food



<https://www.sbonline.net/karadjordjeva-snicla-recept-za-punjenu-svinjetinu-koja-najbolje-pase-uz-przene-krumpirice-i-tartar-665>

## Karadžorđeva šnicla

- Pork or veal with kajmak (Serbian cheese), and fried breadcrumbs

## National Dish



<https://belgradeatnight.com/top-10-serbian-foods/>

## Sarma (*wrap in*)

- Minced ground meat, pickled cabbage, tomato sauce, rice and sauerkraut



<https://domacirecepti.net/posni-cupavci/>

## Čupavci (*hairy ones*)

- Sponge cake covered in chocolate and dry coconut

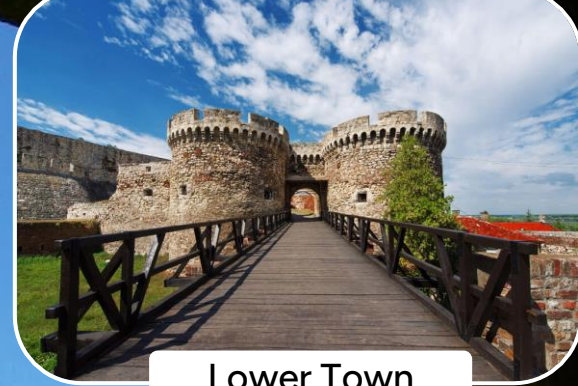
# **Tourist Attractions**



# Belgrade Fortress

- Location: Belgrade
- Built in 2nd-18th Century
- Had been destroyed and rebuilt
- Symbolizes the city's raising and growing
- Merged into two parts: Upper and Lower Town

<https://private-tours.rs/travel-serbia/belgrade-fortress/>



Lower Town

<https://serbia.com/visit-serbia/cultural-attractions/palaces-and-fortresses/belgrade-fortress-follow-the-paths-of-history/>



Upper Town

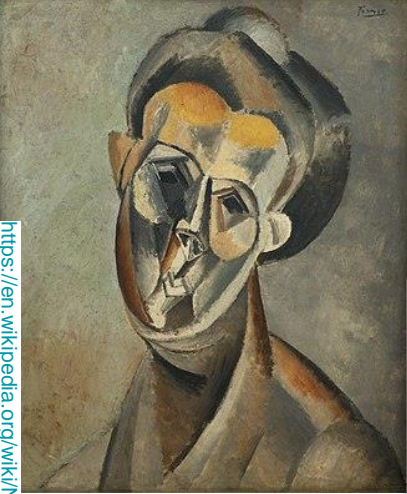
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<https://traveladventureeverywhere.blogspot.com/2012/02/serbia-srbija-europe-belgrade-novi-sad.html>

**WEB:** Serbia.com. (n.d.). *Belgrade fortress: Follow the paths of history*. The Belgrade fortress, built on a white ridge above the confluence of two big rivers, destroyed and rebuilt over and over for 16 centuries, still stands as the symbol of Serbia's capital. Retrieved November 19, 2024, from <https://serbia.com/visit-serbia/cultural-attractions/palaces-and-fortresses/belgrade-fortress-follow-the-paths-of-history>

# National Museum of Serbia

- Known for being called “Dardanelles”
- Location: Belgrade
- Rebuild for 15 years (2003-2018) due to many reconstructions
- Opened in June 18th, 2018
- The most famous artworks are *Head of the Women* (Picasso), *Madre della Consolazione* (El Greco), and *Madonna with Christ and small St. John* (Raphael)



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National Museum of Serbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum_of_Serbia)



<https://www.mutualart.com/Artwork/A-LARGE-ICON-SHOWING-THE-MADRE-DELLA-CON/8603C4C118382CF545F915D5D789B1EE>

<https://balkaninsight.com/2018/06/29/almost-forgotten-serbian-national-museum-reopens-06-28-2018/>

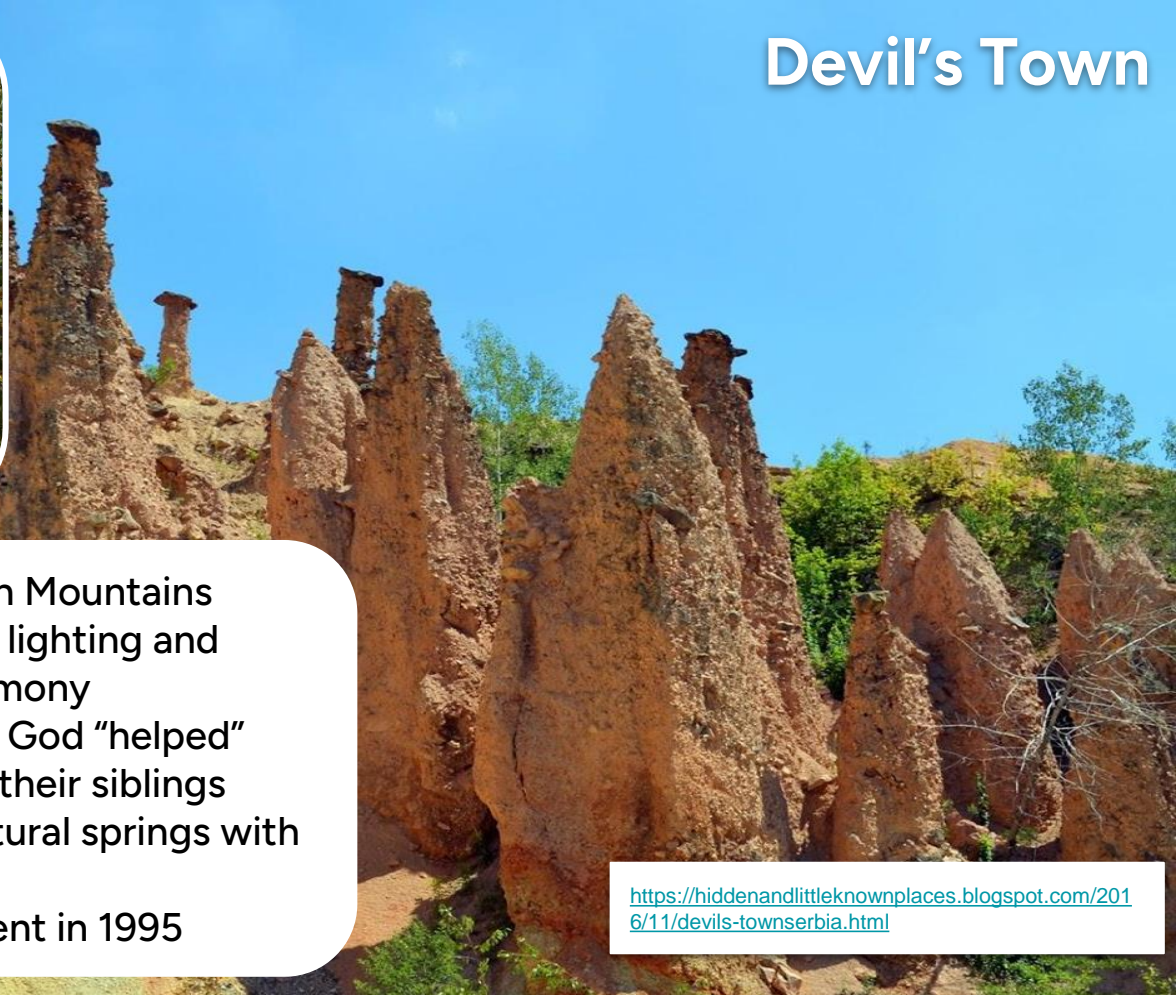


<https://www.discoverwalks.com/blog/serbia/top-10-amazing-facts-about-national-museum-of-serbia/>

# Devil's Town



<https://www.dreamstime.com/amazing-autumn-landscape-rock-formation-devil-s-town-radon-mountain-serbia-autumn-landscape-rock-formation-devil-s-town-image109018426>



<https://hiddenandlittleknownplaces.blogspot.com/2016/11/devils-townserbia.html>

- Location: Kursumlija on the Radan Mountains
- It is believed the Devil sent down lightning and thunderstorms to ruin fairies' harmony
- Stones represent the fairies after God "helped" them by stopping them to marry their siblings
- The stones are surrounded by natural springs with acidic water
- It was declared a natural monument in 1995

# People and Society

- Mother's Age First Birth: 28
- Median Age: 44 (Rank 33th)
- Life Expectancy at Birth: 75 (Rank 128th)
- Fertility Rate: 1.46 (Rank 205th)
- Contraceptive Prevalence: 62%



<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/provide-fresh-start-for-a-single-mother-in-serbia/>



<https://lb.advisor.travel/city/Brdo-1798662/photos>



[https://kairosphotos.photoshelter.com/image/I0000QaT8\\_yoXu04](https://kairosphotos.photoshelter.com/image/I0000QaT8_yoXu04)

# People and Society

- Alcohol Consumption: 2 gallons (world rank 55th)
- Tobacco Use: 40% (world rank 4th)



<https://heyexplorer.com/what-is-serbia-known-and-famous-for/>

- Rakija- a fermented fruit drink



<https://balkanwanderlust.com/serbia/rakija-a-fiery-elixir-of-tradition-and-passion/>

<https://www.rakijagrill.com/blog/drink-like-a-serbian-how-to-drink-rakija-like-a-local/>

# People and Society

- Education Expenditures: 4% of GDP (Rank 134th)
- Literacy Rate: 100%
- School Life Expectancy: 14 years old
- Child Marriage: 1% (15 years old) & 6% (18 years old)



<https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/03/europe/serbia-school-shooting-what-we-know-intl/index.html>



<https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/serbia-to-label-child-marriage-as-human-trafficking/>

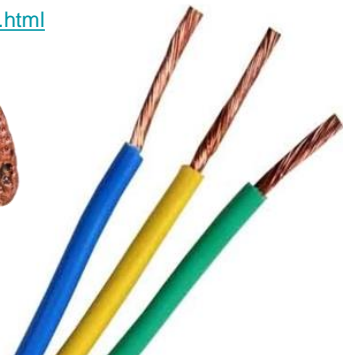
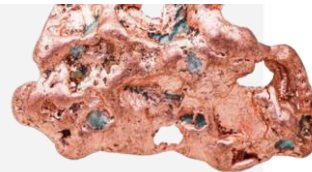


<https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/serbia-to-label-child-marriage-as-human-trafficking/>

# Economy: Medium Income

- Real GDP per Capita: \$25k (Rank 88th)
- Below Poverty Line: 21%
- Tax of (GDP): 25% (Rank 45th)
- Natural Resources- insulated wires and copper ore
- **Exports:** \$44 billion (Rank 70th) from Germany (13%)
  - Insulated wires
  - Copper
  - Plastic products
- **Imports:** \$48 billion (Rank 68th) to Germany (11%)
  - Electricity
  - Crude Petroleum

<https://www.livescience.com/29377-copper.html>



<https://www.shanpowercable.com/sale-10191128-green-blue-insulated-wire-cable-for-switch-control-450-750v-5-conductor-class.html>



<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/oil-up-us-crude-stocks-seen-falling-opec-concerns-limit-gains-2022-11-30/>

# Child Poverty in Serbia

Researchers researched Serbia's child poverty due to their transgenerational issues; finding two key components of what were the causes:

- Amount of family members living in the same household
- The amount of income a family member makes

Researchers use Survey of Income and Living Conditions in 2015-2018; discovering:

- Mothers working decrease poverty while men increase
- One adult < two adults
- Parent's education
- Older children have lower rate of poverty



## Conclusion

- Serbia's government gave social transfers to children
- Decreased transgenerational poverty by 25%
- Child poverty is still around in Serbia and most likely to never be able to recover

- Side Note: 2,200 Serbian children were sampled



# Orthodox Serbians Celebrate Saints

- Local Serbs celebrate Slava, a holiday where they honor their patron saint
- Slava in Slavic means “glory”
- Slava’s origin is unknown
- Slava is celebrated depending on which Saint they honor

## The 5 Steps of Celebrating Slava:

- Attending morning worship at church
- Lit a Slava Candle
- Hang a Saint you worship
- Bring a modest gift (wine, chocolate, or coffee)
- Enjoy dinner



<https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/slava-celebration-of-family-saint-patron-s-day-01010>

# Important Early European House discovered in Serbia

- A prehistoric house was discovered in Southern Serbia
- This house dates back to the Early-Mid Neolithic period (10,000 BCE-1,000 BCE)
- The house revealed Starčevo culture, a culture back in the Neolithic period
- The building was made of wickerwork and wooden post



<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/8000-year-old-house-discovered-in-serbia-reveals-early-european-life/ar-AA1sYMD2?ocid=BingNewsVerp>

# Government vs Justice Of Train Victims

- People were angry at the government, since they hired sloppy workers to build the train station in Novi Sad
- 14 train victims died due to the train station roof collapse
- Protesters wanted the Prime Minister and the government to be arrested
- There wasn't no arrest made, so a harmful riot began and police threw tear gas to calm them down

Korupcija Ubija translates to Corruption Kills



<https://time.com/7175231/serbia-protests-anti-government-corruption-train-station-roof-collapse-deaths/>

# Serbia During COVID-19

- In populated cities, Serbians wore masks indoors and few outside
- In rural areas, Serbians didn't wear any masks and shook hands
- Children didn't wear masks and did social distancing
- The further you were from populated cities, less people interacted with tourists
- Serbian people were protesting against their government as COVID-19 cases were rising



# Child Marriages in Serbia

- Serbia has 60% women and girls in poverty
- Girls who are 12-14 years old drop out of school to get married
- The government of Serbia tries to stop child marriages by:
  - National Coalition for Combatting Child Marriage
  - Promoting a campaign called “Childhood, Not Marriage”
  - National Gender Equality Strategy



- Child Marriages decreases, but is still being practice

**Clothing**

# Urban Clothes



<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202305/10/WS645ae0a310b6054fad20f2.html>



<https://www.giz.de/expertise/html/61937.html>

# Rural clothes

- Rural Serbian men and women work in agriculture
- Women wear long skirts with long sleeves with blouses



<https://eca.unwomen.org/en/stories/feature-story/2022/06/hundreds-of-rural-women-across-serbia-are-job-ready-with-new-skills-and-confidence>



- Men wear collared shirts or sweater with long pants



<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-35631289>



# Business Clothing



# School/College Clothes



<https://www.torringtontelegram.com/stories/serbian-students-form-lifelong-bond-at-ewc.3173>



<https://www.theapricity.com/forum/showthread.php?173384-Serbian-university-students>

# Traditional Serbian Clothing

- Waistcoat hand embroidered with gold or silver thread
- Skirt woven on a hand loom
- Hand knitted and embroidered socks



- Serbian Hat
- Hand embroidered shirt
- Choi pants
- Belt woven on a hand loom
- Embroidered apron
- Called "Peasant Shoes"

# Common Serbian Wedding



<https://shaneclimson.com/chicago-serbian-orthodox-wedding/>

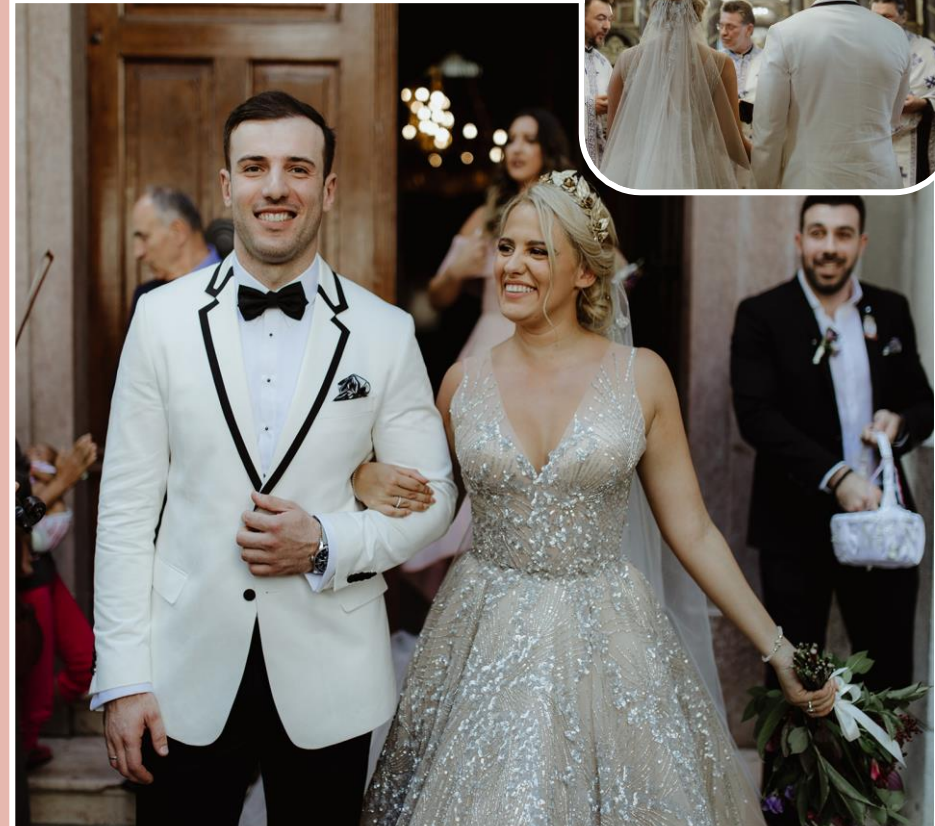


<https://alexakritisevents.com/serbian-wedding-st-petersburg-florida/>

# Wealthy Serbian Wedding



<https://soletphotography.com/serbian-orthodox-wedding-traditions-and-ceremony-rituals-vanja-and-nenad/>



<https://www.easyweddings.com.au/real-weddings/nikolina-and-mladen-make-magic-at-lavish-serbian-wedding/>



# Special Adornments

- Anterija is a dress, covering the ankles
- Commonly in red and white narrow stripes
- Made of certain fabrics (ex: Silk, Velvet, Brocade)

## Serbian Orthodox Jewelry:

- Necklaces
- Pedents



## Issue in Serbia

- Trafficking; Tier 2 Watchlist
- Tier 2 Watchlist means they have significant data on human trafficking, but they are decreasing
- They have been on Tier 2 Watchlist for 3 years



<https://www.coe.int/en/web/belgrade/strengthening-anti-trafficking-action-in-serbia>



<https://riskbulletins.globalinitiative.net/see-obs-016/06-human-trafficking-in-serbia-interview-with-ngo-astra.html>

# Conclusions

- Serbia dealt with a lot of wars, rebuilding, and many other issues that impacted the country
- They now have even more issues with children
- Due to transgenerational child poverty in Serbia, children do not have enough money to live a healthy life
- Serbian children either take a path of getting married at a young age or being sold away to trafficking
- Although Serbia is improving little by little, there are issues that Serbians need to focus on rather than their appearance
- This leads to little to no information about Serbia's cultural impact on clothing or how it began
- The history, culture, religion, food, and issues all impact why traditional clothing is worn in Serbia