

# Demographic dynamics in Vojvodina (Example of Regional Multi-Ethnicity)

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Vojvodina is an area of the most complex ethnicity in Yugoslavia. All 34 ethnic groups, cited in the 1981 Population Census, are represented in Vojvodina. This is a consequence of colonization in the period from the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Demographic dynamics and ethnicity show some characteristics of inter-dependence: Serbian districts are demographically more dynamic and younger, while Hungarian districts are more inert, with a considerably older population structure. Mono-ethnicity and nuptiality show a highly positive correlation. The process of serbianization is presented.

**Key words:** Vojvodina, Population, Nationalities, Demographic Transition.

## **Demografska dinamika Vojvodine (Primjer regionalne mnogo-etničnosti)**

Vojvodina je pokrajina s najsloženijom etničnošću. Sve 34 narodnosti (narodi, narodnosti i etničke skupine) koje su navedene u popisu stanovništva 1981., predstavljene su u Vojvodini. To je posljedica naseljavanja od druge polovine 18. st. do polovine 20. stoljeća. Demografska dinamika i etničnost pokazuje neke osobitosti: srpske općine su demografski dinamičnije i mlađe, a mađarske inertnije i starije. Monoetničnost i nupcijalitet pokazuju visoku korelaciju. Svojevrsan proces posrbljivanja je karakterističan.

**Ključne riječi:** Vojvodina, stanovništvo, narodnosti, demografska tranzicija.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Vojvodina is a part of Pannonia. The northwestern part of Pannonia lies in Austria and Hungary, and the south-eastern part lies in Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia is a Balkan country (south-east), Mediterranean (south-west) and Middle-European (north-west). Vojvodina is situated in its north-eastern part and in the north part of Serbia Proper.

Vojvodina is the largest plain in Yugoslavia and its most important agrarian area. It is composed of three smaller regions: 1. Bačka (between the Tisa and Danube rivers), 2. Banat (east of the Tisa river) and 3. Srem (between the Danube and Sava rivers). Banat is the largest region, Srem the smallest, while Bačka is the most populated.

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Vojvodina, with regard to its size and population is in the following relation to Yugoslavia and Serbia:

| In 1981                              | Yugoslavia | Vojvodina | Yu % | V     | V in % of Serbia |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------|------|-------|------------------|
| Square km                            | 256 000    | 21 506    | 100  | 8.4   | 24.3             |
| Population (1 000)                   | 22 425     | 2 035     | 100  | 9.1   | 21.8             |
| Settlements (number)                 | 28 000     | 450       | 100  | 1.6   | —                |
| Inhabitants (per 1 km <sup>2</sup> ) | 87.3       | 94.6      | 100  | 107.9 | —                |

(According to the Great Geographic Atlas of Yugoslavia, publ. LIBER, Zagreb, 1987)

The territory of Vojvodina is situated mainly at 70 to 120 m above sea level, with the exception of Fruška gora (538 m) and the Vršacke mountains (639 m). Vojvodina is a steppe area, which, from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century has been transformed into fertile fields and the granary of Yugoslavia (approx. 30% wheat, 40% maize, 65% sugar beet, 60% sunflower seed, 30% oil beet, 20% meat etc). Until recently, half of the population lived in villages, and the other half in towns (1981: urban population 54%, rural population 46%). Deruralization has continued.

### POPULATION DENSITY

In the period up to the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Vojvodina was sparsely populated. Following the expulsion of the Turks at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Požarevac Treaty, 1718) only 100,000 inhabitants lived in Vojvodina. At that time, it was a stock-breeding area. Afterwards Queen Maria Theresa (Theresian era) began planned colonization. Villages of orthogonal structure were formed with multi-ethnic communities, originating mainly from the countries which then constituted the Habsburg Empire. By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Vojvodina had become **ethnically the most complex province** and the most important agricultural region of the Slavic South, which it is still today. The South-Slavic component, especially the Serbian component, showed marked growth resulting from the two colonizations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (in the period after the First World War, 1918–1922, and the Second World War, 1945–1947). The German component is almost non-existent due to the emigration of Germans at the end, and after, the Second World War.

During the last half-century the greatest changes occurred in the proportion of Serbs, Germans, Hungarians and Croats. These are mainly the consequences of perturbations caused by the First World War (1914–1918) and the Second World War (1939–1945). Small ethnic groups have progressively become smaller due to assimilation, mostly by mixed marriages, schooling and jobs.

## Multi-ethnicity of Vojvodina, Population Census 1981\*)

| Ethnos       | %    | Number    |
|--------------|------|-----------|
| Serbs        | 54.4 | 1 107 375 |
| Hungarians   | 18.9 | 385 356   |
| Croatians    | 5.4  | 109 203   |
| Slovaks      | 3.4  | 69 549    |
| Rumanians    | 2.3  | 47 289    |
| Montenegrins | 2.1  | 43 304    |
| Ruthenians   | 0.9  | 19 305    |
| Romany       | 0.9  | 19 693    |
| Macedonians  | 0.9  | 18 897    |
| Germans      | 0.1  | 2 100     |
| Yugoslavs    | 8.3  | 168 874   |
| Unspecified  | 1.7  | 8 081     |
| Unknown      | 0.7  | 8 081     |
| Total        | 100  | 2 034 722 |

\*) All 34 ethnic groups listed in the Population Census of the Yugoslav population are represented in Vojvodina. 18 of these groups number more than 1,000 inhabitants. This table presents the largest groups.

(According to Slobodan Ćurčić, 1984)

## Changes in the Ethnic Share of Main Ethnic Groups in Vojvodina 1931–1981

| Ethnicity    | Share in Percentages of the Total Population<br>Change |      |      |                     |                     |
|--------------|--|------|------|---------------------|---------------------|
|              | 1931   | 1948 | 1981 | $\frac{1981}{1931}$ | $\frac{1981}{1948}$ |
| Serbs        | 37.9   | 50.6 | 54.4 | 1.44                | 1.08                |
| Hungarians   | 23.0   | 25.8 | 18.9 | 0.82                | 0.73                |
| Croats       | 8.2  | 8.1  | 5.4  | 0.66                | 0.67                |
| Slovaks      | ....   | 4.3  | 3.4  | ....                | 0.79                |
| Montenegrins | ....   | 1.8  | 2.1  | ....                | 1.17                |
| Germans      | 20.5   | 1.9  | 0.1  | 0.00                | 0.05                |

(According to Slobodan Ćurčić, 1984)

Change in the population of Vojvodina are also interesting because of the fact that the growth of the total number is slower than the growth of the population in Yugoslavia as a whole (situation 1948 = 100; 1948–1981, Voj. 1.24 and Yug. 1.42). So, it is close to the population growth in Croatia (1.22) and Slovenia (1.24), and it is much slower than the population growth in Kosovo (2.16).

In the latest inter-Census period (1971–1981) the difference in the population growth between Vojvodina and Yugoslavia as a whole is even more pronounced (Yugoslavia 1.09, Vojvodina 1.04). Micro-regional differences are also interesting.

Change in the Number of Inhabitants 1971–1981 by Communes

| 1971–1981       | (1971=100) | No. of Communes |           |            |      | %         |      |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|------|-----------|------|
|                 |            | Yugoslavia      | Vojvodina | Yugoslavia |      | Vojvodina |      |
| Less than 90.1  |            | 64              | 5         | 12.2       | 39.5 | 10.0      | 42.0 |
| 90.1–100.0      |            | 143             | 16        | 27.3       |      | 32.0      |      |
| 100.1–110.0     |            | 153             | 19        | 29.3       |      | 38.0      |      |
| 110.1–125.0     |            | 118             | 10        | 22.6       | 31.2 | 20.0      | 20.0 |
| More than 125.0 |            | 45              | 0         | 8.6        |      | 0.0       |      |
| Total           |            | 523             | 50        | 100.0      |      | 100.0     |      |

### POPULATION FIGURES IN RETROSPECT 1869–1981

Since the first modern Population Census changes have occurred as follows:

| Vojvodina | Year of Census    | 1869  | 1880  | 1890  | 1900  | 1910  |       |       |
|-----------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|           | Inhabit. per 1000 | 1 151 | 1 178 | 1 331 | 1 432 | 1 504 |       |       |
|           | Index             | 100   | 102   | 116   | 124   | 131   |       |       |
|           | % annually        | 0.2   | 1.3   | 0.8   | 0.5   | 0.2   |       |       |
|           | Year of Census    | 1921  | 1931  | 1948  | 1953  | 1961  | 1971  | 1981  |
|           | Inhabit. per 1000 | 1 536 | 1 624 | 1 641 | 1 700 | 1 855 | 1 950 | 2 035 |
|           | Index             | 133   | 141   | 143   | 148   | 161   | 169   | 177   |
|           | % annually        | 0.6   | 0.1   | 0.8   | 0.1   | 0.5   | 0.4   | –     |

(According to Slobodan Ćurčić, 1979)

The average annual rate of change showed a growth at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (1880–1890) followed by a decline until the First World War (1910–1921). The reasons for this decline were war casualties and overseas emigration. After the First World War the figures started to grow again (1921–1931) due to colonization. Between 1931 and 1948, the population was again on the decline due to the Second World War (war casualties and the exodus of Germans and a part of the Hungarians). After that population grew again (1948–1953; colonization and demographic compensation). Finally, in the sixties the population again showed a decline, and this trend has continued to the present day (searching for jobs in West Europe and across the Atlantic). It is expected that the rate of population growth in the period 1981–1991 will be still lower and will approach a positive zero (very low natural increase rate).

Accordingly, the population of Vojvodina has not even doubled (increase amounting to 77%) during the last 120 years. However, internal changes were much higher, especially after the Second World War (the exodus of Germans and a part of the Hungarians, immigration of Serbs and movement from villages to towns).

## NATURAL CHANGES IN THE POPULATION

Natality, mortality and natural increases rate are significant indicators of demographic dynamics. These are the characteristic data.

Livebirths per 1,000 Inhabitants (1950–1987) Annually

|                     | 1950–54 | 55–59 | 60–64 | 65–69 | 70–74 | 75–79 | 80–84 | 85–87 | $\frac{1985-87}{1950-54}$ |
|---------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------------|
| Yug.                | 28.1    | 24.2  | 21.6  | 19.1  | 18.2  | 17.5  | 16.5  | 15.4  | 0.55                      |
| Voj.                | 22.4    | 17.7  | 15.8  | 14.0  | 13.8  | 14.5  | 13.3  | 12.0  | 0.54                      |
| $\frac{Voj.}{Yug.}$ | 0.74    | 0.73  | 0.73  | 0.73  | 0.76  | 0.83  | 0.81  | 0.78  | –                         |

(According to Dušan Breznik et al., 1981)

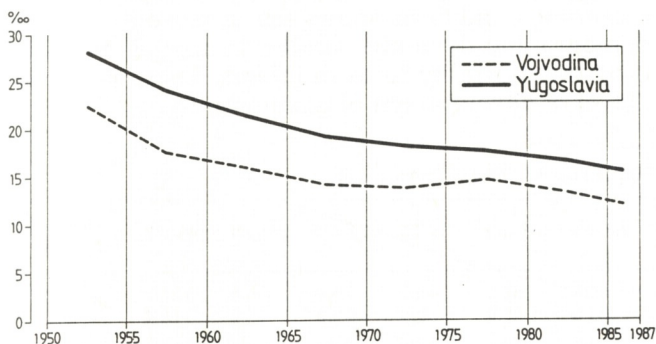


Fig. 1 Annual number of livebirths per 1000 inhabitants (1950–1987)

Sl. 1. Rođeni na 1000 stanovnika godišnje (1950–1987)

Compared to Yugoslavia, Vojvodina has a considerably lower birth rate. In demographic transition (the transition from high birth and mortality rates) Vojvodina is well in advance of Yugoslavia. Demographic transition in Vojvodina is already complete, but not in Yugoslavia. This also explains the considerably faster decrease in birth rate of Yugoslavia. In Vojvodina the birth rate is low because its population is less tradition-bound than the average Yugoslav population.

Annual Number of Deaths per 1,000 Inhabitants (1950–1987)

|                     | 1950–54 | 55–59 | 60–64 | 65–69 | 70–74 | 75–79 | 80–84 | 85–87 | $\frac{1985-87}{1950-54}$ |
|---------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------------|
| Yug.                | 11.8    | 10.4  | 9.4   | 8.7   | 8.9   | 8.6   | 9.1   | 9.2   | 0.78                      |
| Voj.                | 12.4    | 10.3  | 9.7   | 9.5   | 10.3  | 10.5  | 11.6  | 11.9  | 0.96                      |
| $\frac{Voj.}{Yug.}$ | 1.05    | 0.99  | 1.03  | 1.09  | 1.16  | 1.22  | 1.27  | 1.29  | –                         |

(According to Dušan Breznik, 1981)

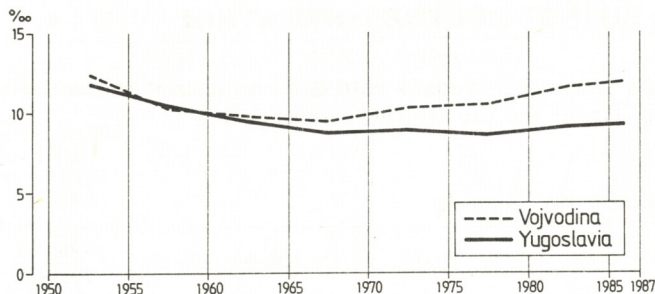


Fig. 2 Annual number of deaths per 1000 inhabitants (1950-1987)

Sl. 2. Umrli na 1000 stanovnika godišnje (1950-1987)

The mortality rate, in contrast to the birth rate, is higher in Vojvodina than in Yugoslavia. This is easily understood, since the population in Vojvodina is in the post-transitional era of its development. Such populations are on the whole more aged in structure; they have a higher proportion of old people's cohorts and thus a higher death rate is a natural outcome. A general comparison of socio-economic conditions shows that a more developed society displays natural demographic dynamics similar to that of Vojvodina. This can be confirmed by the mortality rates in infants. These rates are a reliable indicator of the level of development of a community.

Deaths of Infants (0-365) per 1,000 Births (1950-1987) Annually

|              | 1950-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65-69 | 70-74 | 75-79 | 80-84 | 85-87 | 1985-87<br>1950-54 |
|--------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|
| Yug.         | 116.3   | 98.2  | 81.4  | 62.4  | 48.2  | 35.8  | 30.6  | 21.7  | 0.19               |
| Voj.         | 119.6   | 89.2  | 65.6  | 46.4  | 30.8  | 19.3  | 16.5  | 16.4  | 0.14               |
| Voj.<br>Yug. | 1.03    | 0.91  | 0.81  | 0.74  | 0.64  | 0.54  | 0.54  | 0.76  | -                  |

(According to D. Breznik et al., 1981)

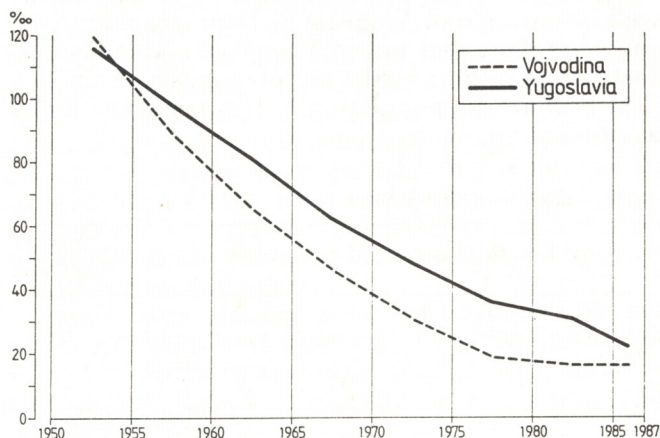


Fig. 3 Deaths of infants per 1000 births (0-365 days) 1950-1987

Sl. 3. Umrli dojenčad na 1000 rođenih (0-365 dana) 1950-1987

With the exception of a few post-war years (reflecting war-time poverty, diseases, and colonization with people coming from underdeveloped mountain regions of Yugoslavia), the infant mortality rates were, and still are, lower than average Yugoslav rates. This is the result of the higher development of Vojvodina in general, a better health care and higher standards of living. Recent mortality rates of infants in Vojvodina have approached the mortality rates of infants in European developed countries such as the Netherlands and others (1979–1988 from 10 to 8 per 1,000).

Annual Natural Growth Rate per 1,000 Inhabitants (1950–1987)

|              | 1950–54 | 55–59 | 60–64 | 65–69 | 70–74 | 75–79 | 80–84 | 85–87 | $\frac{1985-87}{1950-54}$ |
|--------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------------|
| Yug.         | 16.3    | 13.8  | 12.2  | 10.4  | 9.3   | 8.9   | 7.4   | 6.2   | 0.38                      |
| Voj.         | 10.0    | 7.4   | 6.1   | 4.5   | 3.5   | 4.0   | 1.7   | 0.9   | 0.09                      |
| Voj.<br>Yug. | 0.61    | 0.54  | 0.50  | 0.43  | 0.38  | 0.45  | 0.23  | 0.15  | –                         |

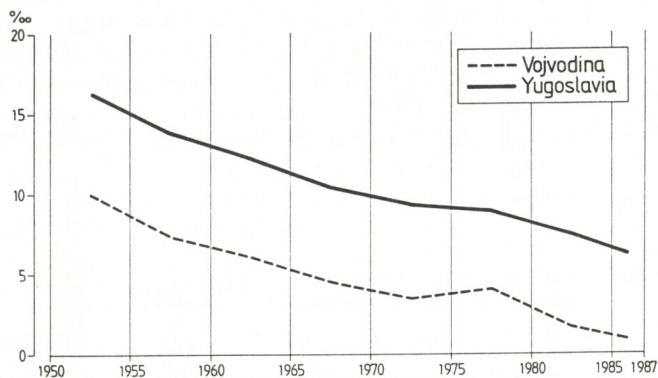


Fig. 4 Annual natural growth rate per 1000 inhabitants (1950–1987)

Sl. 4. Prosječna godišnja stopa prirodnog priraštaja na 1000 stanovnika (1950–1987)

The population of Vojvodina oscillates around a positive zero, while population of Yugoslavia displays marked natural growth (very high growth rates in Kosovo and in central and south-eastern regions of Yugoslavia). Such low rates of natural population growth in Vojvodina indicate that the demographic transition in this part of Yugoslavia has already ceased (a similar situation exists in Slovenia and Croatia, and partly in central Serbia).

The minimal natural growth of the population in Vojvodina demonstrates the aging of its population. Accordingly, Vojvodina today is already in a

stage which calls for a higher reproduction of its population. This will be more visible from the rates of reproduction and fertility.

Net Reproduction Rates of the Population 1950–1985\*)

|         | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1985 | $\frac{1985}{1950}$ |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------------|
| Yugosl. | 1.54 | 1.12 | 0.98 | 0.96 | 0.94 | 0.61                |
| Vojv.   | 1.31 | 0.91 | 0.75 | 0.86 | 0.84 | 0.64                |
| Vojv.   | 0.85 | 0.81 | 0.77 | 0.90 | 0.89 | –                   |
| Yugosl. |      |      |      |      |      |                     |

(According to M. Friganović, 1990)

\*) Net Reproduction Rates show the number of female children a woman will bear during her fertile life, if births occurred as in the designated year.

It can be seen that the reproduction rate is lower in Vojvodina than in Yugoslavia. It also shows that the rate has been negative during the last thirty years. This means that every woman in Vojvodina on average has given (or will give) birth to less than one female child during her lifetime. This means a depopulation of the respective region, on condition that no positive migrational balance occurs.

A similar situation is shown by the fertility rates during the 1950–1985 period.

General Fertility Rates of the Population (1950–1985)\*\*

|         | 1950  | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1985 | $\frac{1985}{1950}$ |
|---------|-------|------|------|------|------|---------------------|
| Yugosl. | 111.7 | 91.9 | 66.4 | 64.3 | 64.0 | 0.57                |
| Vojvod. | 90.9  | 68.7 | 47.2 | 53.8 | 53.0 | 0.58                |
| Vojvod. | 0.81  | 0.75 | 0.71 | 0.84 | 0.82 | –                   |
| Yugosl. |       |      |      |      |      |                     |

\*\*\*) The general fertility rate shows the number of children were born per 1,000 women in the fertile age (15–49) in that particular year.

These indicators also confirm a considerably lower fertility rate in Vojvodina compared to that of Yugoslavia, indicating the specific demographic dynamics as a consequence of socio-economic development.

Borderline districts of Vojvodina, especially those in Banat near Rumania present a specific problem. These districts with no large urban centres are economically underdeveloped and have negative demographic dynamics. Presented below, are demographic data on the demographic dynamics of these districts.



Rates of Natality, Mortality and Natural Growth in the Border Districts of Banat (1961–1970, 1971–1980, annual average per 1,000 inhabitants)

| District      | 1961–1970 |       |        | 1971–1980 |       |        | Population<br>Census<br>1981<br>1961 |
|---------------|-----------|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|--------------------------------------|
|               | natal.    | mort. | growth | natal.    | mort. | growth |                                      |
| Novi Kneževac | 12.0      | 11.3  | 0.7    | 11.3      | 13.6  | -2.3   | 84.3                                 |
| Čoka          | 13.4      | 10.3  | 3.1    | 11.4      | 13.0  | -1.6   | 85.0                                 |
| Nova Crnja    | 12.7      | 10.7  | 2.0    | 10.4      | 13.5  | -3.1   | 75.4                                 |
| Zitište       | 13.3      | 10.8  | 2.6    | 9.8       | 12.7  | -2.9   | 76.3                                 |
| Sečanj        | 13.8      | 9.6   | 4.2    | 10.8      | 11.8  | -1.0   | 76.4                                 |
| Plandište     | 12.5      | 8.6   | 3.8    | 10.2      | 12.5  | -2.2   | 83.0                                 |
| Vršac         | 12.8      | 10.0  | 2.8    | 13.6      | 11.6  | 2.0    | 99.5                                 |
| Bela Crkva    | 14.1      | 10.8  | 3.3    | 15.5      | 11.9  | 3.6    | 97.8                                 |
| Kikinda       | 15.3      | 9.2   | 6.1    | 14.4      | 10.4  | 4.0    | 101.9                                |
| Total         | 13.6      | 10.0  | 3.6    | 12.7      | 11.8  | 0.9    | -                                    |

(According to Dragoljub Bugarski, 1987)

A positive population rate is present in only the following districts: Vršac, Bela Crkva and Kikinda, whose centres are relatively more significant. In spite of natural growth the Population census shows a decline. Thus, negative migrational balance is characteristic for all the above districts and for the border belt of Banat as a whole. The causes?

There are several causes, but the vicinity of the national border, hampering communication and economic dynamism, presents an obvious inconvenience. Today, the revitalization of this belt presents a fundamental difficulty. The same situation exists in the belt along the border Hungary, but the process is less pronounced because economic conditions are more favourable and the town centres are larger, e. g. Sombor, Apatin and Subotica (D. Bugarski – G. Jovanović, 1988)

## STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

On average the higher socio-economic development of Vojvodina than that of Serbia and Yugoslavia is reflected in the higher average age of the population in Vojvodina. Without the post-war immigration of the younger population from Yugoslav conservative regions into Vojvodina, the differences would be even greater.

Average Age of the Population

|        |             | Yugoslavia | Serbia | Vojvodina | Voj.<br>Yug. | Voj.<br>Serb. |
|--------|-------------|------------|--------|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| Male   | 1921        | 27.2       | 27.2   | 28.7      | 1.06         | 1.06          |
|        | 1981        | 31.8       | 32.8   | 34.8      | 1.09         | 1.06          |
|        | 1988        | 33.0       | 33.7   | 35.7      | 1.08         | 1.06          |
| Female | 1921        | 27.9       | 28.2   | 29.1      | 1.04         | 1.03          |
|        | 1981        | 34.1       | 34.6   | 37.4      | 1.09         | 1.08          |
|        | 1988        | 35.4       | 35.8   | 38.9      | 1.10         | 1.09          |
| Change | Male 1988   | 1.21       | 1.24   | 1.24      | -            | -             |
|        | Famale 1921 | 1.27       | 1.27   | 1.34      | -            | -             |

This is similar to life expectancy. In this respect Vojvodina has a certain advantage compared to Yugoslavia. However, these differences become progressively smaller in the post-war period (a result of the colonization of Vojvodina by Balcanic population.  
Life Expectancy (1948 and 1980)

|                                       | Born 1948 |      | Born 1980 |      | 1980<br>1948 |      |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------|-----------|------|--------------|------|
|                                       | M         | F    | M         | F    | M            | F    |
| Yugoslavia                            | 48.6      | 53.0 | 67.7      | 73.2 | 1.39         | 1.38 |
| Vojvodina                             | 52.8      | 57.3 | 67.4      | 73.7 | 1.28         | 1.29 |
| <u>Vojvodina</u><br><u>Yugoslavia</u> | 1.09      | 1.08 | 1.00      | 1.01 | -            | -    |

### MIGRATION BALANCE (1948-1981)

During the interval from the end of the war (1944) and the first Population Census in 1948 mass migrations took place in Vojvodina. Almost all Germans and a part of Hungarians emigrated, while a considerable number of Serbs and Montenegrins immigrated into Vojvodina. Some Croats also immigrated, fewer Macedonians and even fewer Slovenes. This resulted in a significant modernization of the ethnic structure of Vojvodina. The new colonists settled predominantly in the homes and settlements deserted by the Germans and Hungarians.

The higher age of the Vojvodina population compared to the Yugoslav population, and that of some other regions, is demonstrated by the structure in the large (main) age groups:

The Structure of the Population by Main Age Groups in 1988 (estimate)

| Age group  |      | 0-19 | 20-59 | 60 plus | 0-19 | 20-59 | 60 plus | $\frac{0-19}{60+}$ |
|------------|------|------|-------|---------|------|-------|---------|--------------------|
| Yugoslavia | Tot. | 30.5 | 55.2  | 14.0    | 100  | 100   | 100     | 2.18               |
|            | M    | 32.1 | 56.2  | 13.0    | 100  | 100   | 100     | 2.47               |
|            | F    | 29.7 | 54.2  | 16.1    | 100  | 100   | 100     | 1.84               |
| Vojvodina  | Tot. | 26.1 | 56.8  | 17.1    | 85   | 103   | 122     | 1.53               |
|            | M    | 27.6 | 58.2  | 14.2    | 86   | 104   | 109     | 1.94               |
|            | F    | 24.7 | 55.3  | 20.0    | 83   | 102   | 124     | 1.24               |
| Kosovo     | Tot. | 48.9 | 44.1  | 7.0     | 159  | 80    | 50      | 6.99               |
|            | M    | 49.5 | 43.5  | 7.0     | 154  | 77    | 47      | 7.07               |
|            | F    | 48.5 | 44.3  | 7.1     | 163  | 82    | 45      | 6.83               |

(According to Demografska statistika, 1988, SZS, Beograd 1990)

If the Yugoslav structures are marked as 100, then the lower share of the young in Vojvodina and the considerably higher share of the young in Kosovo, becomes evident. In the case of the aged groups this is reversed. These coefficients show to what extent the population of Vojvodina is older, and the population of Kosovo younger than the Yugoslav average. The ratio between males and females in the corresponding groups demonstrates the greater patriarchal characteristics and underdevelopment of Kosovo. A comparison of the youth coefficient (ratio of the 0–19 years old and those of 60 years and more) indicates the much younger age of the Kosovo population than that of Yugoslavia, and the many times younger age than that of the Vojvodina population. The ratio of the coefficients for the aged would be reversed (60 and more: 0–19). Consequently, in its demographic transition Vojvodina is well in advance of Kosovo and Yugoslavia. From a demographic point of view, the Vojvodina population is aged; natural dynamics is slow and reproduction negative, although the fertile contingents of the female population are not much smaller than that of Serbia and Yugoslavia (female groups 15–49, 1988: Yugoslavia 49.0%, Serbia 47.9% and Vojvodina 47.1%).

Migration Balance 1948–1981 (annual average per 1,000 inhabitants)

|           | Yugoslavia | Vojvodina |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1948–1953 | -1.7       | -3.8      |
| 1953–1961 | -3.8       | 2.3       |
| 1961–1971 | -1.1       | 0.1       |
| 1971–1981 | -0.7       | 0.4       |

(According to D. Breznik, 1981)

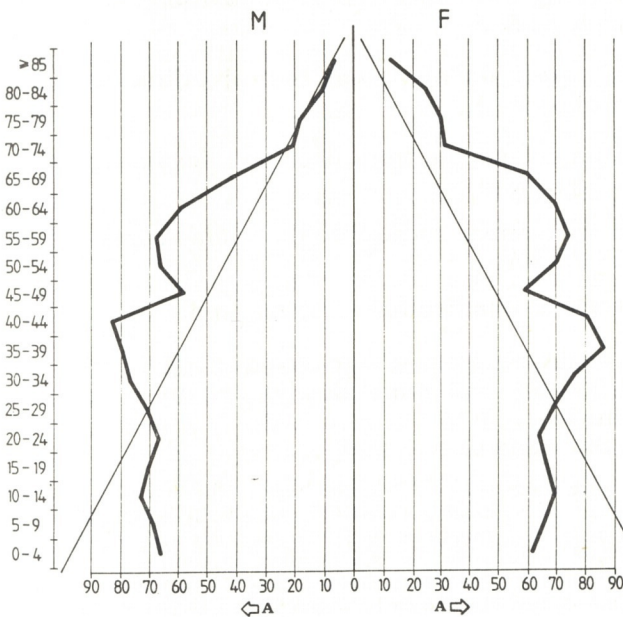


Fig. 5 The age and sex structure of the population of Vojvodina (estimate 1991); A. population in 1000

Sl. 5. Dobno-spolni sastav stanovništva Vojvodine (procjena 1991); A. stanovništvo u 1000.

**In 1940 there were 500,000 Germans in Vojvodina**, but in 1948 (Population Census) only 31,821. It is obvious that Vojvodina (on that sole basis) had a marked negative balance during the war (1941–1945). After the war colonization started from the poor and devastated regions of the Yugoslav Dinaric Karst (mainly karst regions of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro with a predominantly Serbian population). The period of colonization lasted from 1945 to 1948. At that time 40,000 households, i. e. 200,000 people immigrated into Vojvodina.

**How to explain the negative migrational balance in Vojvodina during the 1948–1953 period?** It can be explained by the re-emigration of those, who could not adapt to life in the plains, the hard physical work, bad water and different climate. Apart from this lot of young people, under the influence of propaganda, left the villages for the industrial areas. **The positive migrational balance of Vojvodina in the period from 1953 to 1961** is a consequence of the individual, unplanned infiltration of a new agrarian population, who could buy farms cheaply and who, being young work force, made progress. However, **in the sixties the »flight from the villages« (rural exodus) increased** in Vojvodina. Young educated people moved to the towns, where there were more chances for employment. This continued throughout the seventies, and so Vojvodina today oscillates around zero natural growth with a negative migration balance.

**The generalized data for Vojvodina hide many significant differences in the population dynamics of Bačka, Banat and Srem.** Srem is situated in the Croato-Serbian contact area, along the main railway and Zagreb–Belgrade highway. It displays the fastest population growth in the entire post-war period. It is followed by Bačka, with a stronger economic basis than Banat. Bačka is more fertile with a denser population, incorporating the capital of Vojvodina, Novi Sad.

**The periods of demographic development in Vojvodina** after the Second World War were as follows:

- 1945–1948; Organized settling of people from poor and devastated Dinaric regions of Yugoslavia,<sup>\*)</sup>
- 1948–1953; Re-emigration of colonists because of their non-adaptability to life in new surroundings,
- 1953–1960; Agrarian infiltration of individual initiative, and
- 1961–1981; By migration of people from villages to towns (1961–1971 intensively and in 1971–1981 more slowly), and by emigration to foreign countries.  
(According to Slobodan Čurčić, 1987)

<sup>\*)</sup> Altogether 185 settlements were colonized in Vojvodina. In 68 of these settlements, colonists amounted to more than 25% of the population. Colonists came mainly from Bosnia and Herzegovina (with ethnic Serbs dominant), approximately 33% households and 36% population, from Croatia (approximately 24% households and 24% population), central Serbia (16% households and 16% inhabitants), Montenegro (14% households and 14% inhabitants), etc. The rest immigrated from Macedonia (mostly Serbs) and very few from Slovenia.

**The increase in the immigrated (allochthonous) population of Vojvodina and decrease in the native (autochthonous) population during the post-war period can be seen in this table:**

Migration Population of Vojvodina 1948–1981 (and Yugoslavia) in Percentages of the Total

| Vojvodina        | 1948 | 1953 | 1961 | 1971 | 1981 | $\frac{1981}{1948}$ |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------------|
| 1. Allochthonous | 36.1 | 44.5 | 45.7 | 46.6 | 42.8 | 1.19                |
| 2. Autochthonous | 63.9 | 55.5 | 54.3 | 53.4 | 57.2 | 0.90                |
| Yugoslavia 1.    | 19.5 | 34.4 | 37.1 | 40.1 | 41.1 | 2.11                |
| 2.               | 80.5 | 65.6 | 62.9 | 59.9 | 59.0 | 0.73                |

After the war Vojvodina had a significantly higher immigrated population than Yugoslavia. The difference progressively decreased towards the latest Population Census, and today there is almost no difference. Clearly, the migrational process has slowed down. The causes for this are various.

## DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS, STRUCTURE AND ETHNICITY

Comparison of dynamics, structure and ethnicity displays some differences. In the post-war period (1948–1981) only Serbs and Montenegrins showed and increase in their share in the population of Vojvodina (1981 : 1948, the ratio for Serbs is 1.08 and for Montenegrins 1.17). Other ethnic groups showed a decrease in the share (Hungarians 0.73; Croats 0.67; Slovaks 0.79; Germans 0.05, etc.). Such differences in dynamics are also visible in the movement of population in individual districts. In these communes where Serbs were in the majority on the whole a positive migration balance was demonstrated in the 1971–1981 period, while in the districts communities with a mainly Hungarian population, a marked negative migration balance was seen. The districts in which no ethnic group has a marked majority show a similar negative trend. Accordingly, **the Serbian ethnic group grew stronger, while others became weaker**. The process of majorization is obvious. However, there are some districts which contradict such a generalized conclusion. However, exceptions do not negate the rule. Can we conclude that this is a process of current »serbianisation« of Vojvodina? Apart from demography this is also confirmed by politics (reduction of autonomy, self-organization of political parties among national minorities, etc.)

**Out of 12 districts with a marked majority of Serbian population, 8 display a pronounced positive Census population growth.** Out of five communes with a marked majority of Hungarian population, all five show a decline in the total population. The districts where no ethnic group has a share of more than 50% a generally increase in the total population was shown with a positive natural growth.

**The age structure of districts with ethnically mixed population** also shows certain differences. The oldest age structure is found in the districts with the largest Hungarian element, and a somewhat younger structure in

the districts where none of the ethnic groups is dominant. Districts with a dominant Serbian population, however, have the relatively youngest age structure. All this is a relevant socio-demographic indicator in multi-ethnic regions, and bears political weight.

**The coefficient of aging of the population** (ratio between older than 59 and younger than 20) for 1981 is as follows: districts with a marked Serbian share have an age coefficient of 59.8; districts with Hungarian majority 76.6 and districts with no pronounced majority of any ethnic group 60.8. Consequently, the differences between Serbs and Hungarians as well as others are indicative.

**The natural changes** in the population from 1980 to 1987 in the districts with a majority of any one ethnic group display significant differences. Districts with a Serbian majority have a positive natural growth (1980–1987:  $n = 12.9$ ;  $m = 12.4$  and  $i = 0.5$  per thousand, while infant mortality is 20.3). Their natural growth is approximately positive zero and speaks of completed demographic transition. Districts with a Hungarian ethnic majority have a negative natural growth (1980–1987:  $n = 11.8$ ;  $m = 15.1$  and  $\text{growth} = -3.3$  per thousand as an annual average, with infant mortality of only 12.6). **Hungarian districts exhibit a marked depopulation trend.** Districts without a marked mono-ethnic majority display a natural change which falls between the two previous groupings (1980–1987:  $n = 12.5$ ;  $m = 12.6$  and  $\text{growth} = -0.1$  per thousand annually on average; infant mortality is  $m_{00} = 17.9$ ). The natural growth of these districts oscillates around negative zero. Although the differences between the three groupings of districts are not very great, they indicate a symptomatic difference according to ethnicity. **However, ethnicity here appears as a deceptive factor. The essence of the differences lies in the socio-economic sphere.** This was presented in one of the earlier investigations for the whole of Yugoslavia (Miro A. Mihovilović et al., 1975). **This investigation proved the following:** 1) There is a greater difference in fertility between women at different levels of education, than there is between women of different ethnicity; 2) In view of fertility the socio-economic condition is a more decisive factor than ethnicity and 3) There is a positive correlation between religiosity and the number of children, regardless of ethnicity.

Comparison of natural change in the population of districts with a dominant Serbian population Hungarian population, and districts without a dominant one ethnic majority population to the total natural growth of Vojvodina in the period 1980–1987 – is presented in the following Table.

Natural Population Changes of the Three Types of Districts in Vojvodina 1980–1987

| Districts type          | Average annual rates per 1,000 Population |      |        | $m_0$ | $\frac{P > 59}{P < 20}$ | (1981) | Change type (1971–81) |
|-------------------------|---|------|--------|-------|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
|                         | $n$                                       | $m$  | growth |       |                         |        |                       |
| Serbian majority        | 12.9                                      | 12.4 | 0.5    | 20.3  | 59.8                    |        | (immigrational)       |
| Hungarian majority      | 11.8                                      | 15.1 | -3.3   | 12.6  | 76.6                    | $I_1$  | (dying out)           |
| Without marked majority | 12.5                                      | 12.6 | -0.1   | 17.9  | 60.8                    | $E_4$  | (dying out)           |
| Vojvodina (average)     | 1.1                                       | 11.8 | 1.3    | 18.4  | 55.2                    | $I_1$  | (immigrational)       |

(According to Demografska statistika, 1988, SZS, Beograd 1990)

The dynamics and structure of districts with a Hungarian majority and those districts which have no marked majority of one ethnicity are still less favourable than in the districts with Serbian community. The above mentioned indicators for the Serbian districts by the shown values are the closest to the average in Vojvodina. If we compare the above to the type of general growth of inhabitants in 1971–1981, it can be seen that on the whole Vojvodina belongs to type I<sub>1</sub> (immigrational) in the same way as the districts with a Serbian majority, while the districts with a Hungarian majority and those without a dominant majority of a particular ethnic group belong to type E<sub>4</sub> (dying out). We are of the opinion that a more detailed investigation would confirm these differences (M. Friganović, 1974).

**Nuptiality and divorce** may also contribute to a better knowledge of demographic dynamics in areas with a multi-ethnic structure. Nuptiality demonstrates a high degree of connection in matrimonial mono-ethnicity, although matrimonial multi-ethnicity is also present.

#### Marriages According to Ethnicity of Hasband and Wife (1988) in Yugoslavia

| Wife         | H u s b a n d |       |        |      |         |       |       |        |
|--------------|---------------|-------|--------|------|---------|-------|-------|--------|
|              | Total         | Mont. | Croat. | Mac. | Mussul. | Slov. | Serbs | Others |
| Total        | 100           | 2.4   | 18.8   | 6.7  | 12.4    | 5.2   | 35.9  | 18.5   |
| Montenegrins | 100           | 74.9  | 1.6    | 0.7  | 1.6     | 0.2   | 17.6  | 3.3    |
| Croatiens    | 100           | 0.3   | 86.1   | 0.2  | 1.1     | 0.9   | 7.0   | 4.4    |
| Macedonians  | 100           | 0.4   | 0.7    | 89.9 | 0.2     | 0.1   | 6.5   | 2.1    |
| Muslims      | 100           | 0.3   | 1.5    | 0.1  | 92.1    | 0.2   | 2.3   | 3.2    |
| Slovaks      | 100           | 0.1   | 4.4    | 0.2  | 0.4     | 87.2  | 1.4   | 6.4    |
| Serbs        | 100           | 1.2   | 3.2    | 0.8  | 0.1     | 0.2   | 89.6  | 3.9    |
| Others       | 100           | 0.3   | 2.3    | 0.4  | 0.8     | 0.3   | 5.3   | 90.7   |

#### in Vojvodina

| Wife         | H u s b a n d |       |        |      |       |       |       |        |
|--------------|---------------|-------|--------|------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
|              | Total         | Mont. | Croat. | Mac. | Musl. | Slov. | Serbs | Others |
| Total        | 100           | 2.0   | 5.6    | 0.9  | 0.5   | 0.1   | 61.1  | 29.8   |
| Montenegrins | 100           | 33.5  | 2.6    | 0.4  | 0.0   | –     | 49.6  | 13.9   |
| Croatiens    | 100           | 1.0   | 41.1   | 0.7  | 0.7   | –     | 36.1  | 20.4   |
| Macedonians  | 100           | 3.4   | 3.1    | 22.0 | –     | –     | 52.2  | 18.7   |
| Muslims      | 100           | 1.3   | 3.8    | 2.6  | 39.7  | –     | 38.4  | 14.0   |
| Slovaks      | 100           | –     | –      | –    | –     | 96.9  | 0.4   | 2.7    |
| Serbs        | 100           | 1.8   | 2.8    | 0.7  | 0.2   | –     | 82.4  | 11.9   |
| Others       | 100           | 0.7   | 3.9    | 0.4  | 0.1   | 0.1   | 27.0  | 67.7   |

With regard to mono-ethnicity matrimonial ties are stronger at the level of Yugoslavia and weaker at the level of Vojvodina. However, the data presented pertain to only one year (1988) and this probably distorts the real situation. Generally, matrimonial ties and mono-ethnicity are very much emphasized.

## CONCLUSION

Vojvodina is an area of most complex ethnicity in Yugoslavia. All 34 ethnic groups, cited in the 1981 Population Census, are represented in Vojvodina. This is a consequence of colonization in the period from the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Retrospection of the numbers of the population in 1869–1981 shows a slower growth of the population in Vojvodina compared to Yugoslavia. Natural growth also shows a considerably slower natural growth in the population of Vojvodina. Vojvodina has already completed the demographic transition, although it has not happened in the whole of Yugoslavia as yet. Natural growth revolves around zero and indicates a trend towards negative rates. All this has a reflection on the age structure of Vojvodina which is considerably older than the population structure of Yugoslavia. Demographic dynamics and ethnicity show some characteristics of inter-dependance: Serbian districts are demographically more dynamic and younger, while Hungarian districts are more inert, with considerably older population structure. The latter pattern is followed in the communes with the remaining ethnic groups, which points to the need for a more detailed investigation in order to determine to what extent this is the result of ethnicity and how much socio-economic factors influence the situation.

Mono-ethnicity and nuptiality show a high positive correlation.

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SAŽETAK

**Demografska dinamika Vojvodine  
(Primjer regionalne mnogo-etičnosti)**

by

Mladen A. Friganović

Vojvodina je pokrajina najsloženijeg etničkog sastava u Jugoslaviji. Sve etničke skupine, narodi i narodnosti koji se navode u posljednjem popisu stanovništva (1981) žive u Vojvodini. To je posljedica specifične kolonizacije od polovine 18. do polovine 20. stoljeća. Retrospekt broja stanovništva 1869–1981. pokazuje sporiji rast stanovništva Vojvodine nego Jugoslavije. Prirodni priraštaj također pokazuje značajno sporiji rast i niže stope od stanovništva Jugoslavije. Vojvodina je već završila demografsku trenciju koja u nekim dijelovima Jugoslavije još traje (centar i jugoistok). Prirodni se priraštaj u Vojvodini sada kreće oko ništice pokazujući trend k negativnim vrijednostima prosječne godišnje stope. Sve je to odraz nepovoljnog dobnog sastava i ostarjelosti stanovništva Vojvodine. Ono je u prosjeku znatno starije od stanovništva Jugoslavije. Demografska dinamika i etničnost pokazuju neke karakteristike međuzavisnosti. Primjerice, srpske su općine demografski znatno mlađe i više stope rasta od mađarskih, dok se općine mješovitija sastava nalaze u tom pogledu između spomenutih ekstrema. Neke opće naznake i različnosti u dinamici i dobnj strukturi stanovništva nameću potrebu detaljnijeg istraživanja. Vjerujemo da bi se time neke temeljne pretpostavke time potvrdile i pokazale smisao i brzinu svojevrsna posrbljivanja ove etnički zamršene pokrajine. Mono-etničnost i nupcijalitet pokazuju visok stupanj korelacije unatoč zapaženoj i isticanoj frekvenciji međuetničkih bračnih zajednica.

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