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## Abstract

The Dinaric Alps are a large European geographical unit connecting Slovenia and Montenegro, whose capitals, Ljubljana and Podgorica, which are 553 km apart as the crow flies, are located right next to their north-western and southeastern edges, respectively. The two countries are also connected by the Adriatic with its geographical and cultural Mediterranean influences. In addition, they are also linked historically, having belonged, either in full or in part, to the same larger states, such as the Republic of Venice, France's Illyrian Provinces, the Habsburg Monarchy, and Yugoslavia. Slovenia has been an independent country since 1991 and Montenegro since 2006. Slovenia was the first country to open its embassy in Montenegro.

## Keywords

Geography · History · Landscapes · Karst surface · Ljubljana · Podgorica · Dinaric Alps

## 29.1 From Slovenia to Montenegro

Over the course of history, parts of what are now Slovenia and Montenegro belonged to the same state at various times, and for a short time Ljubljana was even the capital of part of today's Montenegro. Therefore, the two countries seem to be closer than they actually are in geographical terms. Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, and Podgorica, the capital of Montenegro, are 553 km apart as the crow flies, with as many as eleven other European capitals being closer to Ljubljana (i.e., Zagreb: 117 km; Vienna: 278 km; the City of San Marino: 286 km; Bratislava: 305 km; Budapest: 381 km; Sarajevo: 393 km; Vaduz: 400 km; Prague: 447 km; Rome: 489 km; Vatican City: 490 km; and Bern: 549 km), and six being closer to Podgorica (Tirana: 131 km; Sarajevo: 173 km; Skopje: 185 km; Belgrade: 279 km; Sofia: 334 km; and Zagreb: 458 km). The road distance between Ljubljana and Podgorica is nearly one and a half times longer than the air distance.

Slovenia and Montenegro are among the smaller countries in the world (ranked 154th and 161st in terms of size), but Slovenia (20,273 km<sup>2</sup>) is nearly twice as large as Montenegro (13,812 km<sup>2</sup>), its population is nearly 3.5 times larger (around two million compared to just under 620,000), and its population density is over twice that of Montenegro (105 compared to 45 people per km<sup>2</sup>). The two countries also

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differ in terms of GDP per capita, which in Slovenia is nearly three times higher (approximately €27,000 compared to less than €10,000). There are also major differences in the structure of tourism. In terms of overnight stays, seaside resorts predominate in Montenegro (94.3% of all overnight stays), while overnight stays in Slovenia are more spread across different types of tourist resorts (mountain resorts predominate with 31.1% of all overnight stays) (Table 29.1).

The highest peaks in both countries rise over 2,500 m in elevation. They are a little higher in Slovenia, even though the average elevation of Montenegro (approximately 1,000 m) is nearly 500 m higher than that of Slovenia (approximately 550 m). Just under half of Slovenia is over 500 m in elevation, compared to over four-fifths of Montenegro. A major difference can also be observed in the length of the two countries' coastlines, with Montenegro's coast (316 km) being nearly seven times longer than that of Slovenia's (47 km). The divide between the Black Sea and the Adriatic runs through both countries; approximately four-fifths of Slovenia's watercourses drain to the Black Sea, compared to over half of Montenegro's. Both countries are also known for their karst landscape with an abundance of surface and subterranean karst features; this reflects a strong presence of carbonate rock, which covers over three-fifths of Montenegro and just under half of Slovenia. Both countries have similar forest coverage (approximately 60% of the surface; Table 29.1).

In terms of landscape, four European macroregions meet in Slovenia (i.e., the Alps, Dinaric Alps, Pannonian Basin, and Mediterranean) compared to two in Montenegro (i.e., the Dinaric Alps and Mediterranean). This is reflected in the high landscape diversity of both countries, which is confirmed by the Landscape Diversity of Europe map (Fig. 29.1) and the European Countries survey (Ciglič and Perko 2013; Perko et al. 2017). In terms of landscape diversity across European countries, Slovenia is the most diverse country in Europe on average, a first-class European landscape hotspot, and Montenegro is in third place.

Geography is what not only distinguishes the two countries from one another, but also links them together. This is greatly contributed to by the Dinaric Alps and the Adriatic, two large European geographical units, which run parallel in a northwest–southeast direction from Slovenia to Montenegro, connecting them.

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## 29.2 Geographical Links

From the perspective of cultural geography, Slovenians and Montenegrins are closest in terms of language because they both speak a South Slavic language. In other terms, Slovenians largely belong to Central Europe with its predominant Roman Catholicism and Latin and German cultural influences, whereas Montenegrins belong to southeastern Europe with its predominant Eastern Orthodoxy and Byzantine and Turkish influences. The coastal areas of both countries are also under the strong influence of the Mediterranean natural and cultural features.

Location on the Mediterranean or Adriatic coast is the first connecting geographical point between the two countries, followed by the Dinaric Alps, which start in Slovenia and end in the wider area of Montenegro (or vice versa).

### 29.2.1 The Dinaric Alps

The Dinaric Alps (Sln. *Dinarsko gorovje*, Cro. and Bos. *Dinarsko gorje*, Mtg. and Srb. *Dinarske planine* or *Dinarski Alpi*, It. *Alpi Dinariche*, Alb. *Alpet Dinarike*) were named after the nearly 100 km long Dinara mountain range on the border between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Fig. 29.2). The highest peak in the range is Mount Troglav (1,913 m) in Herzegovina, followed by Mount Sinjal (1,831 m; Fig. 29.3), which is the highest mountain in Croatia and is often marked on maps as Dinara, that is, with the name of the entire mountain range (Fig. 29.3).

The Dinaric Alps include various other mountain ranges, such as the Velebit (1,758 m) and Biokovo (1,762 m) ranges in Croatia (Figs. 29.4 and 29.5), and the Accursed Mountains (Mtg.

**Table 29.1** Some comparative data on Slovenia and Montenegro

|                                                   | Slovenia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Montenegro                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Area, km <sup>2</sup> (world rank by area)        | 20,273 (154)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 13,812 (161)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Population (2023)                                 | 2,120,937                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 616,695                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Population density (inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> ) | 105                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 45                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Capital city (population, 2023)                   | Ljubljana (296,228)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Podgorica (173,024)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Highest peak (mountain range; m)                  | Triglav (Julian Alps; 2,864)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Zla Kolata (Prokletije Mountains; 2,534)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Average height above sea level (m)                | 556.4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | c. 1,050                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Area (%) below 500 m                              | 52.3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 15.8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Area (%) above 500 m                              | 47.7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 84.2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Area (%) above 1,000 m                            | 11.5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 57.0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Area (%) above 1,500 m                            | 2.5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 18.5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Area (%) above 2,000 m                            | 0.4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Number of neighboring countries (list)            | 4 (Italy, Austria, Hungary, Croatia)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 5 (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Albania)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Length of land border (km)                        | 1,322                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 622                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Length of coastline (km)                          | 47                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 316                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| GDP per capita, € (2022)                          | 27,040                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 9,598                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| UNESCO world heritage sites: number, list         | 5<br>– Škocjan Caves ( <i>natural site</i> )<br>– Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe ( <i>natural site, transboundary</i> )<br>– Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps ( <i>cultural site, transboundary</i> )<br>– Heritage of Mercury ( <i>cultural site, transboundary</i> )<br>– The Works of Jože Plečnik in Ljubljana–Human Centered Urban Design ( <i>cultural site</i> ) | 4<br>– Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor ( <i>cultural site</i> )<br>– Durmitor National Park ( <i>natural site</i> )<br>– Stećci Medieval Tombstone Graveyards ( <i>cultural site, transboundary</i> )<br>– Venetian Works of Defense between the sixteenth and seventeenth Centuries ( <i>cultural site, transboundary</i> ) |
| National parks: number, list, area of country (%) | 1<br>– Triglav National Park<br>4.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 5<br>– Biogradska Gora National Park<br>– Durmitor National Park<br>– Lovćen National Park<br>– Prokletije National Park<br>– Lake Skadar National Park<br>7.7                                                                                                                                                                              |
| European macroregions                             | – Alps<br>– Dinaric Alps<br>– Pannonian Basin<br>– Mediterranean                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | – Dinaric Alps<br>– Mediterranean                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| River Basin (%)                                   | Black Sea (Danube) Basin (81.0)<br>Adriatic Sea Basin (19.0)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Black Sea (Danube) Basin (54.6)<br>Adriatic Sea Basin (45.4)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

(continued)

**Table 29.1** (continued)

|                                                                  | Slovenia                                                                                                                                                                                          | Montenegro                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Longest river (km)                                               | Sava River (221)                                                                                                                                                                                  | Tara River (156)                                                                                                                                         |
| Largest natural permanent lake (km <sup>2</sup> )                | Lake Bohinj (3.28)                                                                                                                                                                                | Lake Skadar (370–540; c. 60% belongs to Montenegro)                                                                                                      |
| Carbonate rock (limestones and dolomites, % area of the country) | c. 43                                                                                                                                                                                             | > 60                                                                                                                                                     |
| Forest (% area of the country, 2022)                             | 59.1                                                                                                                                                                                              | 59.9                                                                                                                                                     |
| Tourism: overnight stays (% , 2023)                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mountain resorts: 31.1</li> <li>– Seaside resorts: 19.1</li> <li>– Capital: 14.3</li> <li>– Health (spa) resorts: 19.6</li> <li>– Other: 16.0</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mountain resorts: 2.0</li> <li>– Seaside resorts: 94.3</li> <li>– Capital: 2.4</li> <li>– Other: 1.3</li> </ul> |

Sources Radojičić 2008; Uhan et al. 2010; Pešić et al. 2019; Sekulić and Radulović 2019; Hrvatinić et al. 2020; Monstat 2023, 2024a, 2024b; Britannica 2024; Montenegro.travel 2024; National ... 2024; Radulović 2024; SiStat 2024a, 2024b, 2024c, 2024e; Slovenia.info 2024; Triglav ... 2024; UNESCO 2024; Zavod ... 2024

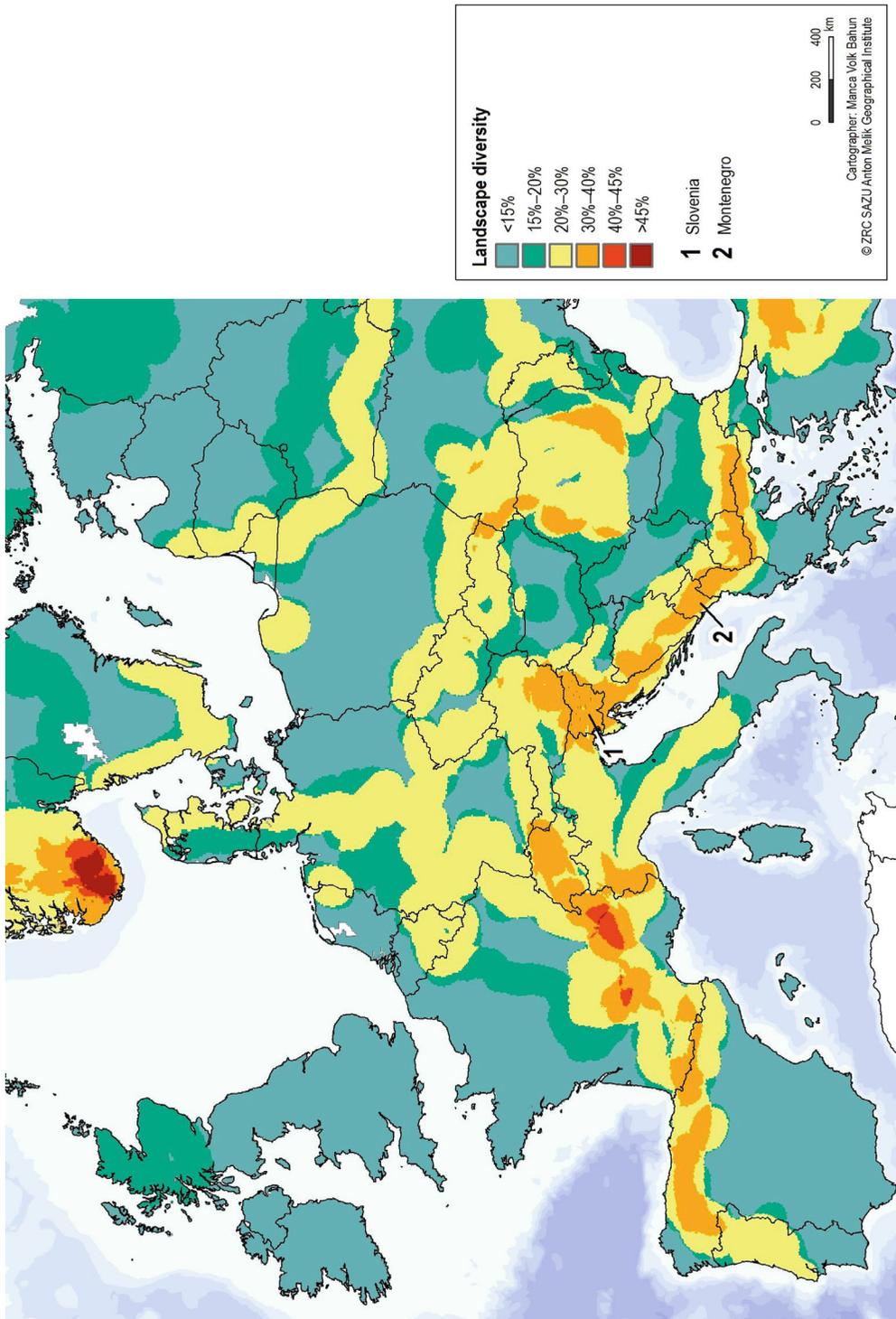
*Prokletije*), which also feature the highest peak in the entire Dinaric Alps, 2,694 m Mount Jezercë (Alb. *Maja e Jezercës*) in northern Albania (Fig. 29.6).

The Dinaric Alps cover an area of nearly 120,000 km<sup>2</sup>. They can be divided into three parallel belts (Fig. 29.2) stretching from the northwest to the southeast between Slovenia (Fig. 29.7) and Albania (Fig. 29.8). The Mediterranean belt (also the Adriatic, maritime, outer, or southwestern belt) extends along the Adriatic coast, roughly between Trieste, Italy (Fig. 29.9) and Ulcinj, Montenegro (Fig. 29.10). It is over 800 km long and covers an area of approximately 24,000 km<sup>2</sup>, which corresponds to 21% or just under one-fifth of the entire mountain range. The Pannonian belt (also the continental, inner, or northeastern belt) runs along the southern edge of the Pannonian Basin, roughly between the Krka River in Slovenia (Fig. 29.11) and the Ibar River in Serbia (Fig. 29.12). It is 900 km long and covers an area of approximately 47,000 km<sup>2</sup>, corresponding to 41% or over two-fifths of the entire range. The central belt lies between them, stretching roughly between the Soča River in Slovenia (Fig. 29.13) and the Drin River in Albania (Fig. 29.14). It is over 900 km long and covers approximately 43,000 km<sup>2</sup>, which equals 38% or just under two-fifths of the entire range.

The Dinaric Alps are among the largest mountain ranges in Europe. They are very rugged because they are largely composed of limestone and dolomite, which are corroded by water and folded and broken up by tectonics. They have also been partly reshaped by glaciers. Three-fifths (59.0%) of the mountain range is karst landscapes with terrain that is difficult to traverse and numerous caves (Zwitter et al. 2024). The rare surface rivers, such as the Kolpa, Neretva, Tara, and Drin, cut deep canyons between the karst plateaus, separating them and providing space for roads and other transport infrastructure. The Dinaric Alps are known for their natural subterranean and surface tourist sites, such as Škocjan Caves (Fig. 29.15), the Plitvice Lakes (Fig. 29.16), the Cetina Valley (Fig. 29.17), and Lake Skadar (Fig. 29.18).

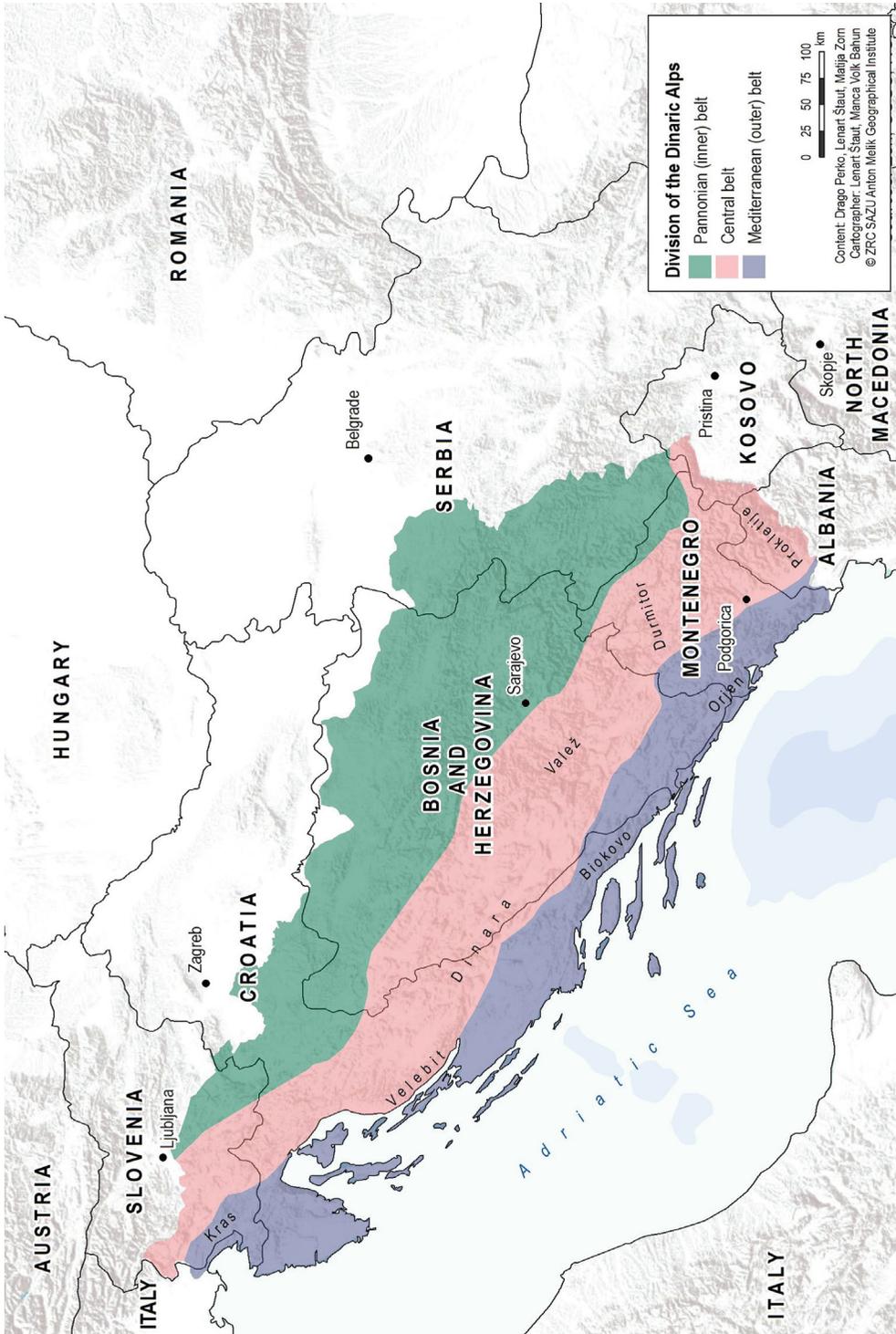
## 29.2.2 The Adriatic Sea

The Adriatic Sea (Sln. *Jadransko morje*, Cro. and Mtg. *Jadransko more*, It. *Mare Adriatico*, and Alb. *Deti Adriatik*) is an elongated gulf in the Mediterranean Sea between the Apennine and Balkan peninsulas. Its border with the Ionian Sea as defined by the International Hydrographic Organization runs through the Strait of Otranto, from the Cape of Santa Maria di Leuca in Italy in the



**Fig. 29.1** Europe’s landscape diversity map shows the percentage of landscape types occurring in each cell within a 50 km radius around it, out of all possible landscape types

of the landscape classifications considered (adapted from Ciglič and Perko 2013)



**Fig. 29.2** The Dinaric Alps can be divided into three belts stretching from the northwest to the southeast: the Mediterranean (also the Adriatic, maritime, outer, or

southwestern) belt, the central belt, and the Pannonian (also the continental, inner, or northeastern) belt

**Fig. 29.3** The Dinaric Alps were named after Mount Dinara (a.k.a. Mount Sinjal, 1,831 m), the highest Croatian mountain, where the Cetina River has its headwaters. (Photo by Dario Bajurin, Adobe Stock)



**Fig. 29.4** Velebit (highest peak: *Vaganski vrh* “Vagan Peak,” 1,757 m) is a karst mountain range 145 km long and up to 30 km wide, extending along Croatia’s Adriatic coast. (Photo by Nino Pavišić, Adobe Stock)



west along the northern coast of the Greek island of Corfu to the mouth of the Vivari Channel in Albania in the east (International ... 1953). Within this scope, it is just over 800 km long and 150 to 200 km wide, covering an area of 138,600 km<sup>2</sup>.

Slovenia has two types of Mediterranean landscapes that differ from one another primarily by their rock composition: the Mediterranean low hills and the Mediterranean plateaus (Perko and

Ciglič 2020; Perko et al. 2021). The former are characterized by a predominance of flysch and closely alternating small valleys and ridges, and the former are dominated by carbonate rock, especially limestone, and a highly fragmented karst surface.

**Fig. 29.5** Biokovo (highest peak: *Sveti Jure* “Saint George Peak,” 1,762 m) is a karst mountain range along Croatia’s coast between the Cetina and Neretva rivers. It has been a nature park since 1981. (Photo by Mahey, Adobe Stock)



**Fig. 29.6** Mount Jezercë (Alb. *Maja e Jezercës*, derived from Slavic *jezerce* “small lake”) rises to 2,694 m and is the highest mountain in the Dinaric Alps. (Photo by Lenart Štaut, GIAM ZRC SAZU archive)



The situation is similar in Montenegro (Ministarstvo ... 2015), only that there the flysch belt runs even closer to the coast than in Slovenia. In both countries, the influence of the Mediterranean climate extends into the interior: in Slovenia, it primarily spreads through the Soča Valley into the heart of the Julian Alps, and in Montenegro it spreads from Lake Skadar through the Zeta and Morača valleys toward the karst plateaus and mountains.

The rugged Adriatic coast is also characterized by bays (Figs. 29.19 and 29.20), with Kvarner Bay as the largest one, peninsulas, such as Istria (the largest), numerous islands, such as the picturesque Kornati islands (Fig. 29.21), traditional Mediterranean towns, such as Koper, Pula, Split, Dubrovnik, and Kotor, and modern ports, such as Koper (Fig. 29.22), Rijeka, and Bar (Fig. 29.23).

**Fig. 29.7** The border between the Alps and the Dinaric Alps also runs through the tectonic valley of the Idrijca River, a tributary of the Soča River, where the little town of Idrija is located with its well-known former mercury mine. Mercury heritage in Idrija has been a UNESCO world heritage site since 2012. (Photo by Matej Garbajs, GIAM ZRC SAZU archive)



**Fig. 29.8** The Drin River in Albania is roughly the southeastern border of the Dinaric Alps. After it flows down from the mountains at Shkodër, it meanders toward the Adriatic Sea. (Photo by dudlajzov, Adobe Stock)



### 29.3 Historical Links

The first state that included both the territory of what is now Slovenia and Montenegro was the Roman Empire (Fig. 29.24). After the collapse of the Roman Empire, its territories were no longer part of the same state until the fifteenth century,

when parts of Slovenia (i.e., Slovenian Istria and part of the Soča Valley until the sixteenth century) and Montenegro (the Montenegrin Littoral) came under the rule of the Republic of Venice (Veliki ... 1999: 89; Bajt and Vidic 2011). When Napoleon conquered the Republic of Venice in 1797, its territory was divided

**Fig. 29.9** The port of Trieste in Italy lies on the northwestern edge of the Adriatic belt of the Dinaric Alps. (Photo by Hans und Christa Ede, Adobe Stock)



**Fig. 29.10** The town of Ulcinj in Montenegro lies on the southeastern edge of the Adriatic belt of the Dinaric Alps. (Photo by Dmitrii, Adobe Stock)



between France and the Habsburg Monarchy. The latter had already acquired most of what is now Slovenia before that, and at that point it also obtained Istria; from what is now Montenegro, it won the Montenegrin Littoral (Andrijašević and Rastoder 2006). From then to the 1991

dissolution of Yugoslavia, parts of what are now Slovenia and Montenegro belonged to the same state, except for a short period between 1813 and 1814, when Montenegrin forces also controlled the Montenegrin Littoral (Andrijašević and Rastoder 2006), and during the Second World War.

**Fig. 29.11** Flowing below the plateau-like Gorjanci Mountains in Slovenia, the Krka River follows the northwestern edge of the Pannonian belt of the Dinaric Alps. (Photo by Jure Tičar, GIAM ZRC SAZU archive)



**Fig. 29.12** In southwestern Serbia, the Ibar River, which has its source in Montenegro, forms the southeastern edge of the Pannonian belt of the Dinaric Alps. (Photo by Milan, Adobe Stock)



### 29.3.1 The Illyrian Provinces

The Illyrian Provinces were established by Napoleon on October 14, 1809, when he signed a peace treaty with the Habsburg Monarchy. This political and administrative unit included parts of several Habsburg hereditary lands, the eastern territories of the former Republic of Venice (i.e., Venetian Istria, Dalmatia, and the Montenegrin Littoral), and the dissolved Republic of Ragusa.

The Illyrian Provinces were part of the French Empire, but they were never fully integrated into it, primarily due to their geographical remoteness (Bajt and Vidic 2011). Legally, they were completely independent of Napoleon's Kingdom of Italy (Gašperič et al. 2012). Their capital was Ljubljana, which had never before been a capital of any large political and administrative unit (the Illyrian Provinces covered an area of around 55,000 km<sup>2</sup>; Bajt and Vidic 2011).

**Fig. 29.13** Slovenia's picturesque town of Most na Soči lies on the northwesternmost edge of the central belt of the Dinaric Alps. (Photo by marcin jucha, Adobe Stock)



**Fig. 29.14** The Drin Valley (the photo shows the Fierzë Reservoir near the Albanian town of Kukës) meanders along the southeastern edge of the central belt of the Dinaric Alps. (Photo by marketanovakova, Adobe Stock)



The new state hence brought together the territories of what are now western, central, and southern Slovenia, which were part of the provinces of Carniola and Istria, and of what is now the Montenegrin coast, which belonged to the Province of Ragusa. Within the Province of Carniola (*Province de la Carniole*), today's Slovenian territory, with a population of 370,340, was divided into the Ljubljana (*Laybach*), Novo Mesto (*Neustadt*), and Postojna (*Adelsberg*) districts, and within the Province of Istria (*Province de l'Istrie*) the Slovenian territories covered the

Koper (*Capo d'Istria*) district with the Koper and Piran (*Pirano*) cantons, with a total population of 20,956. The Province of Ragusa (*Province de Raguse*) was divided into three districts. Today's Montenegrin Littoral was part of the Kotor (*Cattaro*) district, with a population of 31,507. This district was further divided into three cantons: Kotor (*Cattaro*), Herceg Novi (*Castelnouovo*), and Budva (*Budua*; Gašperič et al. 2012) (Fig. 29.25).

The Illyrian Provinces were dissolved in the fall of 1813, when they were occupied by

**Fig. 29.15** Škocjan Caves (Sln. *Škocjanske jame*) lie below Slovenia's Karst region. The Reka River flows through the canyon, which is up to 146 m deep, resurfacing as the Timavo River in Italy after 34 km and emptying into the Adriatic. The caves have been a UNESCO world heritage site since 1986. (Photo by Andreas, Adobe Stock)



**Fig. 29.16** Croatia's Plitvice Lakes (Cro. *Plitvička jezera*) area has been a national park since 1949 and a UNESCO world heritage site since 1979. The park is composed of sixteen cascading small lakes on dolomite and limestone, covering an area of around 200 hectares. They are just over 50 km from the Adriatic coast. (Photo by Dimitar Chilov Wirestock Creators, Adobe Stock)



the Habsburg Monarchy, which subsequently acquired their entire territory through peace treaties (Šumrada 1990).

### 29.3.2 The Habsburg Monarchy

Based on the agreements reached by the Sixth Coalition and the later Treaty of Paris, signed in May 1814, the entire territory of the Illyrian Provinces came under the Habsburg Monarchy (Andrijašević and Rastoder 2006). Their northern

part, which included the ethnic Slovenian territories, became part of the Kingdom of Illyria (1816–1849; Žontar 1990). In turn, the Montenegrin Littoral became part of the Kingdom of Dalmatia (1815–1918). The Habsburg Monarchy also won the remaining parts of what is now Slovenia—that is, the Slovenian part of the Duchy of Styria, and Prekmurje as part of the Kingdom of Hungary (Fig. 29.26; Bajt and Vidic 2011). In 1919, what is now Slovenia had a population of 1,321,098, which corresponded to sixty-five people per km<sup>2</sup> (SiStat 2024d). The Kotor political

**Fig. 29.17** The Cetina River is the longest river in Dalmatia (101 km). In places it cut deep canyons into the karst surface. Several hydroelectric plants operate on it, and the ruins of several ancient and medieval fortresses can be found above the river. It flows into the Adriatic at Omiš. (Photo by Branko, Adobe Stock)



**Fig. 29.18** Lake Skadar (Mtg. *Skadarsko jezero*, Alb. *Liqeni i Shkodrës*) lies on the southeastern edge of the Dinaric Alps, on the border between Montenegro and Albania. It is the largest lake in the Balkans. Its area varies between 370 and 540 km<sup>2</sup>, depending on the water level, and it is 5 to 10 m deep. The Bojana River flows from it, emptying into the Adriatic Sea after 30 km. (Photo by Florian Schöll, Adobe Stock)



district (Ger. *politischer Bezirk Cattaro*), which covered an area of 674 km<sup>2</sup>, had a population of 40,582, corresponding to sixty people per km<sup>2</sup> (Spezialortsrepertorium ... 1919).

### 29.3.3 Yugoslavia

After the First World War (and until 1941, when Slovenian ethnic territory was divided among the Axis powers) most of what is now Slovenia and the entire territory of what is now Montenegro belonged to the new Kingdom of the Serbs,

Croats, and Slovenes, which was renamed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1929 (Fig. 29.27). It covered approximately three-quarters of today's Slovenia (15,849 km<sup>2</sup>; Statistički ... 1934); the remaining part belonged to the Kingdom of Italy. After 1929, Slovenian territory was administratively part of the Drava Banovina (i.e., province; *Dravska banovina*), whose capital was in Ljubljana. The newly established kingdom included the entire territory of what is now Montenegro, which was an administrative part of the Zeta Banovina (*Zetska banovina*), whose seat was at Cetinje. This province was nearly twice the

**Fig. 29.19** In the north the Bay of Piran is dominated by the town of Piran and in the south, at the mouth of the Dragonja River, there are the Sečovlje Salt pans, a Ramsar site since 1993 and partly still in operation today. (Photo by Roland, Adobe Stock)



**Fig. 29.20** The Bay of Kotor (Mtg. *Boka kotorska*) is a ria of the Boka River, which flowed from now heavily karstified Mount Orjen (1895 m) during the Pleistocene. The Kotor area has been a UNESCO world heritage site since 1979. (Photo by Mike Mareen, Adobe Stock)



size (30,997 km<sup>2</sup>; Statistički ... 1934) of today's Montenegro (Table 29.1) because it also encompassed parts of what are now Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Kosovo. The highest peak of the Drava Banovina, Mount Triglav (2,864 m), was also the highest mountain of the entire kingdom, and the highest peak of the Zeta Banovina was Mount Gjeravica (Alb. *Gjeravicë*, Mtg. *Đeravica*; 2,656 m; Statistički ... 1934), which is the highest mountain of today's Kosovo. Compared to today's forest coverage in both countries (Table 29.1), forest only covered 9.42% of the Drava Banovina and 15.47% of the

Zeta Banovina in 1931 (Statistički ... 1934). In 1931, the population of the Drava Banovina was 1,152,596 (8.2% of the total population of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia), compared to 1,397,650 in the entire territory of what is now Slovenia (SiStat 2024d). The Zeta Banovina had a population of 937,280 (6.7% of the total Yugoslav population) in 1931 (Statistički ... 1934), but the population of what is now Montenegro was only 360,044 (2.6% of the total population in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia; Premović and Doderović 2020). Compared to today (Table 29.1), population density was lower: seventy-three people per

**Fig. 29.21** The Kornati archipelago is composed of around 150 islands and cliffs, which are largely made of limestone and thus karstified. It stretches 35 km along the central part of Croatia's Adriatic coast between Zadar and Šibenik. It was declared a national park in 1980. (Photo by Lukas Gojda, Adobe Stock)



**Fig. 29.22** Koper, known as *Capris* in Roman times, lies on the northwestern coast of Istria. Its medieval historic center stands on a former island. The town is the largest port in Slovenia and the largest container port in the northern Adriatic region. (Photo by Andrew Mayovskyy, Adobe Stock)



km<sup>2</sup> in the Drava Banovina and sixty-nine people per km<sup>2</sup> in what is now Slovenia, and thirty people per km<sup>2</sup> in the Zeta Banovina and only twenty-six people per km<sup>2</sup> in what is now Montenegro.

After the Second World War, when the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was officially dissolved, Slovenia and Montenegro became two of the six people's republics of the Federative People's Republic of Yugoslavia (1945–1963) or, later on, socialist republics as part of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia (1963–1991). The people's republics had their own insignia,

governments, people's assemblies, and legislation. It was envisaged that the borders between the republics would be defined by laws approved by the federal people's assembly, but that never happened. This continues to cause border disputes between the Yugoslav successor states (Bajt and Vidic 2011). With the final establishment of Yugoslavia's national borders (Slovenia's borders were established in 1954, when the border with Italy was set), the size of both republics was also defined (Fig. 29.28). Both countries retained this size in full even after the collapse of Yugoslavia,

**Fig. 29.23** Bar is the largest port in Montenegro, separated from nearby Lake Skadar only by Mount Rumija (1,593 m). The port was heavily damaged in a 1979 earthquake, but it resumed operations in 1983, after reconstruction was completed. (Photo by bigguns, Adobe Stock)



**Fig. 29.24** Certain Roman settlements on a late-medieval copy of a map showing the road network of the Roman Empire, known as *Tabula Peutingeriana*. Above and to the right of the Istria (*Istria*) Peninsula, in what is now Slovenia, towns such as *Longatico* (now Logatec), *Nauporto* (Vrhnika), *Emona* (Ljubljana), *Celeia* (Celje), and *Petaione* (Ptuj) can be identified (upper rectangle), and above what is now Puglia and the Adriatic, across a wider area of what is now Montenegro (Mijušković 1969), places such as *Resinum* (Risan), *Vicinium* (Ulcinj), and *Batua* (Budva) can be recognized, as well as *Scobre* (Shkodër) in Albania (lower rectangle). (GIAM ZRC SAZU archive)

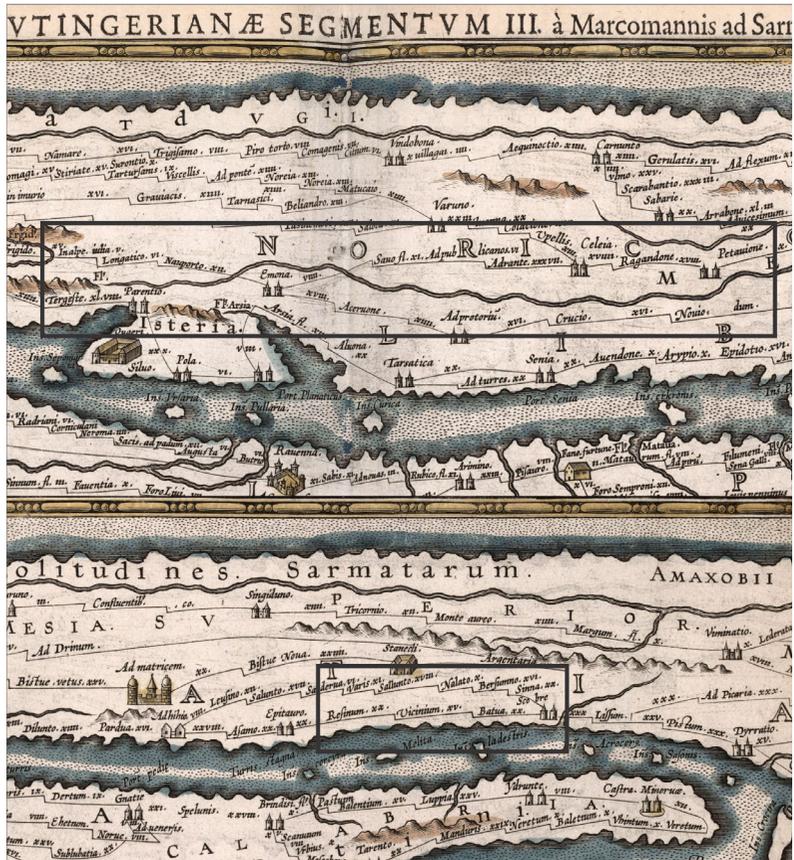
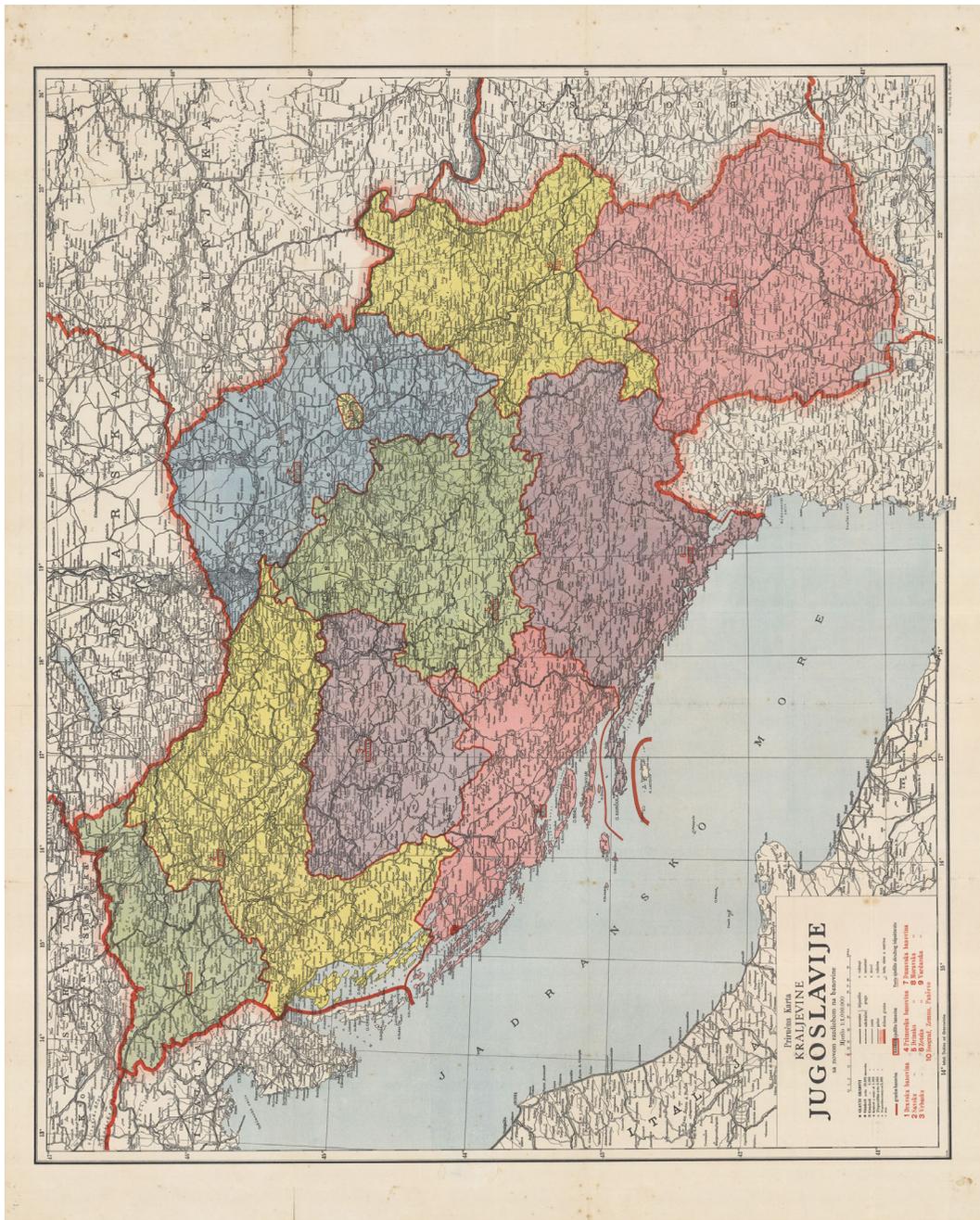




Fig. 29.25 Detail from a map of the Illyrian Provinces (Malte-Brun and Lapie 1812). (David Rumsey Map Center, Stanford Libraries)

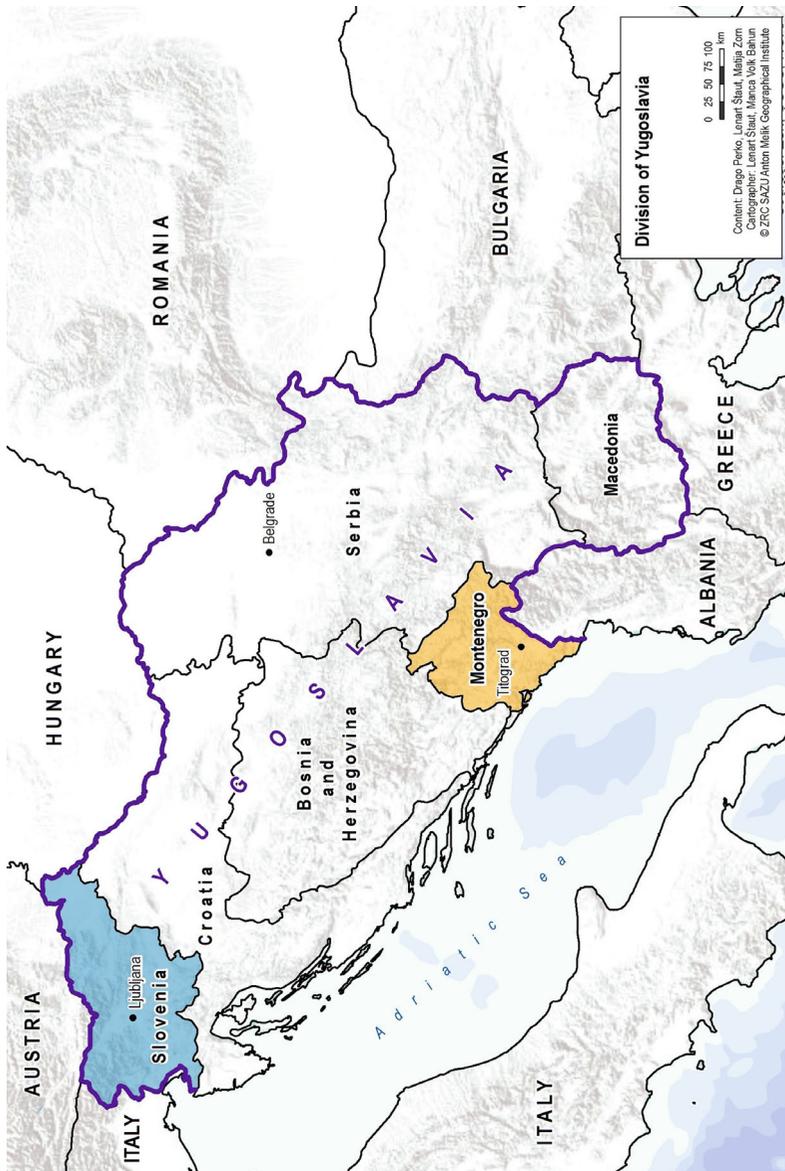


Fig. 29.26 Detail from a map of Austria-Hungary showing the western part of the state, including the provinces with a Slovenian population and the Montenegrin Littoral (Orožen 1902). (GIAM ZRC SAZU archive)



**Fig. 29.27** Map from the 1930s showing the administrative division of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia into provinces. All of Montenegro was part of the Zeta Banovina, and

the northwestern, central, and eastern parts of what is now Slovenia belonged to the Drava Banovina. (GIAM ZRC SAZU archive)



**Fig. 29.28** Slovenia and Montenegro were two of the six republics constituting Yugoslavia between 1945 and 1991. The borders of both, now independent states, are nearly the same as when they were still part of Yugoslavia

or their declaration of independence (Slovenia in 1991 and Montenegro in 2006).

In 1991, when Yugoslavia broke up, Slovenia had a population of 1,965,986, corresponding to ninety-seven people per km<sup>2</sup>, and Montenegro had a population of 615,035, corresponding to forty-five people per km<sup>2</sup> (Doderović and Ivanović 2018). The coats of arms of both

Yugoslav republics featured their “holy” mountains—that is, Slovenia’s Mount Triglav (Mikša 2018) and Montenegro’s Mount Lovćen—as well as the sea or watercourses (Fig. 29.29). This shows the great national importance of mountains for both Slovenia and Montenegro. Slovenia retained these symbols in its national insignia (the coat of arms and flag) even after its independence.



**Fig. 29.29** The coats of arms of the socialist republics of Slovenia (left) and Montenegro (right) highlight Mount Triglav (Slovenia) and Mount Lovćen

(Montenegro) as supreme national symbols as well as the importance of the sea or watercourses

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