

HISTORICAL PROFILES / Serbia

Battle for the country (1804–33)

The period between 1804 and 1815 is marked by two major uprisings in Serbia and the beginning of the Serb's fight for liberation from Turkish occupation, and abolition of feudalism. The leader of the first Serbian uprising was #or#e Petrovi#, progenitor of the Kara#or#evi# Dynasty, while the leader of the second Serbian uprising was Miloš Obrenovi#.



Portrait of Karadjordje Petrovic

1841

The Vassal state (1833–78)

In 1833, Serbia gained autonomy within the Ottoman Empire, thus becoming a vassal, i.e. a tributary principality with a hereditary ruler. The first prince was Miloš Obrenovi#, and the capital of the Principality of Serbia was in Kragujevac. By a Hatišerif (Turkish edict), from 1833, Serbia gained freedom of religion and the possibility that Serbs, instead of Greeks up until then, could be elected Metropolitan or Patriarch in Belgrade. In 1835, Serbia gained its first Constitution. In 1842, Kara#or#e's son, Prince Aleksandar Kara#or#evi#, came to power, which marked the beginning of the rule of the Kara#or#evi# Dynasty. At that time, the capital was moved to Belgrade. In 1848, Serbs raised a revolution in the part of the Austrian Empire populated by Serbs, and proclaimed the autonomous region Srpsko Vojvodstvo (the Serbian Duchy). In 1859, the Obrenovi# Dynasty regained power. The period between 1876 and 1878 was marked by wars against Turkey.



Milos Obrenovic, prince of Serbia

1824

Independent state (1878–1918)

After the Berlin Congress in 1878, Serbia obtained territorial expansion and independence. In 1881, political parties were introduced in Serbia. Also in 1881, the Principality of Serbia obtained the status of a monarchy and it became the Kingdom of Serbia, of which Milan Obrenovi# became its first king. In 1903, there was a military coup and the Kara#or#evi# Dynasty returned to power. Between 1912 and 1913, Serbia participated in two Balkan Wars. After these wars, Turkish domination in the Balkans ended and Serbia expanded its territory. In 1914, the Kingdom of Serbia entered World War I and fought against Austria-Hungary, Germany and their Allies (the so-called Central powers). At the end of World War I, in 1918, Serbia became part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (the Kingdom of Yugoslavia from 1929).



Fugitives Of Herzegovina

1889

Fugitives Of Bosnia and Herzegovina



King Petar I

1903



The view of city of Belgrade

End of the 19th century



The Kosovo Peonies, Gračanica

1913