

Pre-Christian Slovenia

Southern Slavs settled in the territory of today's Slovenia somewhere in 6th century AD. In 7th century Slovenia (Carantania) was under Slavic king Samo and his (Slavic) tribal union in which many western and southern Slavic tribes were united. After Samo's tribal union collapsed after his death, Carantania became independent Slavic principality until it came under Frankish rule in 8th century.

Slavs under Samo's rule were pagans, who worshiped Slavic pagan gods. Not much is known about religion of ancient Slovenians. Slavic pagan religion was closely related to nature and was polytheistic.

Early Christianity in Slovenia

After Samo's tribal union collapsed Carantania became a principality for a short time and at that time also first Christianization took place under Slovenian ruler prince Borut (who was still a pagan though) who sent his son and nephew to Bavaria to be raised as Christians and were educated by Irish monks. He decided to make Carantania part of Christian Europe which helped Carantania to defend against Avars because of help from other Christians in Europe, namely Franks. During his son Gorazd reign, Irish monks came to Slovenia to Christianize people, Christianization was continued by his cousin Hotimir who became leader of Carantania after Gorazd. During his reign there were also first pagan rebellions, as many pagans disliked the new religion and were loyal to the religion of their ancestors, but those rebellions were crushed by Hotimir and his army.

The most famous pagan rebellion was also inspiration for greatest Slovenian poet France Prešeren who wrote a poem »krst pri Savici« (the baptism at Savica) about leader of pagan rebels Črtomir and his fight against Christians. Črtomir's rebellion was crushed by Hotimir's son Valhun, probably with help from Bavarians.

Other Slavic principality, lower Pannonia, was ruled by Prince Kocelj at that time. Missionaries Ciril and Metod arrived there after being asked by Rastislav, Moravian ruler, to help preventing Germanization of Moravia. This marks the beginning of Slavic literacy, Ciril and Metod made Slavic alphabet which helped to organize independent Slavic church and prevent Germanization of Slavic countries for short time.

Catholicism in Slovenia during middle ages

When Carantania lost its independence, Slovenia was under non-Slovenian (non-Slavic) rulers from 9th century, it was mainly under Germanic rulers (Hapsburgs ruled over Slovenian lands in Carniola, Carinthia and Styria from 14th century until 1918), with parts of Slovenia under republic of Venice and Hungary.

In that time first texts were written in Slovenian language in monasteries by monks. The oldest and most known are Freising manuscripts (»Brižinski spomeniki« in Slovenian language) written around 10th century. Freising manuscripts are also the first known occurrence of Slavic language written in Latin script (Freising manuscripts were written in Carolingian minuscule).

Protestant Reformation

In 16th century, Slovenia had a strong Reformation movement following the Protestant ideas of Martin Luther. The most famous Protestant in Slovenia was Primož Trubar who published first printed books in Slovenian language – *Catechismus* and *Abecedarium* in Tübingen, Germany, year 1550. He was educated in Trieste (Trst), today's Italy, where bishop Bonomo had his Protestant circle. Primož helped to form Slovenian Protestant Church with his writings. Another famous Slovenian Protestant was Jurij Dalmatin who translated Bible in Slovenian language in 1584. There were some other important Protestant writers as well, the time of Reformation in Slovenia was of great importance for Slovenian language and culture.

While majority of elites in Slovenian regions were Germanized, peasants strongly resisted Germanization and Protestant Reformation (beginning of Slovenian literature) was a major step towards Slovenian cultural

emancipation.

Counter-Reformation

Although the majority of Slovenian population assumed Protestant teachings, Slovenia became re-Catholicized under archduke Ferdinand of Inner Austria. Re-Catholicization had strong support from Catholic Jezuit order, which took over schools in Ljubljana and educated people in Catholic faith. Catholic Hren, a famous counter-reformer, asked Pope to allow him to use the Slovenian translation of the Bible, while all other Protestant books were burnt down.

During the time of Counter-Reformation almost nothing was published in Slovenian language and in general it was a huge step back for Slovenian literature. There were, however, many churches in Baroque style built in Ljubljana in order to attract believers and prove out greatness of Catholic church.

Small Slovenian Protestant community remained in Prekmurje (north-east Slovenia), which was under Hungarian rule which was not so harsh on Protestants as the Hapsburgs were. The fact that majority of Slovenia was under Hapsburg (who were very pro-Catholic) rule is the reasons why we have so few Protestants in Slovenia today and why big majority of population is Catholic.

Islam, Orthodox and other religions in Slovenia

Slovenians first encountered Muslims in 16th century when Ottomans invaded Slovenia, which was at that time part of Inner Austria. This encounter has left many bad memories in minds of Slovenians and it's remembered in Slovenian literature and art. Turks were attacking Slovenia for more than 200 years. Most of this attack were raids from Turkish-occupied Bosnia, while regular Turkish army hasn't come to Slovenia more than few times. Turks never managed to conquer whole Slovenia, Hapsburgs made military frontier in southern Slovenia and northern Croatia, at that time Slovenians also encountered with Orthodox religion of »Uskoki« - Serbs who left their country and helped to fight against Turks in military frontier.

Later when Bosnia came under Hapsburg rule, Bosnian Muslim population was in same empire as Slovenians (in WWI there was a small mosque build on Soča front for Muslim soldiers of A-H empire) and in Yugoslavia we were in the same state. At the times of Yugoslavia many Muslims from Bosnia immigrated to Slovenia and today most Muslims here in Slovenia are Bosniaks, making around 2% of population.

Orthodox church is the second largest religious community in Slovenia, first Orthodox immigrants came from Serbia mostly for economic reasons.

Building of the mosque – History

The Islamic community in Ljubljana and Slovenia is struggling for building the mosque for nearly 40 years. The official reasons for postpone was the problems concern location. After September 11. the one of directly spoken reason was also xenophobia and connecting the Islamic center with terrorism. In year 2003, the city council made decision for building Mosque on the edge of Ljubljana, on Barje. The decision result with protest of some politicians and they start with action for referendum. The referendum was canceled, by Supreme Court, but also other obstacles occur.

With change of the mayor in Ljubljana, and some other changes (new mufti on Muslim side and new bishop Catholic ...) change also official politics.

New major, Zoran Jankovic, offer to the Muslim community the new location for building the mosque in center of the city. In may 2007 Zoran Jankovič signed a letter of intent with the mufti Nedžad Grabus on the sale of land for the mosque and adjoining buildings.

The Muslim worship center will be built on an area of 4 acres and initial plans say it will be completed in the next six years, close to the center of Ljubljana

The Islamic community of Slovenia count 40.000 members.