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Senior Project

Why is Croatia so Unusually Shaped?

American College of Management and Technology
Dubrovnik, 2003

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1.1 Background

Croatia is a small Southeastern European country located at the Balkan Peninsula. It has a long and glorious history, but due to its size it is not very known throughout the world. Also, during most of its history it was incorporated into some bigger kingdom or alliance. This is why its influence has been diminished in the minds of people and historical books. To name just one example, the ship that arrived first to the rescue of “Titanic” was the Austro-Hungarian “Carpathia”. In most history books it is noted as an Austrian ship, when in fact it was Croatian, and fully manned by Croats, with the exception of a few senior officers. But since Croatia was then a part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, it sailed under its flag. But even the ship’s name, “Carpathia”, is after a mountain range in Asia where Croats originally came from.

1.2 Statement of objective

The main objective of this project will be to answer the question: Why is Croatia so unusually shaped? It will try to achieve that by making the reader familiar with Croatian history from the very beginning of Croats in these lands using maps. It will be specifically targeted toward non-Croats, people with no knowledge or poor knowledge of Croatian history. It will consist of a written paper on Croatian history and pictures of historical maps.

There are several secondary objectives that it will try to achieve. First, the project has to be informative. After seeing my presentation, students who previously knew nothing about Croatia should be able to identify the country, not just on the geographical map of the world, but also its historical and cultural position in the modern world. They should be able to recognize the role that Croatia had in the historical events and the complexity of forces at work on the Balkan Peninsula.

Second, it has to strike a balance between being comprehensive, but at the same time entertaining. This balance I expect will be hard to achieve since there are many people whose attention spans suddenly shorten at the mere mention of the word “history”. I will try to make it comprehensive by making the maps contain minimum clutter and only important cities and places will be marked. I will try to make it interesting by pointing out to the many interesting intrigues that took place during the period and many choices the different leaders were faced with. Hopefully, this will make the students identify themselves with them, and the country as well perhaps.

Third, the quality of work has to be on a high level. This presumes that all the information has to be 100% correct. Only facts will be given, but if a speculation occurs at some point, it will be clearly pointed out.

1.3 Methodology

For writing the paper part of the project, the only obvious method would be library research. I expect I will do most of it at the Dubrovnik city library since I expect they will have plenty of historical resources. Internet research is an option, but I expect that only about 10% of my information will come from there. The only useful Internet sources are web pages of different cities and towns that have a historical section to it. For the second part of my project, the presentation, I will scan maps from different sources.

1.4 Scope and limitations

The scope of my project will be the entire history of Croatian lands from their arrival on the coast of Adriatic in the 7th century to present day. It will cover the history of the lands belonging to modern-day Croatia and parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina where Croats live. It will also cover the history of countries to which the Croatian lands belonged at different points in history, for example the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The project will be limited by concentrating on the visual aids alone, namely the maps. This will be the center focus. Even the text part of the project will be limited to only accompany the maps. This means that the text will be divided into small sections, each belonging to a single map. Only the information necessary to explain the map will be given.

2.1 The Beginnings...

The origin of the name Croat is not known for sure. It is assumed by historians that it has Iranian roots. The name is first mentioned at the stone tablet of King Dario who lived from 522. - 486. BC as the people of Harauvat. Also, in the Persian sacred books of Avesta, there is mention of a people called Harahvati. The meaning of this word is somewhat disputed. Some say it means “friends” while others say it means “sunny lair”. They used to live in Southern Afghanistan and Iran. During the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD they moved to what is now the city of Azov, near Rostov, on the river Don. In the 4th century, they came under strong pressure from the Huns. So, together with another people of Iranian descent, the Ants, they moved to the northern region of the Carpathia mountain range. After the death of Atilla The Hun in 453. AD, the Huns were no longer a threat. This is when Croats accepted Slavic culture, they embraced Slavic language and customs. During the 5th and 6th centuries, together with the Ants, they formed a great Ant-Slavic state in what are now the countries of Ukraine and Belarus. (Lucic, J., Sanjek, F., Antic, Lj., Vidacek, B., & Bertic, I., 1995)

2.2 New Homeland

In 568 AD the Avars crushed the Ant-Slavic state and this is when the Ants disappear. The Croats were pushed further west where they formed a state in what are today Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Their capital was called Chordatu, which is today Krakow, the capital of Poland. During the early 7th century they were invited by

Byzantine Emperor Constantine the 7th Porfirogenet to populate the region of Dalmatia. This region was ruled by hostile Avars and the emperor hoped that Croats will be able to defeat them, since they were known as skilled horsemen and warriors. So, one part of the great Croatian tribe moved south. They were led by five brothers named Klukas, Lobel, Kosenc, Muhlo, Hrvat and two sisters named Tuga and Buga. After a short war, the Croats won. Most of the Avars got killed, some fled and some got absorbed. After a while, some Croats got separated and went on to rule Panonia and Iliria. Those tribes both had separate rulers but paid respects and gave presents to the ruler of Central Croatia. The Byzantine Emperor believed that these nations would soon disintegrate; therefore, he failed to give any weight to their rule. However, Pope John the 4th recognized the potential of the Croats and in his drive to expand Christianity sent missionaries. Soon after, they accepted Christianity and abandoned their primitive worship of idols. (Klaic, 1980)

However, there is a somewhat different version of the role of the Avars offered by another source. It claims that the Avars were used by the Byzantine Emperor to fight the Slavs and won. Since this book was printed in 1986, during the communist rule, it uses the more general term Slavs, when apparently these particular Slavs were Croats. According to this source, the Avars eventually turned against the Byzantine Emperor and were united with the Slavs. Together they attacked his cities in the Balkans and once the Avars came as far as Constantinople where they were finally beaten. After this, their alliance with the Slavs was cancelled and what happened to them later is not mentioned. (Matkovic, 1986)

2.3 The Threesome Rule

During the 8th and 9th centuries Croatia was divided into three separate states with three different rulers but all three united under the ruler of Central Croatia. Panonic Croatia spanned from the river Drava on the north and river Sava to the south. South of Sava was Central Croatia or White Croatia. It spanned from (not including) Istria in the west to Solin in the east. Further east was the smallest one, Red Croatia that spanned all the way to Duklja region, meaning it included most of today's Montenegro. The Byzantine empire still controlled the islands of Krk, Cres, Rab, Dugi Otok, Losinj and coastal towns of Zadar, Trogir, Split, Dubrovnik, and Kotor. (Lucic et al., 1995) However, it is important to mention that the terminology used for these states differ. In some sources Central Croatia is called White Croatia, while Dalmatia is under Byzantine control. In other sources, Central Croatia is called Dalmatian Croatia or Coastal Croatia , while the Byzantine controlled area is simply referred to as Byzantine controlled territory. In my further text, I will use the first terminology. Panonian Croatia is also sometimes referred to as Continental Croatia, but this is the case only in a minority of texts.

2.4 First Struggles

During this period, Central Croatia enjoyed a moderate prosperity while Panonian Croatia came under constant attacks from the Avars. This changed when Carlo the Great, leader of the Franks, decided to raise a huge army and attack the Avars. As they passed through Croatia, many Croats joined under the leadership of their Duke Vojnomir. They captured

the Avarian capital together with all the silver and gold plundered during the past years. These riches were taken by Carlo the Great making him even more powerful. And since his troops were already in Panonian Croatia, he decided he would annex it to his kingdom. But this wasn't enough for him. He also sent troops to conquer Central Croatia which was ruled by Duke Viseslav. Viseslav's troops ambushed Carlo's at Trsat and rolled huge rocks on them. Carlo was defeated, but unfortunately for Croatia, Duke Viseslav died soon after leaving Croatia without a competent leader. His successor made a deal with Carlo in which he would recognize him as Croatia's king, but Croatia would maintain a certain level of independence. Shortly after this, a young man, later to be named Ljudevit Posavski was raising to power in Panonian Croatia. He led a major uprising against Carlo's Franks and they were helpless to stop it. This is when one of the greatest shames in Croatian history took place. Borna, who was by that time the ruler of Central Croatia, actually helped the Franks fight against Ljudevit even though he was Croatian himself. In return, he asked that Carlo help him to come to an agreement with the coastal cities still under the Byzantine control. In response to this, Ljudevit took a big army and went into the Central Croatia to loot and pillage. Borna tried to stop him, but was helpless. Croats were fighting Croats and by doing so, demonstrated the worst Croatian characteristic, their un-cohesiveness. Eventually, Ljudevit was defeated by the Franks but he managed to escape. He sought refuge in Central Croatia with Borna's successor Duke Vladimir. Vladimir granted him asylum in his uncle's house, but one night, while Ljudevit was asleep, an assassin sneaked into his bedroom and stuck a knife into his chest. By whose order was this done, still remains unclear. (Hitrec, 1995)

Fortunately for Croatia, it was about the same period (865-876) that both the Franks and the Byzantine rule over Croatian lands started to weaken. The reasons for this could be explained by inner problems within each of these empires. Croatian rulers ruled with independence, but it is important to mention that not a lot is known about this period. Many dukes ruled the Croatian thrones to mention only a few: Mislav, Trpimir, Branimir, Mutimir. These were all rulers of Central Croatia which was then by far the most powerful of the three. Panonian Croatia was divided under many smaller rulers while Red Croatia was reduced to being a territory of the Croatian Neretljans tribe. During this period, the major concern of Central Croatia's rulers was to gain control of the coastal towns and islands mentioned previously, which were all still under Byzantine control. However, since they were so far away and pretty much cut off from its empire, these cities exhibited a certain level of independence. To which degree were they independent, is often disputed by historians but it is certain that it was during this period that they fell under a strong influence by Croatia and its already Catholic religion. It was under Duke Branimir when the Pope John the 8th recognized Croatia as an independent country and greeted its return into the papal domain. (Raukar, 1997))

2.5 Tomislav, the First King

But soon enough, Croats got new enemies to worry about. The Hungarians were getting strong in the north, as were the Venetians on the Adriatic. Branimir's son Mutimir had a hard time getting on his father's throne. Since he didn't want the same to happen to his son Tomislav as well, he tried hard to make all the Croatian nobles and clergy accept

Tomislav even when he was just a boy. He succeeded in this and around 910 is when Tomislav came to power. He was very educated and proven to be a great military leader. When Hungarians broke into Slavonia they overpowered it with ease and figured they could continue on south. But here in the mountains, Tomislav was waiting for them, defeated them and pursued them all the way across the Danube. This way, he united these two entities into one, along with Red Croatia as well. This new unified Croatia spanned from river Drava to the Adriatic Sea. It became one of the most powerful countries in the region. It has been said by Byzantine emperor Constantine that Tomislav could raise to arms one hundred thousand foot soldiers, sixty thousand horsemen, eighty bigger warships and one hundred smaller ones. (Hitrec, 1995)

During this time, Byzantine Empire north of Constantinople was threatened by the Bulgarians, so Constantine asked Tomislav for help. In return, he sent him expensive gifts, but more importantly, he ordered the Dalmatian cities under his control to accept Tomislav as their ruler. This way, Tomislav was able to achieve what many Croatian rulers before him failed to do. He also defeated the Bulgarian army using same tactics of mountain-warfare as he did with the Hungarians. With such power, he was coronated as the first Croatian king, and Croatia became a kingdom. (Hitrec, 1995)

2.6 Conflict Among the Nobles

King Tomislav was succeeded by king Trpimir and king Kresimir. They both ruled wisely for seven and ten years, respectively. Then Tomislav's grandson Mislav came to power. However, his younger brother led a conspiracy against him backed by a noble

named Pribina. Mislav got killed by the conspirators and his brother ruled under the name of king Kresimir II. He was succeeded by his son Stjepan Drzislav. When he died at the end of 10th century, the kingdom was struck by chaos. His sons turned against each other and fought, and all this was carefully viewed by the Venetians.

2.7 The Hungarians, the Venetians, the Byzantines...

When they saw an opportunity, they struck. It was May of the year 1000 when they sailed with their ships onto the Croatian coast and seized a big portion of it. (Hitrec, 1995)

After this, Croats attacked and retook some of the territory only to lose it back again since Venice was extremely keen on conquering the East-Adriatic coast in order to secure its eastern trade routes. The Byzantine Empire was also able to regain control over some of the coastal cities they had before. However, by the middle of the 11th century both Venetian and Byzantine influence on the Adriatic began to weaken due to their political instability. However, there were new forces to be dealt with. The papal state had more influence than ever before and the Hungarians were getting very powerful. During the 11th century Croatia was beginning to completely open toward the Adriatic, and consequently, it was experiencing significant economic growth. The entire coast was now under Croatian rule, but to what extent is unclear to historians. Petar Kresimir IV was now the ruler and he bore the title “King of Croatia and Dalmatia”. (Raukar, 1997)

Since Petar Kresimir IV had no heir, after his death a noble man named Zvonimir came to the throne, since he had royal Croatian blood in him. (Hitrec, 1995) He was a good and fair ruler, but unfortunately his son died at an early age; therefore, he left no heir. The last person of Croatian royal blood was Kresimir’s adopted son Stjepan who lived in a

monastery. He ruled for several years and then died leaving no heir, he was the last Croatian king. This brought upon a period of great conflict between the nobles. The throne was vacant for a while and this was used by the Hungarian king Ladislav Arpadovich. He used the fact that Zvonimir's wife Jelena was in fact his sister, and therefore he believed that Croatia should rightfully belong to him. He marched his troops into Slavonia region and encountered no resistance. He tried to push toward the coast but apparently there was resistance there. At the same time the Byzantine Empire regained some of its control in Dalmatia. (Raukar, 1997)

2.8 Pacta Conventa and the Tatars

Very little is known about the time following this event. Most of the information available is known through the Crusaders that passed through this region. In 1102 Hungarian king Koloman, Ladislav's successor, managed to persuade Croatian nobles to recognize him as their king but keeping their independence as a nation. This deal is called Pacta Conventa and it in fact made Croatia lose its independence and become a part of the Hungarian Empire. (Raukar, 1997) He continued the ever-lasting struggle over the Adriatic coastal cities. During this time they switched rulers between Hungary, Venice and Byzantines, but they pretty much lived their own lives. Most of the valuable churches and monuments built in them come from this era. (Hitrec 1995)

Croatia was under a constant and stable Hungarian rule under many different kings. It lasted until the beginning of the 13th century when a threat came from Asia. The Tatars,

under the rule of Genghis-khan, and later Ogothai-khan invaded Hungary and defeated Hungarian king Bella IV. They went on into Croatia and pushed their way all the way to the sea where they were finally defeated by Croats at Grobnik field. Bella IV spent this time in refuge all around Croatia and when the Tatars were beaten, he came back to power and ruled until his death in 1270. Though many kings came to the throne after him, the real rule in Croatia was often held by Croatian nobles. There were many battles and schemes around the Hungarian-Croatian throne until (Sigismund) the ruler of Germany came to throne by marriage in the beginning of 15th century. He was the first king forced to defend against the Turkish invasion. He wasn't too successful neither against them nor against the Venetians. (Hitrec 1995) During this period, the Turkish Empire has spread into the Balkan peninsula defeating Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia. Their successful invasion shifted the king's attention from European matters to the Balkans. (Raukar, 1997)

2.9 The Turks

The next Hungarian-Croatian ruler was Matias Korvin. He took it upon himself to prepare the defense against the Turks. He fought with some success, but without the promised help from the Pope he couldn't fight by himself so the Turks invaded the whole of Bosnia and substantial parts of Croatia. This way, most of the defensive tasks fell upon Croatian nobles who were left to fend for themselves and with good success too. The most decisive battle took place at the Krbava field in 1493. The Turks were coming back home with their loot from Slovenia when Croatian nobles stood in their way.

Unfortunately, the Turks won and killed 13,000 Croats, including many nobles. . (Hitrec, 1995) The next decisive battle took place in 1526 at the field of Mohac where young Hungarian-Croatian king Ludovik died and his army was heavily defeated. Since a new leader was required, Ferdinand von Hapsburg was chosen by Croatian nobles. He was the ruler of Austria and some parts of Germany and Slovenia. After some struggle, the Hungarian nobles accepted him as well. (Matkovic, 1986)

One city had a special status during this time. The Republic of Dubrovnik was an independent territory belonging neither to the Venetians nor the Turks, though it had to pay tithes to the Turks. By this time, Dubrovnik had a predominantly Croatian population and all the schools were in Croatian. It was a merchant super-power with a third largest merchant navy in the world. The streets were paved and the city had a sewage system and quarantine as early as the 14th century. (Hitrec, 1995) Dubrovnik also had a large intelligence service operating in foreign lands. It was under a direct supervision of the Senate and was considered to be an integral part of diplomatic activities. The agents performing these tasks comprised mostly of diplomats, merchants and seamen. (Sundrica, 2001)

After centuries of fighting, the Turks were finally defeated at Vienna. Then, one by one, cities got liberated, and by the end of the 17th century, whole of Slavonia was liberated and all the lands between rivers Kupa and Una, including Lika. However, there was no real interest to liberate Bosnia as well, so it remained under Turkish occupation. (Hitrec, 1995) It is important to mention that the period from 15th to 17th century, while Croatian

lands were warring with the Turks, was a period of great demographic, economic and artistic advancement for the rest of Europe. For Croatia, the loss of lands wasn't as bad since they were ultimately returned, as much as the loss of people and the inability to prosper. In comparison, most European countries have experienced great demographic growth bringing the total population from 45 million to 89 million which is roughly the level of early 14th century, that is, before the great plague. (Raukar, 1997)

2.10 The Hapsburg Rule and Napoleon

17th and 18th century were centuries of moderate development of Croatia as well. As a part of the Hapsburg Empire, Croatia was ruled for almost forty years by a woman, Empress Mary Theresa. She ruled with an iron fist but Croatia was granted some independence. During this time Croatian soldiers were forced to fight for her in France and Italy in regions that refused to recognize a woman as their ruler. The most feared Croatian troops were those of Baron Franjo Trenk. His soldiers wore a distinguishing tie around their necks called also the "cravat", which gave rise to today's modern tie. This was also a time of baroque and of great works of art by Croatian writers, poets and scientists such as Rudjer Boskovic, writers Andrija Kacic-Miosic and Djore Drzic just to mention a few. (Hitrec 1995)

In 1805 Napoleon defeated the Hapsburg troops at the battle of Austerlitz. As a result of that, Austrian Emperor Francis the 2nd was forced to yield all Croatian lands south of the river Sava to Napoleon's empire. The city of Zagreb along with the region of Slavonia

remained an Austrian province. Napoleon ended the reign of the Republic of Dubrovnik and of the Venetian Republic as well. Hence, they disappear from history as such. Once again, Croatian lands became a source for recruiting soldiers to fight for others' interests. This time they fought under the French flag. (Hitrec, 1995)

2.11 National Awakening

Meantime, in Zagreb, it was the time of a movement later named Croatian National Awakening. Ljudevit Gaj was the leader of this new generation of intelligentsia. He gathered young scholars in his apartment and they discussed the issues regarding the Croatian national identity. It was happening during the time when Hungarians have made it so that Croats have to learn Hungarian as it was their own language. Janko Draskovic published a dissertation in which he claimed that Croatian language has enough words for everything to be able to be said and therefore there is no need to change this. He also asks that the whole of Bosnia and Dalmatia be rejoined with the rest of Croatia. Antun Mihanovic writes the lyrics and Josip Runjanin writes the music for what is later to become Croatian national anthem. (Hitrec, 1995)

In the wake of the French revolution, in 1848 Hungary also had a national awakening and decided it wants to get out of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. But, in its independence it also wanted to keep Croatia as its province. Since this was unacceptable to Croats, it made them side with the Austrian Emperor Louis Philipe. He appointed Baron Josip Jelacic as his ruler in Croatia. Still unaware about this decision, people's council meets in

Zagreb and chooses also Josip Jelacic as the ruler, which turned out to be very fortunate. Jelacic gathered a big army and joined the Austrian Emperor in his fight against the Hungarians. After the Hungarians were defeated, the Emperor decided to put new and more stringent laws in place to keep his Empire in one piece. Unfortunately, these new laws applied equally to Hungary and Croatia, and triggered a wave of disapproval and disappointment amongst Croats. (Hitrec, 1995)

2.12 Struggle for Independence

During the next few decades, Croatian politicians were very much divided. Some wanted an independent Croatia, some wanted a union with Hungary, others wanted all the South-Slavic (Croats, Serbs, Slovenes, Montenegrins) nations to unite while some wanted to remain as it was. The situation remained unchanged up until the end of World War One, then known as The Great War. After this war, things started to change. (Hitrec, 1995) In addition to Croats and Hungarians, the Serbs, Slovenes, Czechs and the Slovaks, who were all within the Austro-Hungarian Empire, also demanded to break all ties with the old Empire as well. The Emperor tried to soften this by proclaiming his Empire a federation and granting every nation limited independence. Unfortunately for him, it was already too late. In 1918 the People's council of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs demanded a separate kingdom. They succeeded in this supported by the winning forces of WW1, especially the US President Wilson. A new republic was born, named "People's Council of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs". It was constituted of all the Slovenes, Croats and Serbs who previously lived within the old Empire and its capital was Zagreb. (Horvat, 1992)

However, this arrangement lasted less than two months. The Serbs demanded this country to be united with the Kingdom of Serbia and Montenegro, which existed outside the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After a lot of political scheming, and supported by Italy, the unification was achieved. Kingdom of Serbia marched its troops into Slavonia and Bosnia, and Italy was able to seize its prize; the city of Rijeka, a key port on the north Adriatic. With a lot of pressure from Serbian politicians, the Serbian name was now first in the name of the country and the Serbian king Alexander was made the ruler of all three nations. Thereby, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, headed by a Serbian monarch and with the capital Sarajevo, was founded on November 1st 1918. The very next day, there were riots in Zagreb, but with little effect. The military opened fire and killed dozens of people, perhaps even more than a hundred, but the exact number is impossible to establish. (Horvat, 1992)

This Kingdom spanned from present-day Austria to present-day Albania including the entire Dalmatian coast, but excluding the region of Istria and the city of Rijeka which were annexed by Italy. Eventually, its capital was moved to Belgrade, and in 1929 its name was changed to Yugoslavia, meaning the land of the South Slavs. (Hitrec, 1995) After the Assassination of King Alexander in 1934, Croatia was granted some independence. This lasted up until World War 2.

2.13 Hitler, Mussolini and Pavelic

When Hitler came to power he wasn't interested in conquering Yugoslavia. It wasn't in his expansion plans for the Third Reich, it had no oil, and overall no strategic importance. (Tanner, 1999, p158-159) However, Italy had a much bigger interest. Italians wanted to seize the rest of the Croatian coast, so they made a deal with Vlatko Macek, an influential Croatian politician. They made a deal in which he would separate Croatia from Yugoslavia and become the head of that state, which would be in confederation with Italy. However, Macek knew that this isn't good for Croatia, so he used this Italian interest in secret negotiations with the Serbian politicians. This way, he was able to negotiate a much higher level of Croatian independence within Yugoslavia. Ciano, the Italian minister of foreign affairs, was furious when he found out that the deal is closed. He immediately turned to Ante Pavelic, the leader of the "Ustasa" fraction. They were radical Croatian nationalists and up until now their organization was banned in Italy and elsewhere. Before, Ciano used to refer to them as "a band of butchers" (Tanner, 1999, p161) but he was now willing to use them for Italian interests in Croatia so he released about seven hundred of them from Italian prisons immediately. (Tanner, 1999, p160-161)

Meanwhile, Serbian Duke Pavle, the acting ruler of Yugoslavia since King Peter was only seventeen, was trying to keep a neutral policy toward both the Allies and the German side. However, after Bulgaria joined Germany and Greece was invaded, the pressure on Yugoslavia to join was mounting. In March 1941 Duke Pavle had no choice but to sign the pact with Germany. He believed it was the only way to avoid being

invaded. But as soon this news was made public, the people revolted and riots broke out. The coupe was led by general Borivoj Mirkovic who seized power successfully. To make it seem like the young king Peter was with them, he even faked a radio broadcast with an impersonator posing as the king. He also received massive help from the British secret service SOE (Special Operations Executive). (Tanner, 1999, 163-164)

Soon after, on April 6th, having to postpone his invasion of Russia, Hitler bombed Belgrade and invaded from all sides with the help of Italy, Bulgaria and Hungary. In Zagreb, the Independent State of Croatia (NDH) was formed headed by Ante Pavelic. This state spanned from Varazdin in the north, island of Krk in the west, Dubrovnik in the south and almost to Belgrade itself in the east. The whole of Bosnia was included, but significant regions of the coast were given to Italy. (Lucic et al, 1995, p46)

2.14 Communist Era

With the fall of Hitler NDH ceased to exist and Croatia was once again incorporated into the new, communist Yugoslavia, but with a much smaller territory. However, all of its coast, including Istria, were returned to it since Italy was the loser of WW2 and therefore needed to be punished. These new borders were established right after the war at the famous communist meetings in the town of Jajce. These meetings, among other things, established that there will be six republics in the new Yugoslavia forming a federation; Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia. They also established that each republic should have at least one port on the Adriatic. Hence,

Slovenia was given the north part of Istria, which meant that Croatia and Italy had no mutual border any more. Bosnia was given the town of Neum, whereby cutting Croatia effectively into two parts. This is the reasoning by which the borders of present-day Croatia were formed. (Simonovic 1988)

2.15 Fall of the Iron Curtain

In 1989, when the Berlin Wall finally fell, the communist rule started to crumble in the entire Eastern Europe. One by one, Yugoslav republics proclaimed independence from what was now a Serbian – dominated regime. After almost half a century under communist rule, Croatia finally rebelled in 1990 together with Slovenia. Political negotiations for a peaceful succession fell through and a bloody war broke out between the Yugoslav army loyal to the Serbs and Croats on the other side. Almost a third of Croatia, mostly regions with predominantly Serbian population, was occupied and under Serbian rule for more than five years. The Serbs formed their own state within Croatia with the capital Knin, which was heavily supported by Serbia and its president Milosevic, but never internationally recognized. Many Croatian cities were bombed and many war-crimes were committed. The war ended in the total liberation of Croatia and the restoration of its previously determined borders. (Tanner, 1999)

Present day Croatia is an independent country striving to be a modern European country with memberships in both the European Union and NATO.

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3.1 Introduction

This chapter will consist of a number of selected maps of Croatia showing how its shape has been changing through history. The objective of this chapter is to provide the layout for producing the final presentation. It will offer the preliminary scans of maps in that order in which they should appear in the presentation. Each map will be accompanied with a one-page summary explaining what is seen on the map, and how it is different from the last one. The text will point out to those facts that are important for the viewer to know regarding the events that took place during the time period that the map is covering.

3.2 Map #: 1

Map Title:

Area Originally Settled

Time Period:

7th – 9th century

Description:

The area first settled by Croats is divided into three realms; Panonic, White and Red Croatia. Together, they cover the area south of river Drava, bordered by river Drina on the east, the Adriatic Sea in the south and rivers Sutla and Krka in the west. However, many of the islands and coastal towns are not included since they belong to the Byzantine Empire. Also, most of the Istrian peninsula belongs to the Franks.

Important Points:

- These three realms each had separate rulers, but were united in many ways.
- At first, local communities were ruled by elders, but eventually the country got divided into counties named “zupanije” (same as today).
- Croats accept Christianity

3.3 Map #: 2

Map Title:

King Tomislav's period

Time Period:

10th century

Description:

The three realms now became one kingdom under king Tomislav. The land borders haven't changed, however all the Byzantine cities were incorporated into the kingdom.

The lands at far south marked in orange had some independence, but were also indirectly ruled by Tomislav. The big red arrow marks the route Tomislav took when he defeated the Hungarians, and the smaller one marks his conflict with the Bulgarians.

Important Points:

- Croatia was the biggest military force in the region, equaling England's at the time
- 100,000 footmen
- 60,000 horsemen
- 80 big ships
- 100 smaller ships

3.4 Map #: 3

Map Title:

King Petar Kresimir's period

Time Period:

11th century

Description:

Since Croatia started to weaken, it lost some of its borderline territories; the region just north of Varazdin was lost to Hungary, the Byzantines took some territory in the east and were pushing into Bosnia (marked green) and the countries in the south (marked orange) were now completely independent.

Important points:

- Many power struggles between the nobles led to decline of power
- Croatian neighbors were getting stronger
- Dubrovnik was already independent

3.5 Map #: 4

Map Title:

Pacta Conventa

Time Period:

12th century

Description:

After the infamous Pacta Conventa deal, Croatia was joined with Hungary in a union called “Personal Union”, meaning they were only united by the person of the ruler. One ruler would be named the bearer of both crowns, Croatian and Hungarian. The country of Duklja, (marked orange) is now more powerful, and has taken a large portion of Bosnia. The Istrian peninsula is now entirely lost to the German Empire.

Important Points:

- Both countries had separate ministries, except for foreign affairs
- At first there were two coronations for every king, one for each crown, eventually it got unified into one
- This new country provided a powerful defense against German invasion into the East

3.6 Map #: 5

Map Title:

King Bella the 4th

Time Period:

Second half of 13th century

Description:

The country of Duklja disappeared so Hungary was able to extend its rule to Bosnia.

Serbia is now strong at the eastern border of the empire and a lot of the islands together with the city of Zadar, are lost to the Venetians. A small independent state was formed in Istria.

Important Points:

- The region of Bosnia was joined with Hungary (not Croatia) though it was taken from Croatia originally
- The Mongols' pillage left Croatia with destroyed infrastructure and slaughtered population
- King Bella the 4th divided Croatia into counties ruled by local Duxes
- In order to accelerate economic growth, many Croatian cities were exempted from paying taxes

3.7 Map #: 6

Map Title:

First Turkish Invasions (before the battle of Mohac)

Time Period:

Up until 1526

Description:

The Turks were pushing strongly to the west and weakening the Croatian-Hungarian Empire. The Venetians used this and pushed from the west. Much territory is lost to both, Turks in the inland and Venetians on the coast. Towns with a year next to them signify the year they were lost. Note the enclave of Klis, just north of Split.

Important Points:

- Non-unified Europe left Croatia and Hungary alone against the Turks
- Many power struggles between the Croatian and Hungarian nobles took place
- The fort of Klis was heroically defended until 1537
- The Republic of Dubrovnik was able to extend its territory by making peace with its neighbors.

3.8 Map #: 7

Map Title:

“Reliquiae Reliquiarum”

Time Period:

Up until 1606

Description:

At the height of the Turkish invasion one by one fortified cities were lost. Green, light green and yellow represent Turkish invasions periodically. Light pink is all that was left of Croatia, merely a small buffer zone between the Turks and the Hapsburg Empire.

Important Points:

- This period is known as Reliquiae Reliquiarum, or the remains of the remains
- While the rest of Europe was enjoying prosperity, Croatian population is being slaughtered
- In 1493 (just before Columbus discovered America) the vast majority of Croatian nobles got killed in a battle at Krbava field
- This period is also known as the Two Centuries of Sorrow

3.9 Map #: 8

Map Title:

Croatia Rediviva

Time Period:

End of 17th to end of 18th century

Description:

With the weakening of the Turkish Empire, Croatia was able to regain most of its previous territory. However, most of Bosnia remained in Turkish hands.

Important Points:

- To make their rule more established and secure, the Turks moved Muslim populous from other parts of their empire into Bosnia
- Bosnia was a very mountainous and remote region, very scarcely populated, therefore there was no real interest for liberating it.
- A lot of the Croatian territory was under Venetian or Hungarian direct control, while most of it was influenced one way or another
- The strategic port of Rijeka was strictly under Hungarian control
- Croatia spanned all the way to Zemun (near Belgrade)

3.10 Map #: 9

Map Title:

Croatia in 1848

Time Period:

1848 - 1918

Description:

Napoleon abolished both the Republic of Dubrovnik and the Venetian Republic.

Therefore, they disappear from history as such. Croatia was able to bring back under its control the Dubrovnik regions and most of its coastline with the islands. However, Istria, together with the islands Krk, Cres and Losinj, remained independent. Bosnia was still firmly in the Turkish grip.

Important Points:

- Croatia was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, but not by choice
- It was also forced to join an even closer union with Hungary
- Croatia had control over most of the Montenegrin coastline

3.11 Map #: 10

Map Title:

Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

Time Period:

1918-1939 (between world wars)

Description:

Croatia was now out of the Hungarian grip and was a part of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. There were no significant changes to its national territory. The control over the city of Zadar and the island of Lastovo was lost, and the Island of Krk was gained from Istria. Istria joined this Kingdom, but not as a province of Croatia

Important Points:

- There were many political arguments about whether Croatia should stay within this empire
- There was also debate whether Istria should be annexed with Croatia
- The Turks disappear and Bosnia-Herzegovina emerges for the first time in its almost present-day borders

3.12 Map #: 11

Map Title:

Independent State of Croatia

Time Period:

1940 – 1945

Description:

Croatia is now the biggest since the time of King Tomislav. It was formed by support from Hitler and Mussolini. It included the entire Bosnia but not much of Dalmatia, which was yielded to Italy. Dubrovnik was included as well as many parts of Serbia. Notice the black dotted demarcation line going straight through Croatia. It separated Croatia into two spheres of influence; north was German, and south was Italian.

Important Points:

- Hitler used the old concept: divide and rule – he knew that by giving Croats a state of their own he would gain their loyalty
- Though its official title suggests otherwise, Croatia was very much dependent on the Axis powers
- Many crimes against humanity were committed during this time and a lot of controversy is tied with this period
- Though a lot of the coast was already under Italian control, they kept demanding more and more all the way until the end of WW2

3.13 Map #: 12

Map Title:

Republic of Croatia

Time Period:

1945 - Present

Description:

Croatia's present day borders were established right after World War 2 by the victorious communist movement. Istria was united with Croatia but the rich agricultural region of Srijem (just west of Vukovar) was given to Serbia. Republic of Slovenia was restored and it was given a narrow corridor to the Adriatic sea, thereby eliminating Croatian border with Italy. The town of Neum was given to Bosnia, effectively cutting of the Dubrovnik region from the mainland.

Important Points:

- In 1990 when Croatia fought for independence from Yugoslavia the control of the region varied, and though attempts were made, no borders were ever officially changed
- Croatia is now an independent country

4.1 Introduction

During my research I took a look at all the lands that were ruled by Croats during the course of history. I did this with the intention of answering my research question: Why is Croatia so unusually shaped? I started from when Croats first settled these lands in the 7th century. Then, through historical and geographical research I moved forward in time with careful consideration of the borders and *how* they changed. Also, crucial to this research was the political situation within Croatia and its neighboring countries. Knowing this provided the basis for understanding *why* they changed the way they did. Hopefully, through these two factors, I was able to provide the reader with full understanding of Croatian historical territory and an answer to my research question.

4.2 Conclusion

The main reasons for the unusual shape of Croatia can be divided into two major categories: geographical and political. Croatia, as it is today, is divided into two major regions; Panonic Croatia, which spans from the city of Varazdin to the city of Osijek, and coastal Croatia, which spans from the Istrian peninsula to the city of Dubrovnik. As much as the Croats living in these two regions are unified as one nation, often they have been forced to separate existence. The reason for this is that these two regions are separated by the mountainous region of Gorski Kotar (between Karlovac and Rijeka) and by the

mountains of middle Bosnia. In addition to that, the northern part of the coastal Croatia is separated from the southern by the Velebit mountain and the hills of Lika region.

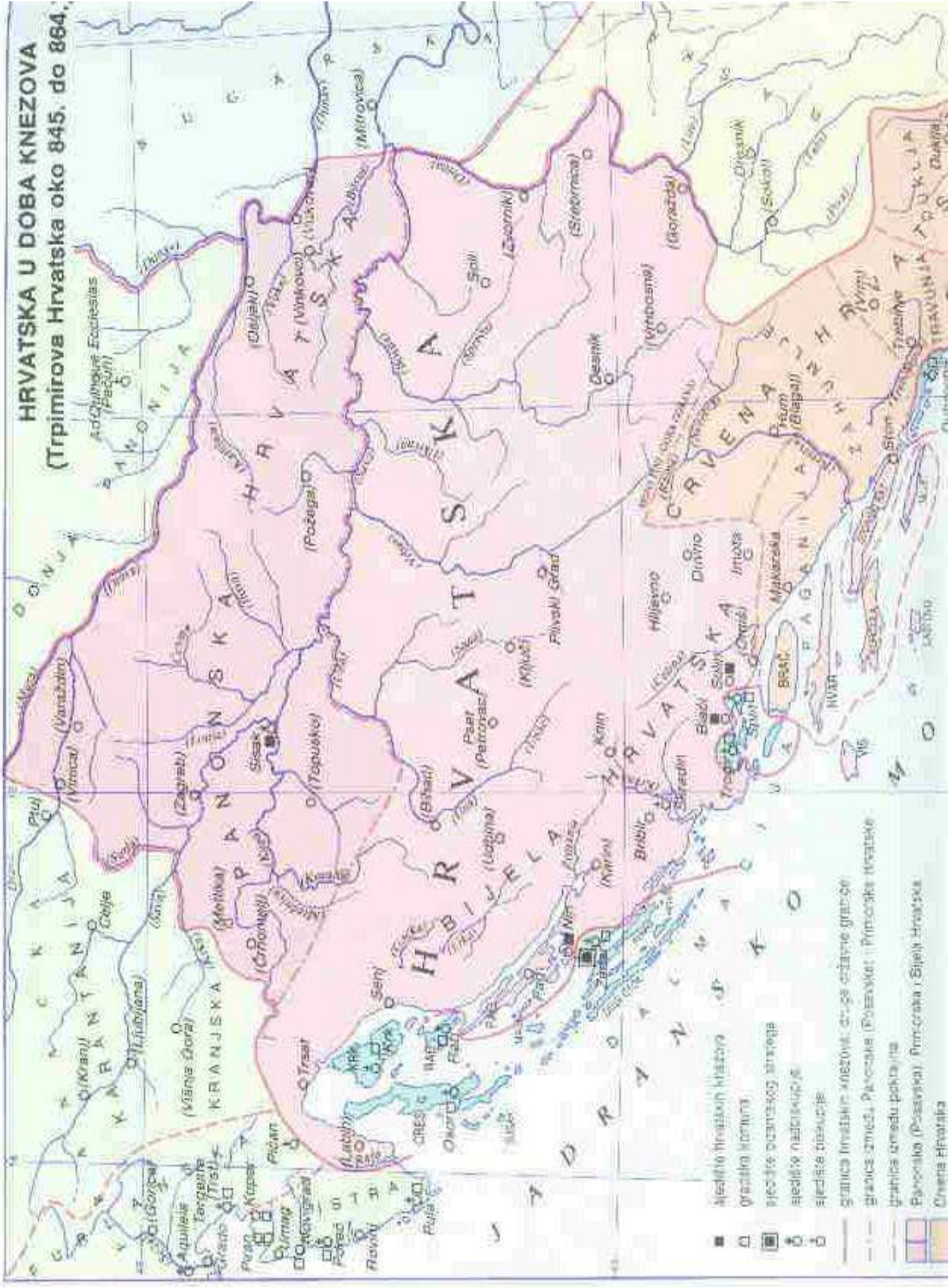
Coastal Croatia is interesting also because throughout its length, this is the place where mountains meet the sea. All the major cities have sprung up along the coastline and with the exception of Istria, and to a lesser extent the Zadar region, there is no good, arable land in the vicinity of these cities. So with no settlements in the immediate hinterland, the coastal cities were forced to turn to the sea for their economic prosperity, while at the same time building heavy fortifications for defense from the invading armies.

The second most important factor is the political location of Croatia. Situated at the Balkans peninsula, Croatia was often a buffer zone between the Eastern and Western civilizations. It was invaded many times, but most crucial for its shape today, are the Turkish invasions and their rule.

Looking at the maps numbered six and seven, we can see that the Turks came from the east and immediately seized the whole of Bosnia. They continued to push west moderate success, since they encountered strong resistance. On map number eight, we can see that the Turks were driven out of the whole of Panonic and coastal region, but not out of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main reason for this was harsh terrain and the absence of big cities “worth” liberating. Looking further at map nine, we can see that Bosnia remained under the Turkish rule

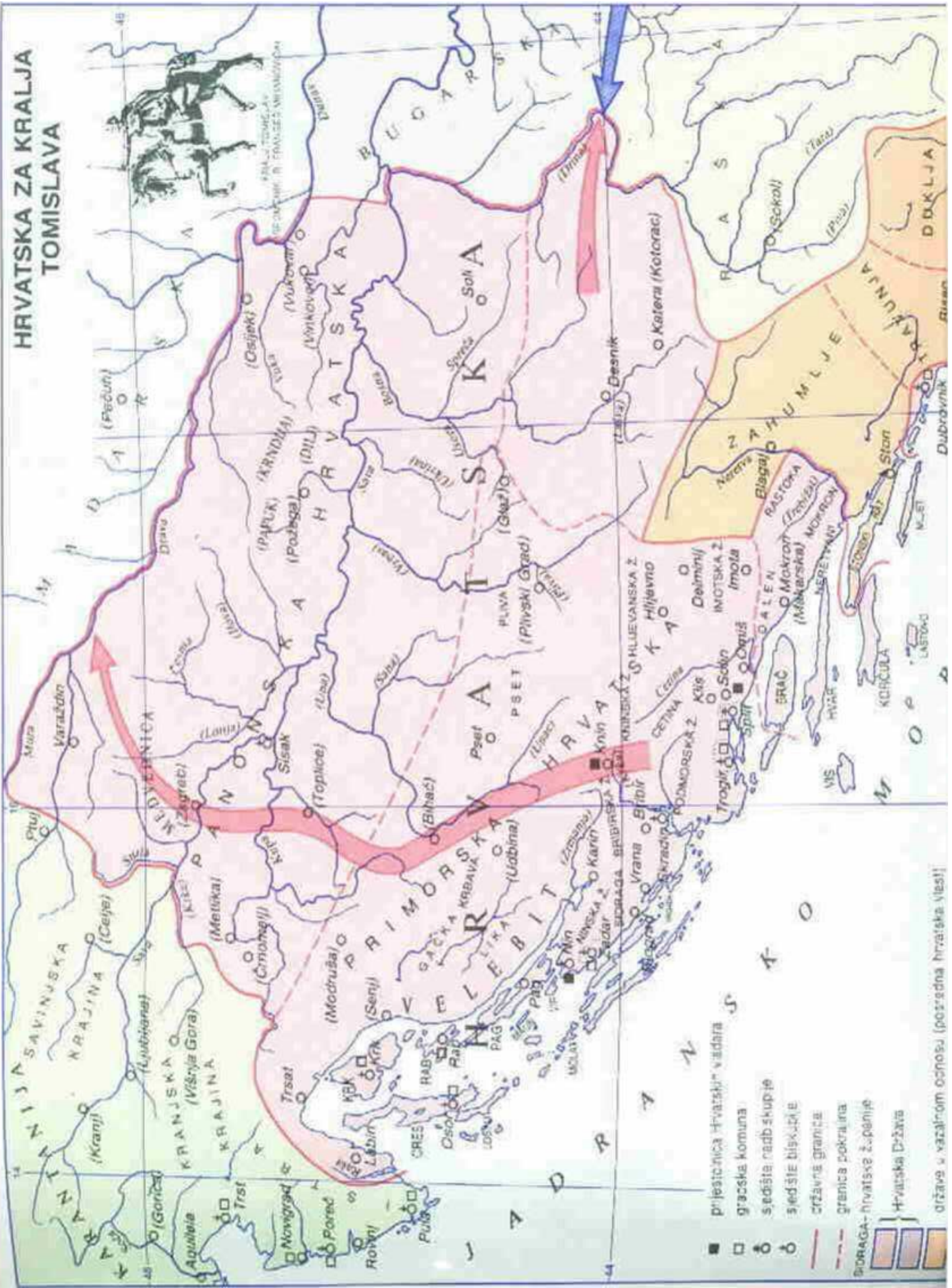
During their rule, the Turks had a simple reasoning for protecting the integrity of their empire. They moved their loyal, Muslim, population from the inner parts of their empire to the border areas. This resulted with a large portion of the Turkish population, whose estimates vary, moving to Bosnia. Another thing the Turks did was to offer special “perks” in taxation to everyone who would switch to Muslim faith. These measures were taken over a large period of time and were successful to a large extent. Their influences are felt even today. Therefore, both of these factors combined, contribute to the unconventional shape of the country of Croatia.

HRVATSKA U DOBA KNEZOVA (Trpimirova Hrvatska oko 845. do 864.)



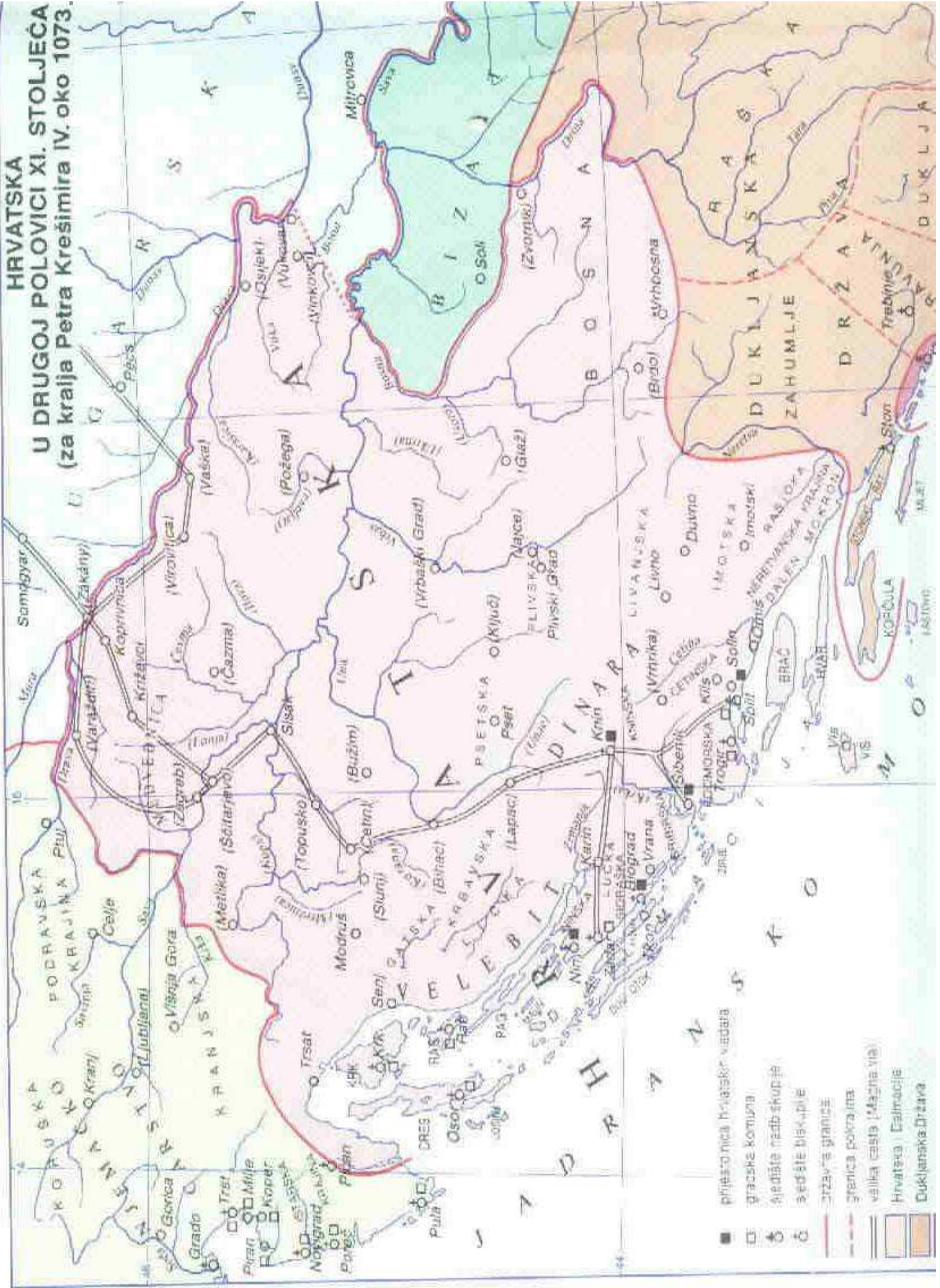
- Najveći trgovački gradovi
- Gradovi
- ▣ Trgovište
- Najveći trgovački gradovi
- Najveći trgovački gradovi
- Najveći trgovački gradovi
- Granica kneževine, crne crte granice
- - - Granica zvečel, Pancevača (Bosanska), Primorske hrvatske
- ▬ Granice između plemena
- ▬ Bizantska (Površina), Primorska i Sjeverna hrvatska
- ▬ Ostala Hrvatska

HRVATSKA ZA KRALJA TOMISLAVA

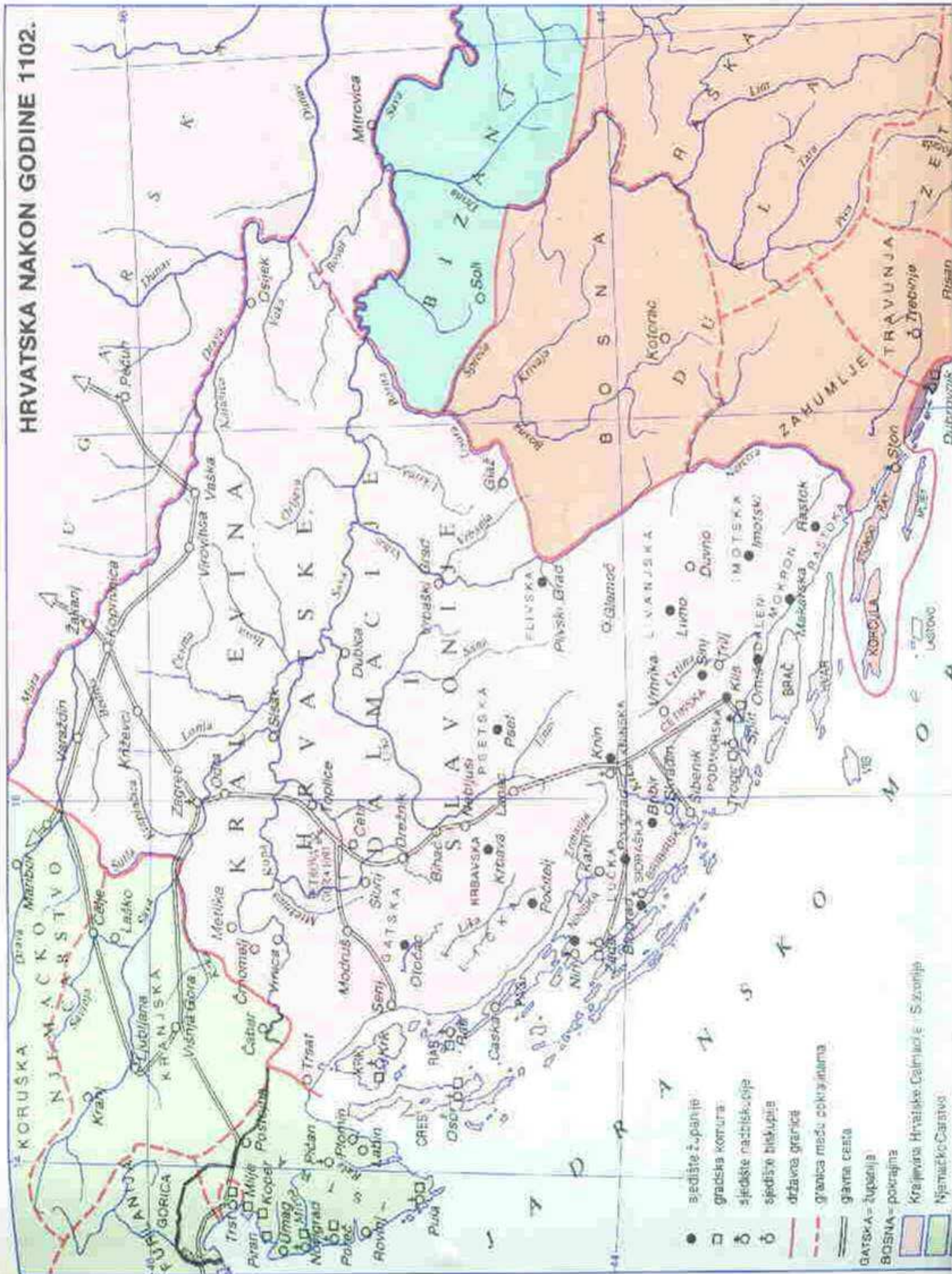


- prijestonica Hrvatskih vladara
- gradska komunna
- središte nadbiskupije
- središte biskupije
- državna granica
- - - granica pokrajina
- — — granica hrvatske županije
- — — Hrvatska Država
- — — države u vazalnom odnosu (posredna hrvatska vlast)

HRVATSKA U DRUGOJ POLOVICI XI. STOLJEĆA (za kraja Petra Krešimira IV. oko 1073.)

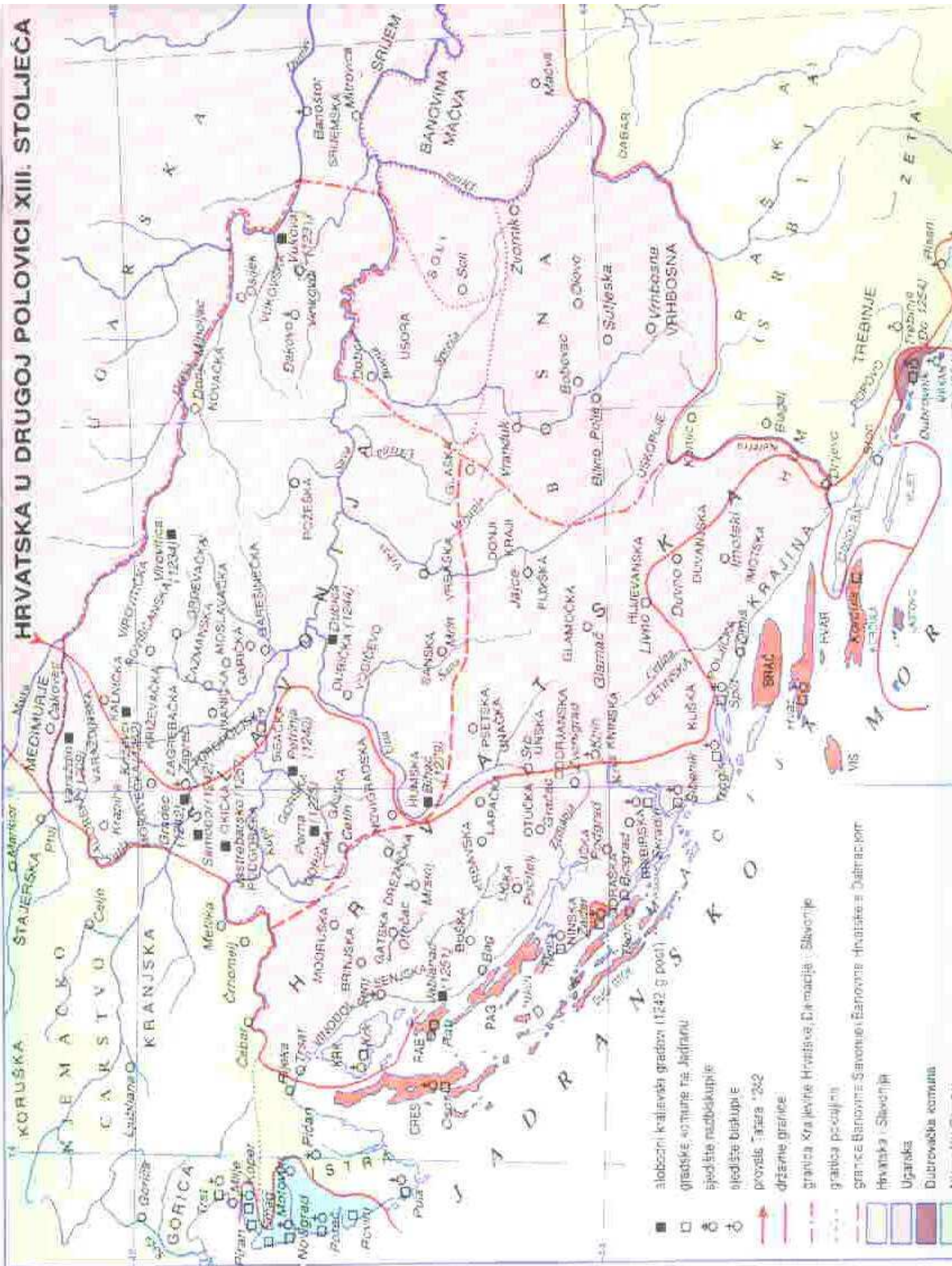


HRVATSKA NAKON GODINE 1102.

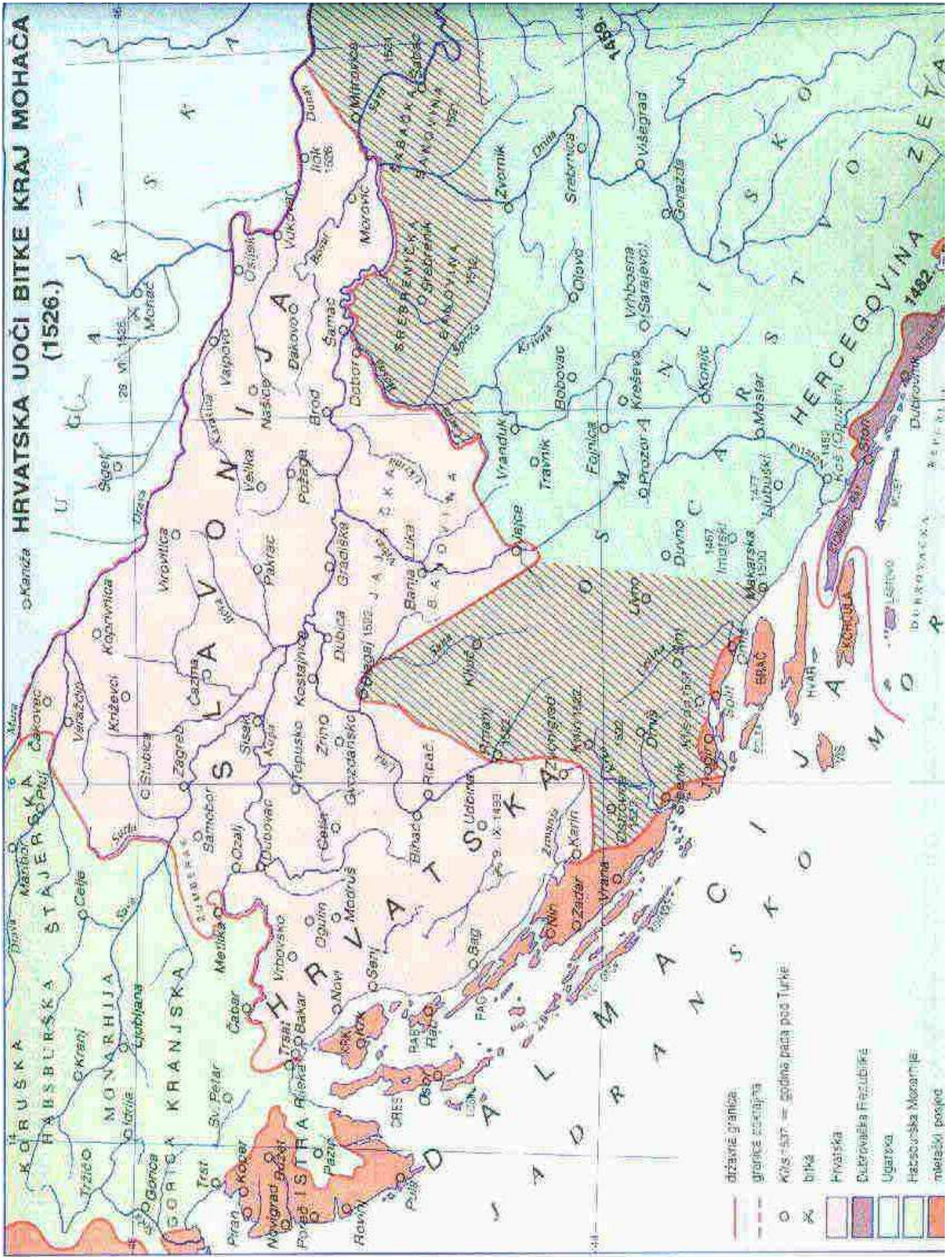


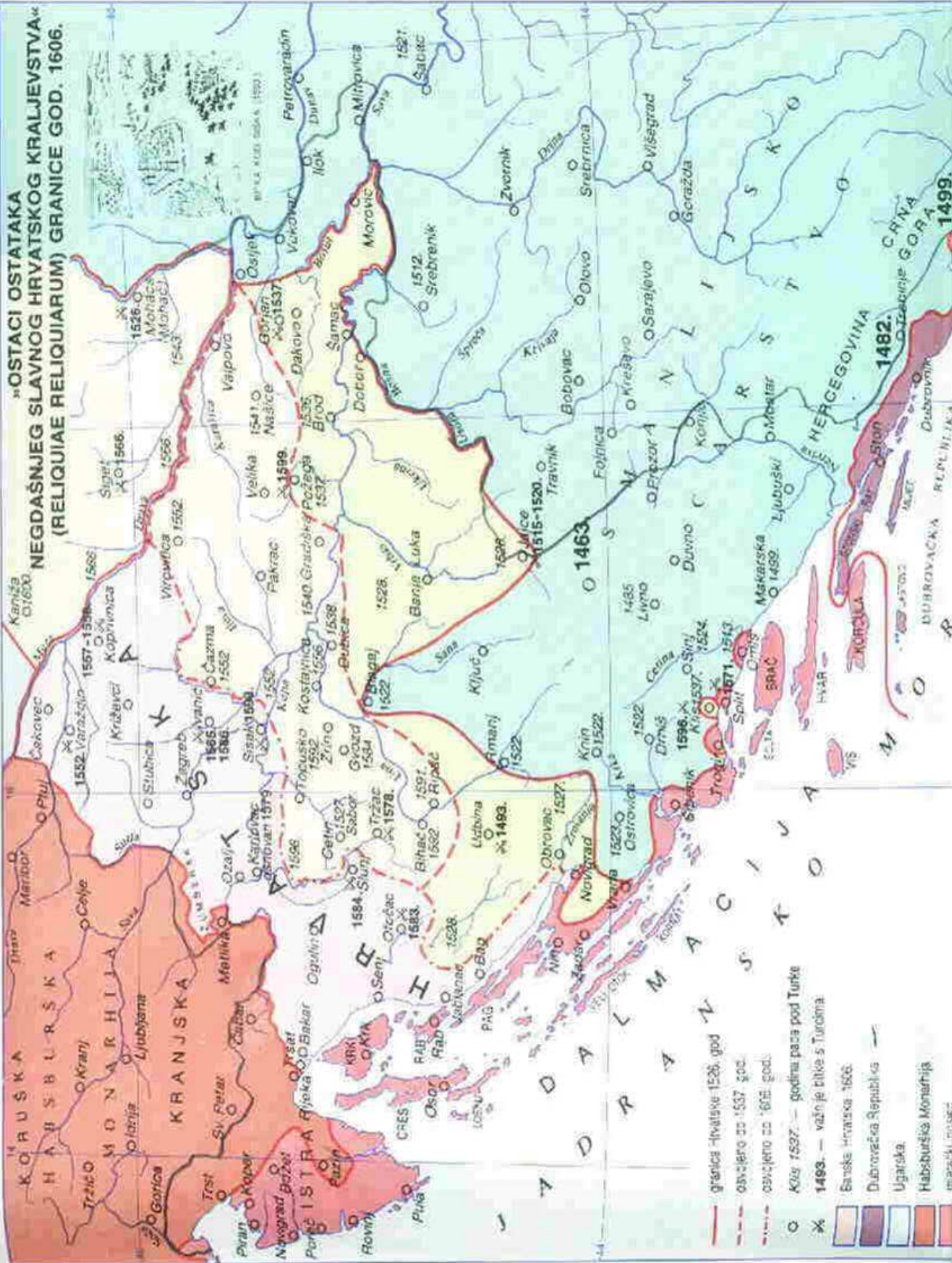
- sjedište županije
- gradska kotura
- ⊕ sjedište nadbiskupije
- ⊙ sjedište biskupije
- državna granice
- - - granica među općinama
- glavna cesta
- GATSKA - županija
- BOSNA - pokrajina
- Kraljevina Hrvatska, Dalmacija i Slavonija
- Njemačko-Carstvo

HRVATSKA U DRUGOJ POLOVICI XIII. STOLJEĆA



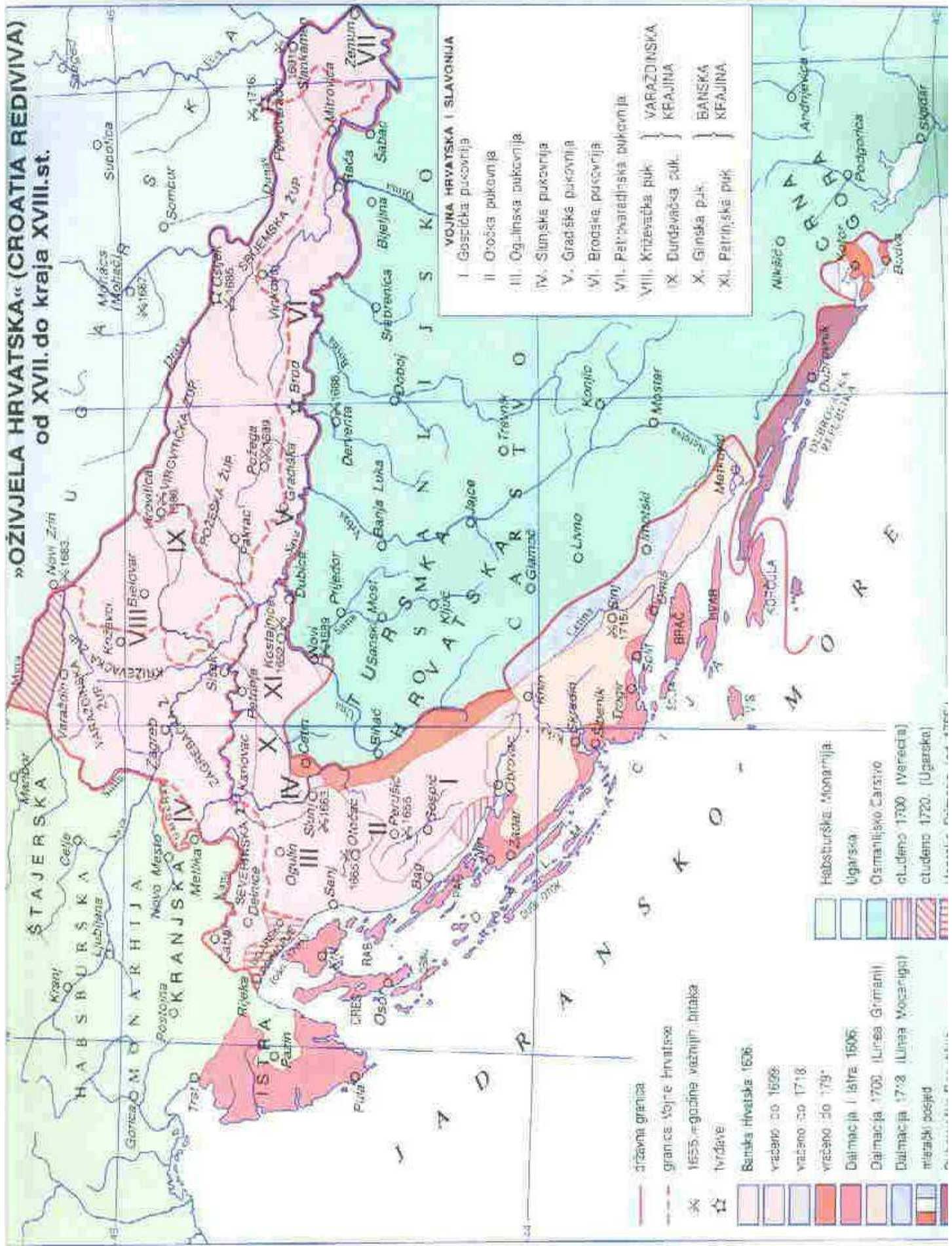
HRVATSKA UOČI BITKE KRAJ MOHAČA (1526.)





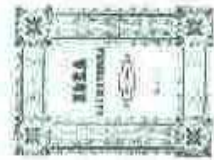
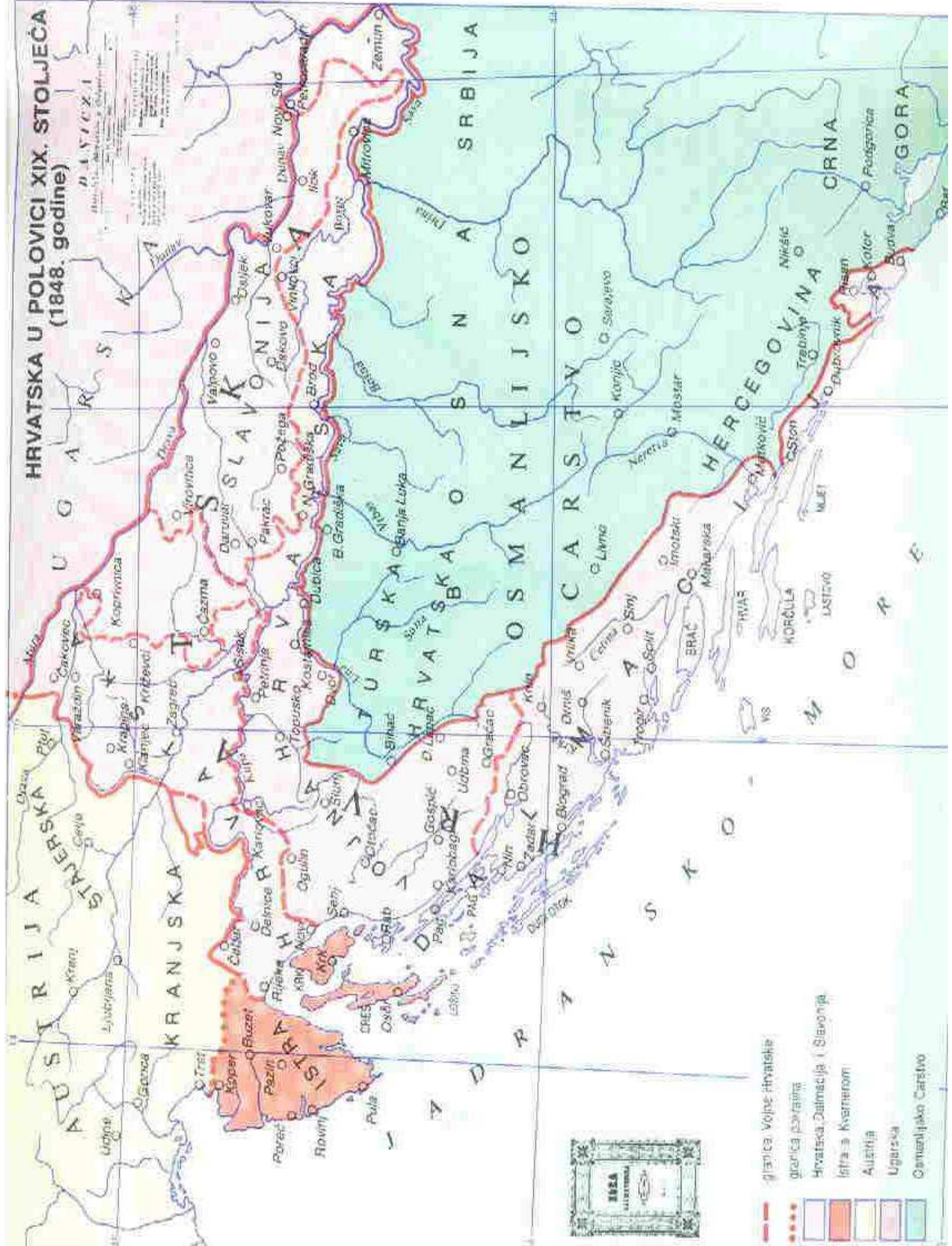
- granica Hrvatske 1526. god.
- - - - - ovladano od 1537. god.
- · - · - ovladano od 1606. god.
- Kuz 1537. — godina paza pod Turke
- × 1493. — važn je bitke s Turcima
- Banatska Hrvatska 1606.
- Dubrovačka Republika —
- Ugarska.
- Habsburška Monarhija
- marožki most

»OZIVJELA HRVATSKA« (CROATIA REDIVIVA) od XVII. do kraja XVIII.st.



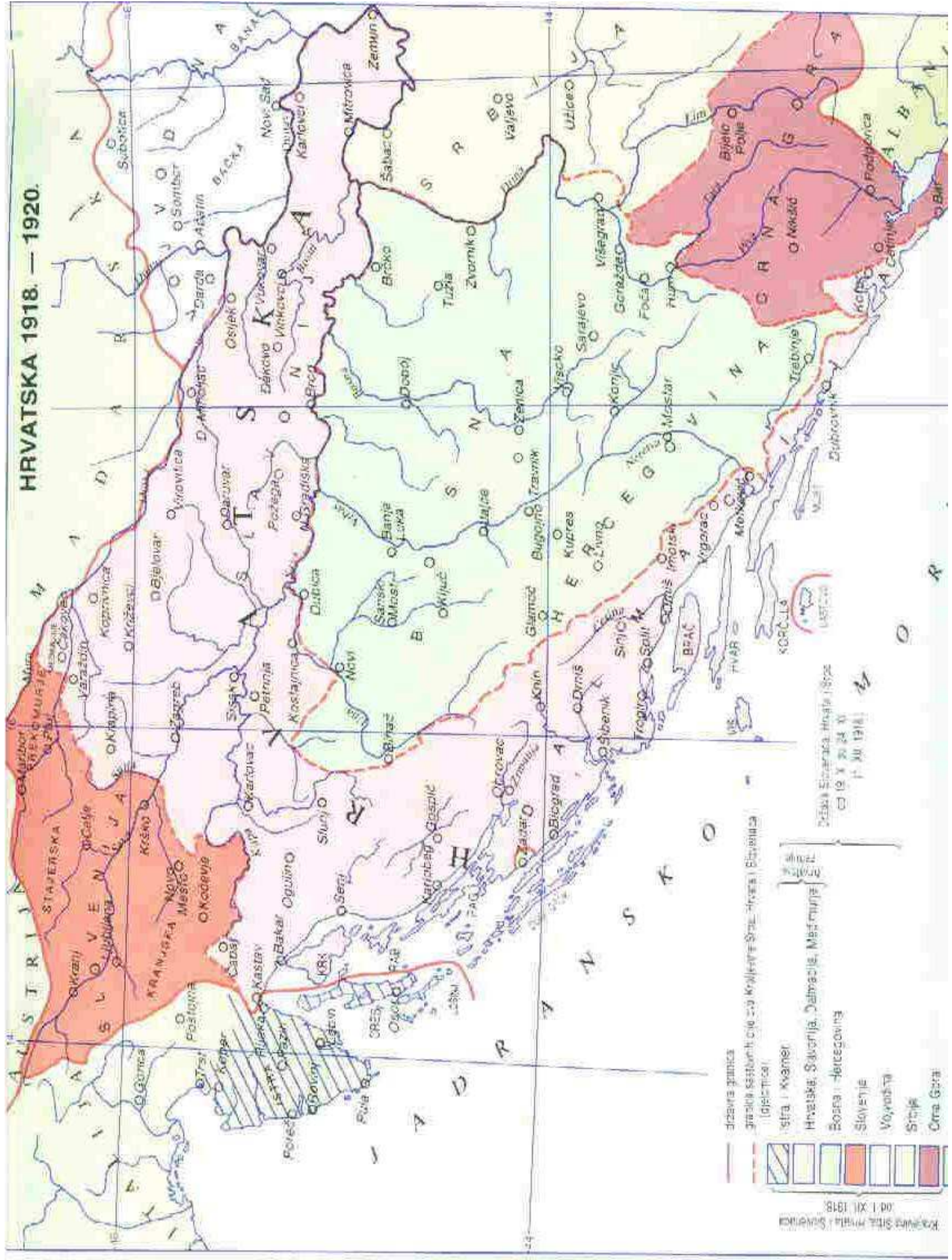
HRVATSKA U POLOVICI XIX. STOLJEĆA (1848. godine)

Dr. J. V. ČUKIĆ
 Hrvatska, Slavonija i Dalmacija
 1848. godine



- granica vojne hrvatske
- granica Slavonije
- Hrvatska Dalmacija i Slavonija
- Hrvatska Dalmacija i Slavonija
- Hrvatska Dalmacija i Slavonija
- Hrvatska Dalmacija i Slavonija
- Hrvatska Dalmacija i Slavonija
- Hrvatska Dalmacija i Slavonija

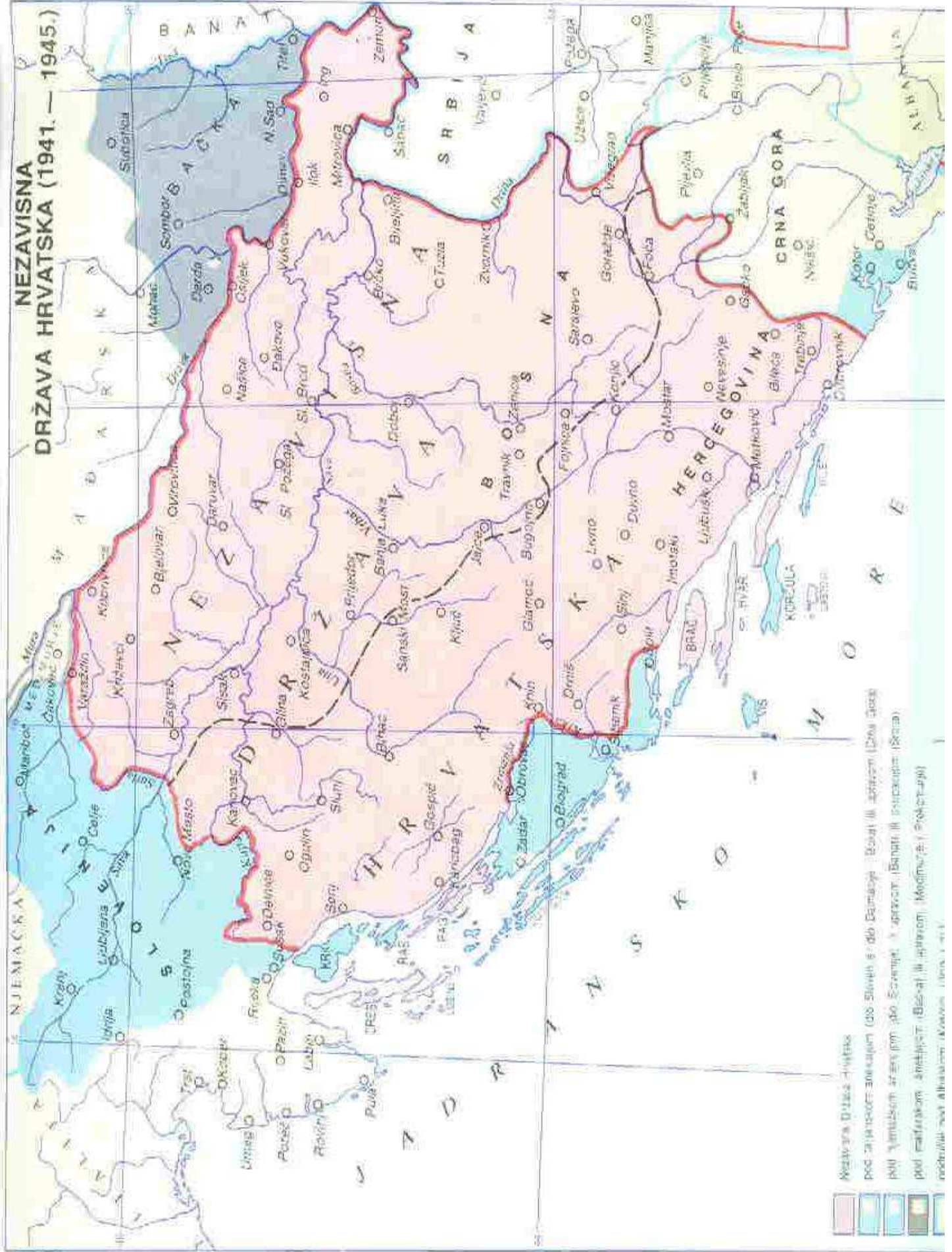
HRVATSKA 1918. — 1920.



- državna granica
 granice sastavnih dijelova Kraljevine Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca
 (dijelovne)
 sfera i kvamer
 Hrvatska, Slavonija, Dalmacija, Međimurje
 Bosna i Hercegovina
 Slovenija
 Voivodina
 Srijem
 Crna Gora

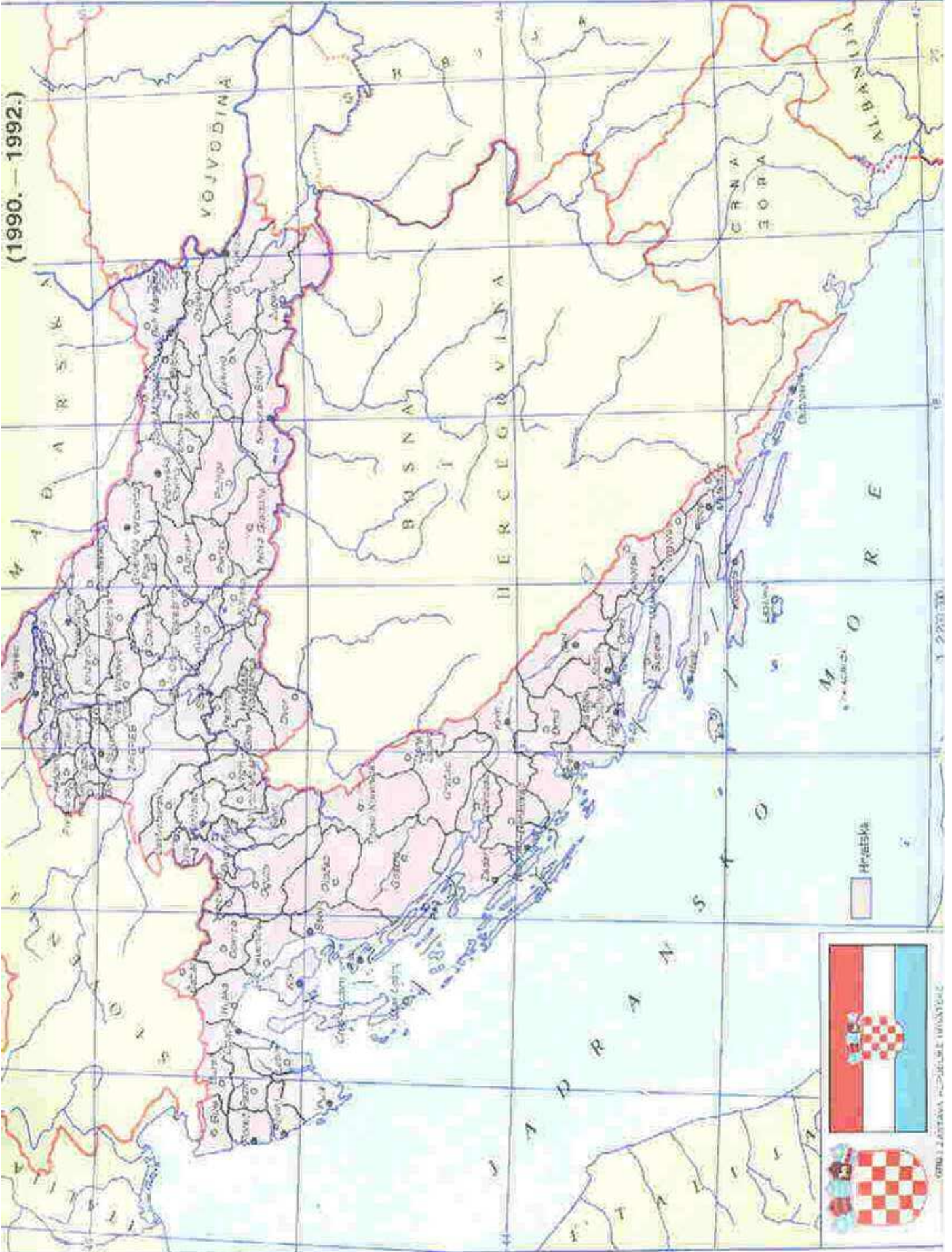
Džaba Slavonija, Hrvatska i Srpska
 1. XII 1918.

NEZAVISNA DRŽAVA HRVATSKA (1941. — 1945.)



Nezavisna Država Hrvatska
 pod italijanskom okupacijom (do Slavonske i dolje Baranje) i Bosna i Hercegovina (Dolna Džozja)
 pod njemačkom okupacijom (isto i sjeverno) i sjeverna i istočna Hercegovina (Sjeverna)
 pod njemačkom okupacijom (Bosna i Hercegovina) i sjeverna i istočna Hercegovina (Sjeverna)
 područja koja nisu bila pod okupacijom

(1990. — 1992.)



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA