

Serbia

Last update:	29 oktober 2020
Population:	8,737,371 (2020)
Prime minister:	Ana Brnabić
President:	Aleksandar Vučić
Governemental type:	Republic
Ruling coalition:	"For Our Children" - SNS, PUPS, SDPS, SNP, PS, PSS, SPO, NSS, USS
Last election:	21 June 2020 (parliamentary elections)
Next election:	April 2022 (presidential and parliamentary elections)
Sister parties:	Democratic Party, (DS), Social Democratic Party (SDS)

The transformation of Serbia since the break-up of Yugoslavia in the 1990s has been very dynamic, to say the least. From a dictatorship heavily involved in the wars in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo bombed by NATO, via a peaceful revolution and democratization, towards a semi-authoritarian regime that has opened the EU accession negotiations in January of 2014. In April 2017, outgoing Prime Minister Alexander Vucic (Serbian Progressive Party) was elected President by obtaining 55.02% of the votes. Consequently, mainly young people took it to the streets in Belgrade to protest against, what they saw, as a move towards a dictatorship in Serbia.

In 2019, tens of thousands of people demonstrated against the government. Eventually, the majority of opposition parties promised the Serbs to boycott the parliamentary elections if these were observed to be unfair under the "Agreement with the People". The elections were supposed to be held on the 26th of April 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic it had been postponed to the 21st of June. Keeping their promise, many parties, including the biggest opposition coalition Alliance for Serbia, decided not to partake because they found the current political atmosphere non-democratic. This resulted in a low turnout rate, with less than half of the eligible voters casting their ballots. The Four Our Children coalition, with the leading Serbian Progressive Party, won more than 60% of the votes, equaling to 188 seats. The runner-up was the alliance between the socialist Party of Serbia (SPS), United Serbia (JS) the Communist Party (KP) and the Greens of Serbia (ZS), obtaining 10% of the votes or 32 seats. The Serbian parliament has a total of 250 seats therefore, Four Our Children became the ruling coalition. Ana Brnabic remained the country's prime minister.

Political Situation

Serbian transformation

Hopes were high after the citizens and social movement Otpor (Resistance) toppled the Milošević regime in 2000 without a single bullet being fired. A pro-European Democratic Opposition of Serbia (DOS) coalition took over the power and one of the main parties within that coalition, the centre-left Democratic Party (DS) – remained in power for the most time until 2012. On the one hand, the rule of law, freedom of the press and European integration got a tremendous boost with the downfall of the dictatorship. On the other hand, the country did not manage to develop its economy sufficiently and give hope to the young people who are leaving, while the ruling elite did not manage to change the political culture. In addition, the relations with Kosovo continued to be a political burden. Milošević's former nationalist political partners used this disappointment to wrap themselves in a European flag and win parliamentary and presidential elections since 2012. Current President Vučić served as minister of information during the Milošević's regime.

With nationalists back in power the rule of law and democracy regressed. Institutions are weak, not independent and distrusted by the citizens. As a consequence, citizens' main way to participate in political life is by voting at elections. At the same time, the turnout at the elections is low: 56 per cent at the 2016 elections and less than 50% in 2020. While the civil society is putting effort to improve the quality of democracy, the government is reluctant to engage in a dialogue with the (civil) society, framing internationally

financed civil society as 'foreign agents'. Investment in active citizenship and knowledge about the political system is lacking while these are important tools to enhance democracy. Media freedom-wise Serbia is moving in the "Macedonia direction": total control of the public broadcaster and all other major media by the government. Editors and managers from (formerly) independent media outlets are being fired, or decide to quit their job, some being afraid of verbal and physical attacks on them and their family. In addition, there is no transparency in media ownership.

EU candidate status

In September of 2020, Serbia and Kosovo agreed, with mediation of U.S. President Donald Trump, to work on their economic ties. The accord involved highways and railways to connect the two countries, but political cooperation was not settled.

Belgrade and Pristina also signed a historic deal in 2013, mediated by Brussels, normalizing relations, opening their way towards EU integration and granting Serb majority municipalities in Kosovo broad powers in education, health care and spatial planning. The implementation of the deal on the ground remains a major challenge. The agreement had positive effects for Serbia and Kosovo concerning the EU integration. Serbia opened the accession negotiations, while Kosovo signed its first agreement with the EU that led to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

As a result of the breakthrough with Kosovo, the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and Serbia entered into force in September 2013. Three months later the Council adopted the negotiating framework, wherefore Serbia could hold the first Intergovernmental Conference on 21 January 2014. This date marks the formal start of the accession negotiations. In line with the new EU strategy, chapters 23 (rule of law) and 24 (fundamental rights) were one of the first ones to be opened. The government, however, did not use this opportunity to propagate the reforms related to these chapters as the action plan was adopted quietly in the parliament, with MP's obtaining the action plan one hour before the vote. Although the perspective of European integration had a big impact on the transformation of Serbian politics, and society to a certain extent, it lacked a long term sustainable approach. Moreover, the ruling elite misused European integration to legitimize all their actions; this "we-have-to-do-this-because-the-EU-says-so" attitude resulted in slow transformation during which the political elite acted like it was not in the interest in Serbia to engage in the European integration-related reforms. The long-term prospect of EU membership is not enough for the political elites in the region to reform. This is also shown by the fact that Serbia is not aligning her foreign affairs policy to the EU's policies. Also, the government is successfully creating an image of the strong historical, brotherly and spiritual relations between Serbia and Russia. Although the debate about the relations with Russia is blown about of proportions, the 'love' for Russia – after Belarus Serbia scores the best when it comes to the popularity of Russia – offers the nationalist political elite an escape card when recognition of Kosovo will be demanded as a prerequisite for EU membership.

Another important instrument in the EU accession process is the Berlin Process. Although it rightfully aims to enhance regional integration and cooperation, it lacks ownership (top-down process), is not transparent and only six EU member states are directly involved. This problem was not solved when the European Commission presented its new enlargement strategy for the Western Balkans in 2018. Although it raised the prospect of 2025 as the possible accession date of Serbia to the Union, it effectively underlined the necessary steps it will take before the country can become a member. Therefore, many political analysts and journalists are sceptical about the EU integration: as long as Serbia is cooperating on Kosovo, engages in regional cooperation and acts as a stable reliable actor to the EU, it will get EU's carte blanche on internal politics. Consequently, the quality of democracy has decreased: less free press, weakened rule of law and an increasingly authoritarian regime.

Fragmentation on the left

Since SNS took power in 2012, the Democratic Party (DS) has formed the core of the opposition in Serbia. The party fragmented however as several senior party members left the party. On 30 January 2014 former President of Serbia Boris Tadić resigned as honorary president of the DS. Tadić said he decided to leave because of disagreements with the direction in which the Democrats were heading under the new leadership. DS was at that moment looking for a potential coalition with the New Party (Nova Stranka) led by Zoran Živković, another former member of the DS. After his resignation Tadić started his own party: the New Democratic Party (NDS), later renamed to Social Democratic Party (SDS) Tadić supporter and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vuk Jeremić, also created his own political party, the People's Party in 2017, after Tadić left. Mayor of Belgrade and President of the party, Dragan Đilas, also left the party in 2014, after the DS lost its power in the Belgrade City Assembly. Showing his intent to run his own political platform.

With the centre-left vote split between multiple parties and groups, the opposition in Serbia has been heavily divided. The 2018 Belgrade Assembly Elections were seen by many as a test for the opposition if they still could function against the might of the SNS.

Leading up to the elections the centre-left couldn't unite. Dilas platform in the city was supported by the Movement of Free Citizens of former presidential candidate Saša Janković. While another former DS member, Aleksandar Šapić, run his own campaign. The division resulted in a sweeping victory for the SNS in the local elections, receiving 45% of the vote. While the DS didn't even make it to the threshold of 5% probably because Dilas and Sapic, respectively, won 19% and 9%. On a local and national level the Social Democratic opposition, of what use to be the DS, is now divided among multiple former DS members and their spin-off parties.

Protests unite opposition against the current government

In late 2018, a series of protests erupted in Serbia, started by angry citizens who are fed up with the authoritarian rule of president Vučić and his SNS party. The protests started in Belgrade but soon spread to other cities in Serbia, and are considered to be one of the longest-running protests in Europe. It was triggered by the assault on opposition politician, Borko Stefanovic, but the underlying anger towards the government was fueled by a wide variety of scandals involving ruling party members, such as sexual harassment cases and a whistleblower who uncovered an arms trade scheme. Apart from these issues, the protest has been centred around the death of Serb politician, Olivier Ivanović, who was murdered in front of his party office in Kosovo. The protests united parts of the country, with opposition members from all over the political spectrum joining forces. As a result, opposition parties from the left and right established the Alliance for Serbia, which is aimed at ousting Vucic and ensure fair and free elections. The Alliance boycotted the 2020 parliamentary elections citing the current conditions for an election as unfair and accusing the ruling Serbian Progressive Party of undemocratic practices. Former members of the European Parliament (MEP), Eduard Kukan and Knut Fleckenstein are currently mediating the dialogue between the Alliance for Serbia and the government lead by Vučić. But still, no agreement between the two sides has been reached, with the protests continuing and reaching participants numbers of over 25.000.

Parliamentary Elections

Apart from 2020, Serbian parliamentary elections are often called early: in 2016 the last parliamentary elections took place, only two years after the parliamentary elections in 2014. They, in turn, were also two years early, as there had been elections in 2012. Prime Minister Vučić called two early parliamentary elections to, as he argues, confirm the support for his reformist agenda. In reality, however, he has mastered the acts of dividing the opposition and cutting off their finances, control of the mainstream media and the election process, and, finding the optimal moment to pull together the resources for yet another election victory.

On 30 January 2014 Serbian President Tomislav Nikolić called early parliamentary elections. According to the president "Serbia shall certainly get a government with more energy and enthusiasm and released from problems that this government has solved". The coalition government, SNS is the main party, explained its request for early elections by the need to ensure "as wide as possible support for accelerated reforms and modernization of Serbia". However, the fact that SNS was skyrocketing in all polls (above 40 per cent) is considered as the crucial factor for SNS to go to the polls and having its leader Aleksandar Vučić return as Prime Minister, after having been Minister of Defence. On 16 March 2014, the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) won 48.4 per cent of the seats in parliament. Next to them, only three parties surpassed the threshold of 5 per cent: Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) 13.5 per cent, Democratic Party (DS) 6 per cent, and the coalition around former President Boris Tadić 5,7 per cent.

In 2016, Vučić stated that the preliminary elections were needed in order to ensure the smooth transition towards the EU and implementation of reform. During the elections, SNS led coalition obtained 48 per cent of the votes, Serbian Socialist Party (SPS) 11 per cent and Serbian Radical Party (SRS) 9 per cent. Just three other parties managed to pass the 5 per cent threshold: DS and It's Enough Movement obtained 6 per cent while the coalition of Social Democratic Party (Tadić), League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina (LSV, Čanak) and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) just passed the 5 per cent threshold. After the elections, in a joint statement, leaders of DS, Tadić-coalition and It's Enough movement stated that the elections were rigged. According to Bojan Pajtić (DS), many cases have been observed in which voters entered the polling stations with a ballot box that was already filled in. They were asked to prove to the 'activists' of the ruling SNS who were waiting outside the polling station that they have submitted this ballot by giving them the empty ballot they obtained inside the polling station.

In 2020, less than 50% of those eligible to vote casted their ballots. Not many people had faith in these elections since a lot of factions decided not to partake after they observed the undemocratic atmosphere and controlled media. The winner with 188 and more than 60% of the votes was the For Our Children alliance, with the Serbian Progressive Party as its leader. The alliance of the Socialist Party for Serbia between United Serbia, the Communist Party and the Greens of Serbia came in with 32 seats. The Serbian Patriotic Alliance obtained 11 seats and the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians received 9. The remaining seats are divided between the Only Right Alliance, Albanian Democratic Alternative together with United Valley and lastly, the Party of Democratic Action of Sanzjak. The Serbian parliament has 250 seats in total.

Election results

Party	Seats
Serbian Progressive Party (SNS 158 seats)-led For Our Children Alliance (Alliance 188 seats)	188
Socialist Party for Serbia, United Serbia Alliance Communist Party and Greens of Serbia	32
Serbian Patriotic Alliance	11
Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians	9
Justice and Reconciliation Party	4
Albanian Democratic Alternative and United Valley	3
Party of Democratic Action of Sandzak	3

Presidential Elections

On April 2nd 2017, Prime Minister and leader of the right-wing Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), Aleksandar Vucic, won the presidential elections with 55.02% of the vote for a five-year term. Former ombudsman and independent candidate – who was supported by the main opposition Democratic Party (DS) Sasa Jankovic was second with 16.36%, Ljubisa Preletacevic – Beli got 9.43%, the former Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic received 5.66% of the votes and Vojislav Seseli, who is the leader of the Serbian Radical Party (SRS), got 4.50%. For many people supporting the opposition, the results were disappointing because they had hoped that a second round with the two candidates receiving the most votes would be necessary. Notable about these elections was the participation of Ljubisa Preletacevic, who participated under his alter ego: Beli. He tried to hold a mirror up to the Serbian society by using humour and satire. Mainly young people and people who are disappointed in Serbian politics voted for him as an anti-establishment vote. Current President Tomislav Nikolic from the SNS did not rerun because his party decided to support Vucic instead of him, as they were not confident he could win. According to the Republic, Electoral Commission voter turnout was 54.54%.

Observers

The Centre for Transparency, Research and Accountability (CRTA), did not receive reports on major irregularities. They only noted irregularities in 3% of polling stations. They also noted that electoral commissions sometimes did not check the personal documents of voters, or if they had already cast their ballot. They also sometimes did not mark voter's fingers with special ink so that they cannot vote again. Finally, they noted that in Zajecar, Knjazevac and Alibunar, police stations were open to urgently issue voters with certificates to show that they had filed requests for new ID cards, this could enable people without valid IDs to vote. The incidents that were reported did not show a trend that could endanger the regularity of the election process.

Aftermath

The week after the elections thousands of Serbs took it to the streets of Belgrade and other cities to protest against Vucic's victory. The protestors mainly claimed that the election results mark the beginning of a dictatorship. Furthermore, they accuse Vucic's supporters of having rigged the elections leading to his victory. Especially during the campaign Vucic dominated in the media and had the most resources. The protestors are also calling for the resignation of the Serbian parliamentary speaker, Maja Gojkovic, as they claim she unlawfully prorogued parliamentary during the campaigning period. Lastly, the protestors want that the electoral roll is cleaned up because, according to them, there are over a million ineligible voters on it and they want the public broadcaster to be free from political influence.

(Social) Democratic parties

Social Democratic Party of Serbia (SDPS)

Party Leader: Rasim Ljajic

Number of seats: 8

<http://www.sdpsrbije.org.rs>

In October 2009 the newly established Social Democratic Party of Serbia (SDPS) was presented to the media. The main aim of the party is Serbia's accession to the European Union, the preservation of territorial integrity of the country, regionalization of Serbia and the reduction of state administration. Furthermore, it is of crucial importance to increase the living standards of the people. The main slogan of SDPS is 'only the people'.

On 12 December 2009 the statutes of the party were adopted by the first Party Congress which welcomed leaders of social democratic parties from the region. Rasim Ljajic was elected as the leader of the party. In the past the first strategic partner of the party was the Democratic Party, followed by the Socialist Party of Serbia. The party wanted to establish close relations with the S&D Group and other social democratic parties in the region. In 2012 the party joined the SNS led coalition with Ljajic as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Policy. In 2014 the party formed a pre-elections coalition with SNS.

The party formed a pre-election alliance with several other factions. Originally created in 2016, as "Let's Get Serbia Moving", it was changed to "For Our Children" in the 2020 parliamentary campaign. The nine parties involved in this coalition are the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), Party of United Pensioners of Serbia (PUPS), Social Democratic Party of Serbia, Serbian People's Party (SNP), Movement of Socialists (PS), Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), Strength of Serbia Movement (PSS), People's Peasant Party (NSS) and United Peasant Party (USS).

Other parties

Serbian Progressive Party (SNS)

Party Leader: Aleksandar Vučić

Number of seats: 158

<http://www.sns.org.rs>

The SNS was formed as a group of breakaway MPs in the parliament from the Serbian Radical Party (SRS). The party was registered on 10 October 2008. The SNS is a center-right, conservative party. Deputy leader at that time, Aleksandar Vučić, said that the new party's goal will be to "fight for a higher standard of living, combat against crime and corruption, and beat the regime of Boris Tadić and Ivica Dačić". Preserving the country's territorial integrity, according to him, will also be one of the SNS goals, while the party will have "a clear opposition stance". Currently the party does not have a opposition stance anymore: in 2012 SNS Tomislav Nikolić became president and in the parliamentary elections of 2016 SNS got almost half of the votes and, due to the electoral system in Serbia, an absolute majority in the parliament (131 out of 250 seats in the National Assembly).

The popularity of the party was reaffirmed during the 2017 presidential elections in which Vučić won. Under the leadership of Vucic relations with Kosovo were normalised, EU accession negotiation kicked off and generally speaking Vucic is perceived as a successful fighter against corruption and organised crime. Not a small part of Serbian electorate believes that when Vucic promises something, it will happen. At the same time the opposition is accusing the SNS increasingly controlling the media and destroying their political opponents through tabloid propaganda by simply calling them criminals or prosecuting them without clear evidence.

The party formed a pre-election alliance with several other factions. Originally created in 2016, as "Let's Get Serbia Moving", it was changed to "For Our Children" in the 2020 parliamentary campaign. The nine parties involved in this coalition are the Serbian

Progressive Party, Party of United Pensioners of Serbia (PUPS), Social Democratic Party of Serbia (SDPS), Serbian People's Party (SNP), Movement of Socialists (PS), Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), Strength of Serbia Movement (PSS), People's Peasant Party (NSS) and United Peasant Party (USS).

Party of United Pensioners of Serbia (PUPS)

Party Leader: Milan Krkobabić
Number of seats: 9
<https://pups.org.rs>

The Party of United Pensioners of Serbia was founded in 2005 by Milan Krkobabić. It first entered parliament in 2007.

The party formed a pre-election alliance with several other factions. Originally created in 2016, as "Let's Get Serbia Moving", it was changed to "For Our Children" in the 2020 parliamentary campaign. The nine parties involved in this coalition are the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), Party of United Pensioners of Serbia, Social Democratic Party of Serbia (SDPS), Serbian People's Party (SNP), Movement of Socialists (PS), Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), Strength of Serbia Movement (PSS), People's Peasant Party (NSS) and United Peasant Party (USS).

Serbian People's Party (SNP)

Party Leader: Nenad Popović
Number of seats: 3
<https://srpskanarodnapartija.rs>

The Serbian People's Party is a right-wing faction founded in 2014.

The party formed a pre-election alliance with several other factions. Originally created in 2016, as "Let's Get Serbia Moving", it was changed to "For Our Children" in the 2020 parliamentary campaign. The nine parties involved in this coalition are the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), Party of United Pensioners of Serbia (PUPS), Social Democratic Party of Serbia (SDPS), Serbian People's Party (SNP), Movement of Socialists (PS), Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), Strength of Serbia Movement (PSS), People's Peasant Party (NSS) and United Peasant Party (USS).

Movement of Socialist (PS)

Party Leader: Aleksandar Vulin
Number of seats: 3
<https://pokretsocijalista.rs/>

The Movement of Socialist is a left-wing party formed in 2012 by Aleksandar Vulin.

The party formed a pre-election alliance with several other factions. Originally created in 2016, as "Let's Get Serbia Moving", it was changed to "For Our Children" in the 2020 parliamentary campaign. The nine parties involved in this coalition are the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), Party of United Pensioners of Serbia (PUPS), Social Democratic Party of Serbia (SDPS), Serbian People's Party (SNP), Movement of Socialists, Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), Strength of Serbia Movement (PSS), People's Peasant Party (NSS) and United Peasant Party (USS).

Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO)

Party Leader: Vuk Drašković
Number of seats: 2
<https://www.spo.rs>

The Serbian Renewal Movement is a centre-right party, founded in 1990 by Vuk Drašković and Vojislav Šešelj.

The party formed a pre-election alliance with several other factions. Originally created in 2016, as "Let's Get Serbia Moving", it was

changed to "For Our Children" in the 2020 parliamentary campaign. The nine parties involved in this coalition are the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), Party of United Pensioners of Serbia (PUPS), Social Democratic Party of Serbia (SDPS), Serbian People's Party (SNP), Movement of Socialists (PS), Serbian Renewal Movement, Strength of Serbia Movement (PSS), People's Peasant Party (NSS) and United Peasant Party (USS).

Strength of Serbia Movement (PSS)

Party Leader: Bogoljub Karić

Number of seats: 2

<https://www.snagasrbije.com>

The Strength of Serbia Movement is a centre-right party, founded in 2004 by Bogoljub Karić.

The party formed a pre-election alliance with several other factions. Originally created in 2016, as "Let's Get Serbia Moving", it was changed to "For Our Children" in the 2020 parliamentary campaign. The nine parties involved in this coalition are the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), Party of United Pensioners of Serbia (PUPS), Social Democratic Party of Serbia (SDPS), Serbian People's Party (SNP), Movement of Socialists (PS), Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), Strength of Serbia Movement, People's Peasant Party (NSS) and United Peasant Party (USS).

People's Peasant Party (NSS)

Party Leader: Marijan Rističević

Number of seats: 1

<https://nss.org.rs/>

The People's Peasant Party is a right-wing faction, founded in 1990 by Dragan Veselinov.

The party formed a pre-election alliance with several other factions. Originally created in 2016, as "Let's Get Serbia Moving", it was changed to "For Our Children" in the 2020 parliamentary campaign. The nine parties involved in this coalition are the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), Party of United Pensioners of Serbia (PUPS), Social Democratic Party of Serbia (SDPS), Serbian People's Party (SNP), Movement of Socialists (PS), Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), Strength of Serbia Movement (PSS), People's Peasant Party and United Peasant Party (USS).

United Peasant Party (USS)

Party Leader: Milija Miletić

Number of seats: 1

<https://www.ujedinjenaseljackastranka.rs>

Founded in 2000, the party formed a pre-election alliance with several other factions. Originally created in 2016, as "Let's Get Serbia Moving", it was changed to "For Our Children" in the 2020 parliamentary campaign. The nine parties involved in this coalition are the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), Party of United Pensioners of Serbia (PUPS), Social Democratic Party of Serbia (SDPS), Serbian People's Party (SNP), Movement of Socialists (PS), Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), Strength of Serbia Movement (PSS), People's Peasant Party (NSS) and United Peasant Party (USS).

Socialist Party for Serbia (SPS)

Party Leader: Ivica Dačić

Number of seats: 23

<https://www.sps.org.rs>

The Socialist Party of Serbia is a left-wing/centre-left faction founded in 1990.

During the 2020 parliamentary elections, the party formed an alliance with United Serbia (JS), Greens of Serbia (ZS) and the Communist Party (KP).

United Serbia (JS)

Party Leader: Dragan Marković Palma
Number of seats: 7
www.jedinstvenasrbija.org.rs

United Serbia is a right-wing party founded in 2004.

During the 2020 parliamentary elections, the party formed an alliance with the Socialist Part of Serbia (SPS), Greens of Serbia (ZS) and the Communist Party (KP).

Greens of Serbia (ZS)

Party Leader: Ivan Karić
Number of seats: 1
<https://www.zelenisrbije.org>

Greens of Serbia is a centre-left party founded in 2007.

During the 2020 parliamentary elections, the party formed an alliance with United Serbia (JS), the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) and the Communist Party (KP).

Communist Party (KP)

Party Leader: Joška Broz
Number of seats: 1
<https://www.kp.rs>

The Communist Party is a far-left faction founded in 2010.

During the 2020 parliamentary elections, the party formed an alliance with the Socialist Part of Serbia (SPS), Greens of Serbia (ZS) and United Serbia (JS).

Serbian Patriotic Alliance (SPAS)

Party Leader: Aleksandar Šapić
Number of seats: 11
spas-srbija.rs

The Serbian Patriotic Alliance is a party that was founded on a local level in 2010 and on a national level in 2018. It can be categorised as a centre-right/right-wing party.

Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ)

Party Leader: István Pásztor
Number of seats: 9
<https://www.vmsz.org.rs>

The Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians was founded in 1994 by József Kasza. It is a centre-right party representing the Hungarian minority in Serbia.

Justice and Reconciliation Party (SPP)

Party Leader: Muamer Zukorlić
Number of seats: 4
<https://http://spp.rs>

The Justice and Reconciliation Party is a Bosnian minority faction founded in 2010 (as the Bosniak Democratic Union). It is a centre-right/right-wing bloc.

Party of Democratic Action of Sandžak (SDA)

Party Leader: Sulejman Ugljanin
Number of seats: 3
<https://www.sda.rs>

The Party of Democratic Action (SDA) of Sandžak is a centre-right/right-wing faction founded in 1990 by Sulejman Ugljanin. The SDA represents the country's ethnic Bosniak minority.

Party for Democratic Action (PDD)

Party Leader: Shaip Kamberi
Number of seats: 3
<https://www.pvd-pbm.org>

The Party for Democratic Action is an ethnic Albanian right-wing faction founded in 1990.

During the 2020 parliamentary elections, the party formed an alliance with the Alternative for Change, the Democratic Party, the Movement for Democratic Progress (PDP) and the Citizens' Change Movement.

Biographies

Aleksandar Vučić

President

Aleksandar Vučić is born on 5 March 1970 in Belgrade. He has been the First Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia, from 2012 till 2014. In 1993 his political career started: he joined the Serbian Radical Party (SRS) and was elected to the National Assembly. Two years later he became secretary-general of SRS. He ran in the Belgrade mayoral election twice, in 2004 and again in 2008, losing both times to candidates from the Democratic Party (DS).

In March 1998, Vučić was appointed Minister of Information in the government of Mirko Marjanović. Following rising resentment against Milosevic, Vučić introduced fines for journalists who criticized the government and banned foreign TV networks. He recalled in 2014 that he was wrong and had changed, stating "I was not ashamed to confess all my political mistakes." In July 2012 Vučić became Minister of Defense, but stepped down after a year due to a cabinet reshuffle. At the same time he was appointed Vučić became the First Deputy Prime Minister. Because his SNS party became the biggest at the 2014 elections, it was highly likely he became Prime minister.

Vučić has two children.

Ana Brnabić

Prime Minister

Ana Brnabić has been the Prime Minister of Serbia since 29 June 2017, her appointment is very unique given the fact that she is the first woman to become Prime Minister. On top of that, she also is the first openly gay person to hold office in Serbia. She began her role in the government as Minister of Public Administration and Local Self-Government of Serbia from 2016 till 2017, after then Prime Minister Vučić became President he put Brnabić forward as his successor, after she was voted in office by parliament with 157 of the 250 votes. Before being appointed to the government, she worked as director of Continental Wind Serbia, concerned with implementation of investment, worth €300 million, into a windpark in Kovin. In 2018 she was ranked by Forbes magazine as the 21st most powerful female political leader and 91st most powerful woman in

the world. Brnabić describes herself as a pro-European and technocratic prime minister. Opposition leaders and some observers describe her as a mere puppet of Vučić, whose presidency according to the Constitution is largely ceremonial with no significant executive power. Brnabić never denied this, and even said that Vučić should act as a "mentor" of prime minister

Ivica Dačić

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Leader Socialist party of Serbia (SPS) and

Ivica Dačić was born in Prizren, Serbia on 1 January 1966. He graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade. Dačić became a member of the Socialist Party of Serbia under Slobodan Milošević. The party went into opposition with the ousting of Milošević in 2000. Since then Dačić has invested in transforming the party. By choosing the pro-European coalition with the DS, he prevented the formation of a right wing radical coalition. Dačić favours younger party officials within his party and is the promoter of the so-called new socialism. Dačić became a member of the Serbian Parliament in 2004 and was a candidate in the presidential elections that year. He came in fifth with 3.6 percent of the votes. In 2006 Dačić was elected leader of the Socialist Party of Serbia. The Socialists returned to government in 2008. Dačić has been Prime Minister of Serbia from 2012 till 2014. Before this he served as First Deputy Prime Minister in 2008 till 2012 and was the Minister of Internal Affairs.

Ivica Dačić is married and has two children.

Boris Tadić

Leader New Democratic Party (NDS)

Boris Tadić was born 15 January 1958 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Belgrade with a degree in social psychology. Tadić was a member of the anti-communist dissident movement in Yugoslavia in the 1980s and was arrested and imprisoned several times by the communist authorities.

Tadić has been a member of the Democratic Party (DS) since 1990, and served as its deputy leader, before he was elected as the party leader in 2004 and re-elected in 2006. In 2000, in the months following the overthrowing of the Milošević regime, he served as Minister of Telecommunications in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. From March 2003 to April 2004 he was the Minister of Defence of Serbia and Montenegro, instituting democratic reforms and transforming the military to be NATO compliant. Boris Tadić served as President of Serbia from 2004 to 2012, which are two terms. In 2012 he resigned to trigger an early election. Following his defeat in the 2012 presidential election and poor party ratings, he stepped down in November 2012 to take the position of the party's Honorary President. After a split with the new leadership in January 2014, Tadić left the Democratic Party and formed his own bloc: the New Democratic Party, which currently holds 18 seats in parliament. Tadić strongly advocates close ties with the European Union and Serbia's European integration.

Boris Tadić is married and has two children.

Zoran Lutovac

Leader of the Democratic Party

Zoran Lutovac is a former diplomat who currently is the President of the Democratic party. From 2008 till 2013, Lutovac was Ambassador of Serbia to Montenegro. Lutovac graduated from the University of Belgrade Faculty of Political Sciences. After this he became a lecturer at the same faculty and worked at other universities. Lutovac joined the Democratic Party in 1996 and was chairman of the committees for ethnic minorities from 1997 till 2003 and chairman of the committee for human and minority rights from 2004 till 2008. Lutovac was a candidate for the President of the Democratic party at the party election in 2016, but lost to Dragan Šutanovac. After Šutanovac resigned in 2018, Lutovac was elected President of the Democratic Party on 2 June 2018.

Source

Country profiles

- BBC country profile
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Economy

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War Crimes

- UN International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
- War Crimes Tribunal Watch
- Institute for War and Peace Reporting on the Tribunal

News and analysis

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