

## Topic Page: [Balkan Peninsula](#)

Definition: **Balkan Peninsula** from *Merriam-Webster's Geographical Dictionary*

Peninsula in SE Europe bet. the Adriatic and Ionian seas on the W, the Mediterranean Sea on the S, and the Aegean and Black seas on the E.



Image from:

[ROMANIAN in Dictionary of Languages](#)

### Summary Article: **Balkan Peninsula**

From *The Columbia Encyclopedia*

southeasternmost peninsula of Europe, c.200,000 sq mi (518,000 sq km), bounded by the Black Sea, Sea of Marmara, Aegean Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Ionian Sea, and Adriatic Sea. Although there is no sharp physiographic separation between the peninsula and Central Europe, the line of the Sava and Danube rivers is commonly considered as the region's northern limit. The Balkan Peninsula therefore includes most of Slovenia, Croatia, and Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, continental Greece (including the Peloponnese), Bulgaria, European Turkey, and SE Romania. These countries, successors to the Ottoman Empire, are called the Balkan States. Historically and politically the region extends north of this line to include all of Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, and Romania.

The peninsula is very mountainous; the main ranges are the Dinaric Alps, the Balkans, the Rhodope Mts., and the Pindus. Except for the barren Karst plateau in the northwest and the eroded highlands of Greece, the mountains are densely forested. The Morava, Vardar, Strimón, Mesta, and Maritsa are the largest rivers. The Morava and Vardar river valleys form the chief corridor across the peninsula. The mild Mediterranean-type climate, with its dry summer period, is limited to the southern and coastal areas. Covering a greater area are the humid subtropical climate in the northwest and the harsher humid continental climate in the northeast. The region as a whole is largely agricultural; fruits, grains, and grazing are important. A variety of mineral deposits are found there, including iron ore, coal, manganese, copper, lead, and zinc.

The peoples of the Balkan Peninsula make up several racial groups. However, linguistic and religious differences are more distinct than the racial divisions. The peninsula, at the crossroads of European and Asian civilizations, has a long history; Ancient Greece, the Byzantine Empire, and the Ottoman Empire flourished there.

See Kaplan, R. D. , *Balkan Ghosts* (1994);.

Tedorov, M. , *Imagining the Balkans* (1997);.

Mazower, M. , *The Balkans: A Short History* (2000).

**APA**

Chicago

Harvard

MLA

Balkan Peninsula. (2018). In P. Lagasse, & Columbia University, *The Columbia encyclopedia* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Columbia University Press. Retrieved from [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/balkan\\_peninsula](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/balkan_peninsula)

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## APA

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## Chicago

"Balkan Peninsula." In *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, by Paul Lagasse, and Columbia University. 8th ed. Columbia University Press, 2018. [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/balkan\\_peninsula](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/balkan_peninsula)

## Harvard

Balkan Peninsula. (2018). In P. Lagasse & Columbia University, *The Columbia encyclopedia*. (8th ed.). [Online]. New York: Columbia University Press. Available from: [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/balkan\\_peninsula](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/balkan_peninsula) [Accessed 16 October 2019].

## MLA

"Balkan Peninsula." *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, Paul Lagasse, and Columbia University, Columbia University Press, 8th edition, 2018. *Credo Reference*, [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/balkan\\_peninsula](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/balkan_peninsula). Accessed 16 Oct. 2019.