

# My Cross Cultural Experiences

By: Alisa H.

CLDV 100~N2

Prof. Remi Alapo

Fall 2021



# What is culture?

- The characteristics and knowledge connected with a group of people are referred to as culture.
- Some of these characteristics include:
  - Celebrations
  - Manners
  - Language
  - Religion
  - Food
  - Music



# What is a cross cultural experience

- A culturally diverse encounter is one where at least two distinct societies are united. Cross cultural experience allows people of different backgrounds to learn from each other.
- One effect of such instances is the acceptance of cultures. People will start to pick up on certain cultural traits and identify by them. Such as clothing, customs, traditions, laws, rules.
- In a cross-cultural experience people will want to learn and ask questions about the others language, religion, day to day life, etc.



# My Cultural Values

- I am from Montenegro, but I was born in New York. My parents immigrated to the United States at separate times. My father came thirty years ago, and my mother came twenty-five years ago. While living in America they have learned many new things, like learning English; but their Montenegrin traditions and values have never gone away.
- Some of my cultural values are:
  - Making Turkish coffee when people arrive.
  - Being respectful and obedient to older people.
  - Helping in the kitchen.
  - Dancing and listening to music.



# Traditions

- There are many different traditions in a Montenegrin culture. In marriage, the women have a bridal shower called "Kana" this is when her side of the family hosts a party and showers her with gifts to celebrate her as a bride.
- Another tradition is when the couple gets married. Each side of the family must go to each others' homes and meet each other. When they have these events, they each bring gifts for one another.
- For example, when my cousin got married her fiancé brought her perfume, a purse, shoes, etc.



# Food

- Food is a very important thing in our culture.
- Whenever Montenegrin people go out for dinner, they order large amounts of food to feed the whole town.
- We cannot eat pork since it is against our religion
- Whenever someone cooks in the family, we always invite each other to come over and have a meal.
- Some meals that are common are plasma cookies with milk as a late-night snack. This was a very common meal for me when I was in Montenegro.
- Burek with spinach, cheese, ground beef, potatoes.
- Cevape with pita bread, Ivar, lettuce, etc.



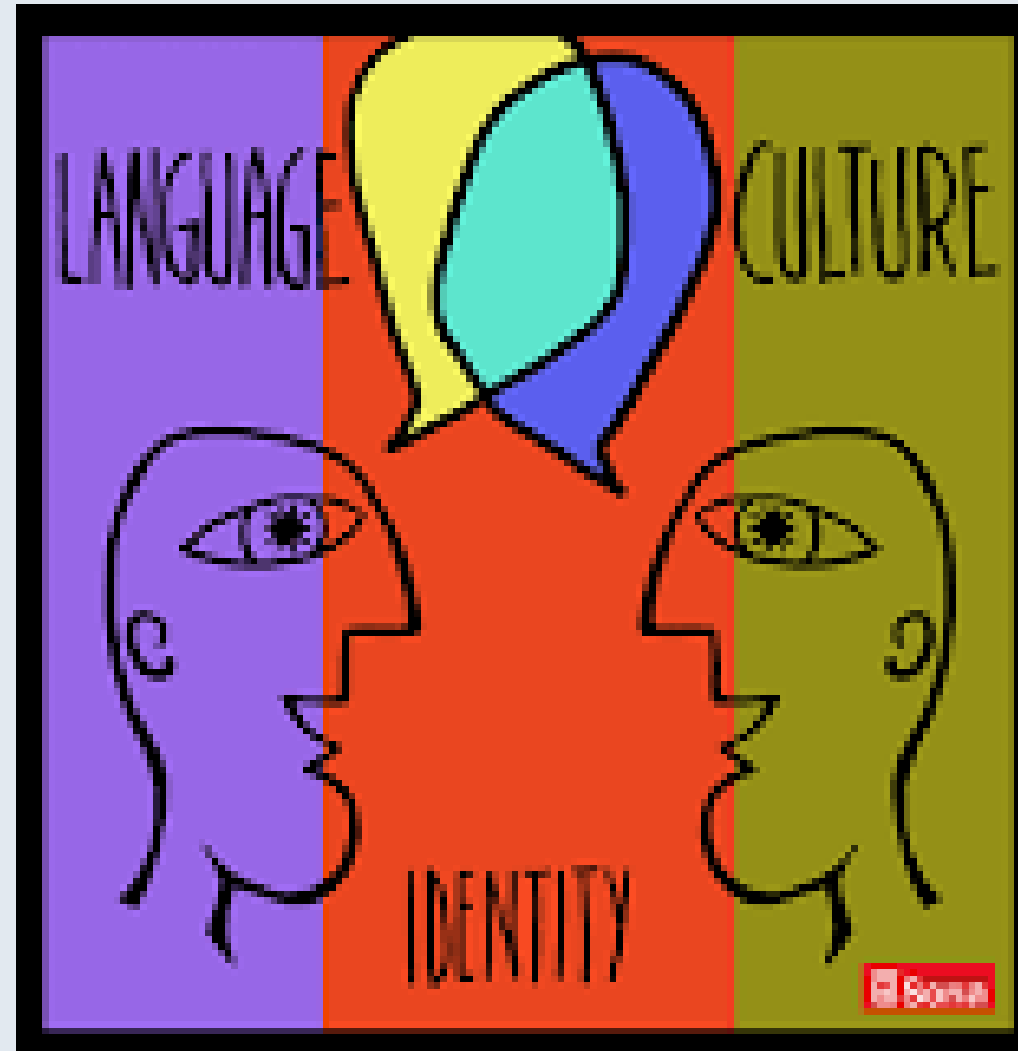
# My family

- In my family, we are very close. We always see each other on the weekends because we work throughout the week.
- When there is a new baby in the family, each of us would have to go to that person's home and bring gifts and money to celebrate the baby.
- We always have dinners every weekend and have food such as burke, cevape. These foods are part of our culture. Whenever we are sitting around the table, the oldest sit at the end and the youngest in the middle. The kids and young adults are serving the older people as a sign of respect.
- For example, my father when he is sitting, it is rare for him to get up for dinner because people always ask him if he needs anything



# Language

- Although I was born and raised in New York. Croatian was my first language. My parents both speak the language, and, in our household, we don't speak English. I was taught English as my second language.
- It is very common in a Montenegrin household for families to teach their children the native language instead of English. For example, my sister just had a baby last year and we only speak Croatian to him so that he can adapt to our culture first. One reason why our culture does this is so that the child can feel connected to their roots.





# Beliefs/Religion

In our Montenegrin culture we practice Islam.

Another thing we do each year is fasting. It is the holy month of fasting. This is called Ramadan.

Marriage in the same culture

The man is supposed to be the bread winner for the family

# My Cross-Cultural Experience in Montenegro

- Being in a home that has such strong values and traditions, doesn't compare to traveling to Montenegro. Since COVID-19 I haven't been back home in Montenegro, but I am planning on going next year. When I am in Montenegro, I always feel like I am home and complete. Usually the travel time is 9 hours.
- The culture is more positive, people are saying hello to each other, everyone speaks to the same language, same holidays, same values, etc. Everyone has the same values and culture. Meanwhile in New York, majority of people are part of different cultures and religions.



# Similarities and differences

- There are many differences between people that live in Montenegro and that live in NYC.

- Similarities:                      -Differences
  
- Religion                              -Food                                      ---
- Holidays                              -Jobs                                      ---
- Marriage                                - Home style
  
- Respecting elders                  -Clothing
  
- Music                                      ---
- Dancing



**Dure Vie Family 11/02/2021**

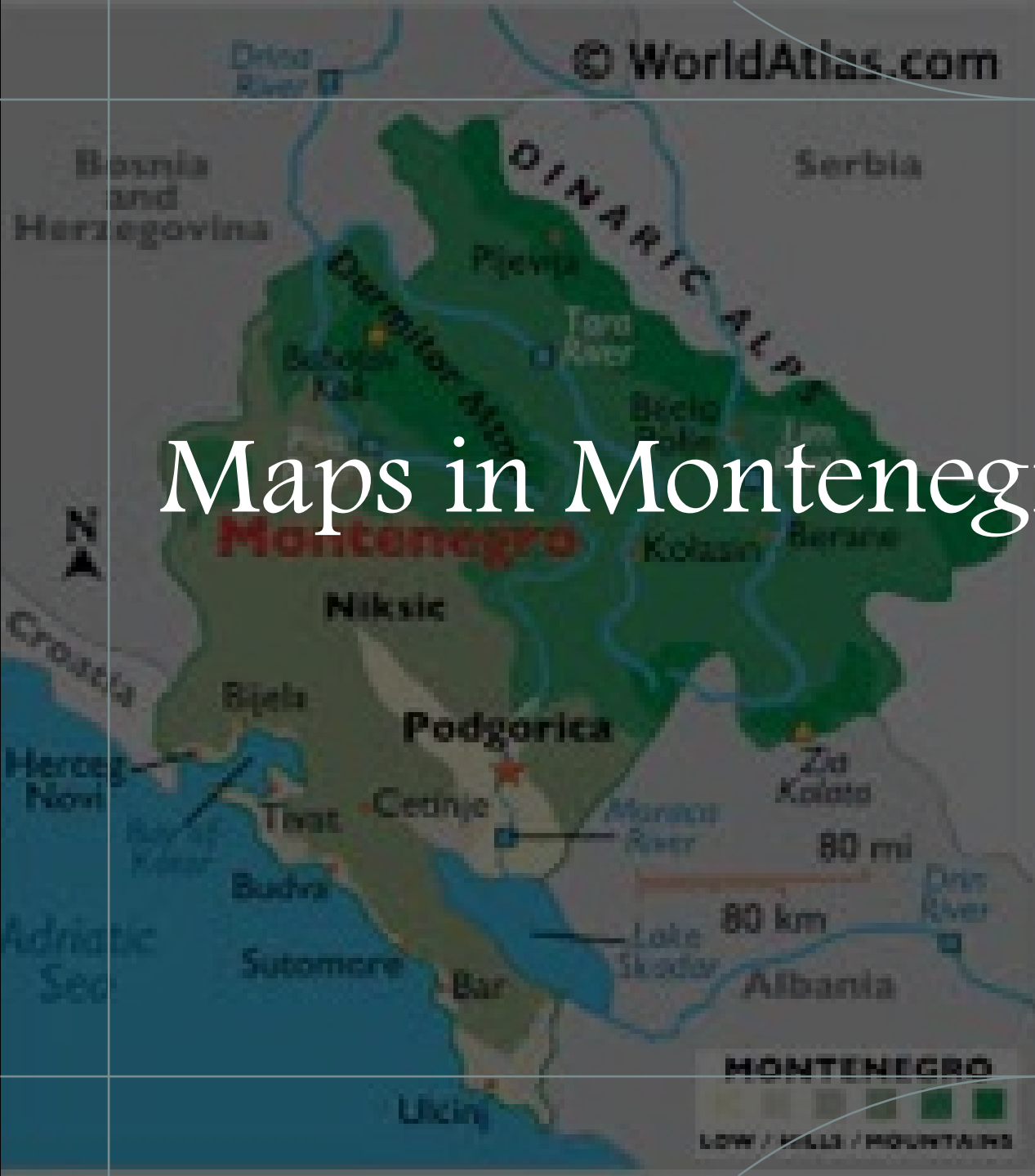


# Cultural Artifact

- The tasbih is used for religious purposes it can vary from each religion but in Islam and to my knowledge we use it as a form of prayer.
- This necklace I have in my car brings me luck and a sense of protection. Whenever I am driving, and I look at the necklace I always feel safe. The necklace signifies purity and brightens my day however I am feeling.
- This item has helped me to maintain my cultural identity because it's something I see every day and it reminds me of my family and our traditions and values. Many Muslims carry tasbihs in their purses or like how I do, hanging it in the car to signify that Allah (god) is always with us. Furthermore, each bead is blessed with certain sayings from the Quran that make it special and allows us to read hadiths on it.



# Maps in Montenegro



# Maps continued...

- In the first map on the left, you see a map of Montenegro. There are villages and main cities as well as beaches. The capital of Montenegro is Podgorica. When I land in Montenegro, I land in Podgorica. The beaches are a very popular place in Montenegro, this is where lots of tourist will go. Some of the beaches are called, Kotor, budva, etc. The towns are so beautiful and have so much culture to them.
- "Budva", is a coastal town in which coexist in a fascinating way the two souls of Montenegro: the historical one, with particular reference to the medieval period and the modern one, the sea tourism." (By the Golden Scope).



# Summary

- A cross cultural experience is very important because based on my experiences, you get to learn multiple cultures and how you can relate to each. Being born in America you have so many cultures around you. Majority of my friends are Spanish so I see how they celebrate holidays, what they wear, etc. I also learn how my friends value their parents and that teaches me a lot of things. Seeing other cultures teaches people a lot of things and makes them think outside of what they are used to.

# Annotated Bibliography

- The Golden Scope, and The Golden Scope. "Budva, Medieval History and Tourist Beaches Montenegro." *The Golden Scope*, 9 July 2019, <http://www.thegoldenscope.com/2019/07/budua-medieval-history-and-tourist-beaches/>.
- This text is very useful because it explains how much history Budva has. The article also shows the architecture of the town and how it has changed.