

# Albania and Slovenia: To Compare and Contrast

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Balkan Republics, Europe-- Albania and Slovenia, two of the Balkan Republics, are alike, but at the same time they are very different. Most of their problems come from what makes them different. Their differences are in their ethnic groups, religions, governments, languages, and other things. Although they have their differences, they have many similarities in how they originated, their economy and their alphabet.

Albania is 11,100 square miles with a population of 3,490,435 people. Their monetary unit is the Lek. The GDP per capita of Albania is \$1650. The capital of Albania is Tirane. The government is a democracy.

Slovenia is smaller than Albania and has only 7,819 square miles. The population is 1,927,593. The monetary unit is the Slovenian Tolar. Slovenia's capital is Ljubljana. The government is a parliamentary democracy. The GDP per capita is \$10,300.

Both Albania and Slovenia originated from the Illyrain people. However, their ethnic groups vary. Albania is 95% Albanian and 3% Greek. Slovenia's population is 91% Slovene and 6% Serb-Croatian.

Both countries were invaded by the Romans. Albania was also

conquered by the Byzantine Empire and the Ottoman Turks. Slovenia was invaded by the Austrian and Hungarian Empire.

One thing that both countries have in common is their alphabet. They both use Latin words in their language. But their languages are different. Albanians speak Albanian or Greek. Slovenians speak Serbo-Croatian and Slovenian. The literacy rate for Slovenia is 99% but it is only 72% in Albania.

Religion has caused problems between the two countries. Both countries have Roman Catholics and Muslims. But Albania is mostly Muslim, and Slovenia is mostly Roman Catholics.

The economies of the two countries are similar. Both grow wheat, potatoes, corn, beets, grapes, and sugar. They both produce textiles and chemicals. However, Albania has vegetables, fruit, meat, dairy products, food processing, lumber and oil. While Slovenia has hops, cattle, sheep, poultry, Aluminum, zinc, and lead.

Albania and Slovenia are both Balkan Republics. They are alike in many ways, but they still have conflicts with each other due to differences in religion, their ethnic backgrounds, and the difference in their wealth.