

Last Yugoslavia king buried in Serbia

28th May, 2013



The last king of Yugoslavia, Petar II, was buried in a state funeral in Belgrade, Serbia on Sunday. He died 43 years ago in the United States. He

lived in the USA after his family escaped from the Nazis in 1941. After World War II, Yugoslavia became communist and its leaders banned him from returning. Petar II died in 1970, aged 47. He was the third and last king of Yugoslavia. Three members of his family were buried with him - his wife, Queen Alexandria, his mother Queen Maria, and brother Prince Andrew. Petar II was originally laid to rest in Illinois, USA after he died. His wife was buried in Greece and his mother in a cemetery near Windsor Castle in England. The four are now together in their family mausoleum.

Petar II became king at the age of 11 in 1934 after his father was assassinated in France. He was too young to rule the country and waited until he was 17 to be ruler. Eleven days later, he and his family fled to the USA after Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary and Italy invaded Yugoslavia. After WWII, Yugoslavia became a communist country. Its leader, General Tito, ended the country's monarchy. Yugoslavia split up following wars that started in 1991. Today, around 40% of Serbs support the idea of bringing back the monarchy. Milka Radojicic, 78, welcomed back his king, saying: "Our king was forced to leave, he was forced never to set his foot back to his homeland...Finally, he is here where he belongs."

Sources: BBC / InSerbia.info / Al Jazeera

Writing

Royal families are from the past. They have no use and do not belong in today's society. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

king / Yugoslavia / funeral / escaped / communist / leaders / buried / cemetery / assassinated / ruler / flee / invaded / monarchy / welcomed back / homeland

True / False

- Petar II was buried in the mountain village in which he grew up. T / F
- Petar II died 43 years ago. T / F
- Petar II was the third king to have ruled Yugoslavia. T / F
- The wife of Petar II is buried in Windsor castle in England. T / F
- Petar II's father died in France in a horse riding accident. T / F
- Petar II only had the chance to rule Yugoslavia for 11 days. T / F
- Around 40% of Serbs reject the idea of bringing back the monarchy. T / F
- A 78-year-old man was pleased Petar II was buried in Serbia. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. buried | a. ran away |
| 2. escaped | b. lead |
| 3. returning | c. tomb |
| 4. originally | d. broke apart |
| 5. mausoleum | e. laid to rest |
| 6. assassinated | f. took over |
| 7. rule | g. murdered |
| 8. invaded | h. coming back |
| 9. split up | i. at last |
| 10. finally | j. at first |

Discussion – Student A

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'king'?
- What do you know about Yugoslavia?
- Would you like to be a king/queen?
- What do kings and queens do every day?
- What is the role of a king or queen?
- Do you agree with the idea of a monarchy?
- What kind of king/queen would you be?
- Which of the world's monarchs do you like/dislike?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. buried in a | a. to rest in Illinois |
| 2. his family escaped | b. the country |
| 3. its leaders banned him | c. their family mausoleum |
| 4. Petar II was originally laid | d. assassinated in France |
| 5. The four are now together in | e. from the Nazis |
| 6. his father was | f. where he belongs |
| 7. rule | g. state funeral |
| 8. Yugoslavia became | h. back the monarchy |
| 9. the idea of bringing | i. from returning |
| 10. he is here | j. a communist country |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of the life of Petar II?
- Can a 17-year-old be a good king?
- Why do you think General Tito ended Yugoslavia's monarchy?
- Why do you think only 40% of Serbs want the monarchy back?
- What would it be like to be banned from your own country?
- What benefits does a country get from a monarchy?
- Which is better, a king or queen?
- What questions would you like to ask Petar II's family?

Spelling

- buried in a state urnefl
- his family sdpceea from the Nazis
- Yugoslavia became tsmunmoic
- banned him from nuegrtnir
- yngirilolai laid to rest
- a ryceetem near Windsor Castle
- his father was ssaiaasdtne
- Italy dndeia Yugoslavia
- bringing back the rychoamn
- ppotsru the idea
- he was ercofd
- where he ogenslb

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. a	3. h	4. j	5. c
6. g	7. b	8. f	9. d	10. j

Role Play

Role A – King of X-land

You think your country should keep its monarchy. Tell the others three reasons why. You are a good king and you can help your country a lot. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the others a monarchy is more useful today than ever before. Your people love you and your family.

Role B – President of X-land

You think your country should say goodbye to its monarchy. Tell the others three reasons why. The royal family does nothing for your country. They cost a lot of money. Tell the others a monarchy is totally useless today. An elected president is better.

Role C – Citizen of X-land

You think your country shouldn't have a monarchy. Tell the others three reasons why. You think it's terrible that one family gets so much money from your country. Everyone else in your country has to work hard. Tell your king he's very lazy and does little to help the country.

Role D – Historian of X-land

You think X-land should keep its monarchy. Tell the others three reasons why. All of the great countries in the world have a monarchy. Tell the king he needs to work harder to show his people that a monarchy is useful in the 21st century. Tell the citizen to have more pride in his/her country.

Speaking - Banned

What would you miss about your country if you were banned from living there? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the biggest things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- neighbours
- weather
- TV
- town/city life
- culture
- food
- religious events
- countryside

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.