

After Jugo

Sarajevo, the life of a generation

www.afterjugo.com

a multimedia project by Marco Pavan

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Hazim

My name is Hazim Terzić, I am 21 years old, born in Travnik but now I am living in Sarajevo. I am a student and a b-boy, that's something I like to say, it's my love for dance. I moved to Sarajevo about two and a half years ago and I started studying at the University of Sarajevo, at Political Sciences and I am now learning media journalism. How did I come to this college? It was kind of funny story, because I tried three times to enrol at the college, actually. I didn't know it was that hard: I tried two times to go to Germany, because my whole plan was different, I wanted to go to Switzerland to study and I only needed papers that I was a student here in Sarajevo but I didn't get those papers and that made me the choice of university quite smaller. The only thing that was left was journalism, so I went there. My all life should be different, because I should have gone to Switzerland after the high school. I finished the high school that was a language gymnasium in Travnik and after that it was normal to study languages, not media. I am on the second year now and it is kind of good, I like Sarajevo a lot. Since I moved here I felt deeply in love with the city, it is a huge town that offers a lot of things. Everyone has something for his taste and interest. After university it would be really nice if I could get a job here in Sarajevo and not go back to Travnik, just stay here and do something that I learnt on college. But it will be kind of difficult to find a job here because most of the places are not free and it is hard to get a job, so maybe I will go somewhere abroad, to study, to continue my college or just to work and live somewhere else.

First of all you need to know that Bosnia is a multiethnic country and a multi-religious country, so the biggest religions are also found here in Bosnia. The problem with me is that I don't pay attention about which religion people are because I don't think that this is the most important thing in people's life. It is like a railroad you go on. I don't know, everyone has the right to believe in whatever they think it's right. The problem started here in Bosnia after the war, actually. I think it was even before the war but now it is a bigger problem when you have divided towns, for example Mostar, and also in Travnik. When you actually have bars for people of only one religion. They won't really make a problem if you are of another religion but they will look at you differently. I also have an interesting story. Three friends and me, we were going to a club and I had that Palestinian scarf. That was a club called Kristal, in Travnik. When we were entering in the club the singer stopped singing when she saw me wearing that scarf. I immediately put it inside my jacket so there was no problem any more, but it is strange when people look at you like that. That's a problem because there are some families that are strictly religious and they can recognise from your name that you don't believe to their religion. For those families it's a real problem. Actually in Islam is told that man can choose a woman of a different religion, but then she has to accept his religion. But for Muslim women it is unexpected to change religion. I don't know what to think about it, for me is kind of strange and funny because you shouldn't put borders to love, because of religion or anything. So if people love themselves, they can choose. But for older people that's the problem, they don't want to mix and they ask: "when you'll have kids, what religion will they be? On which part will they be?" and that makes a problem for the kids before they are even born.

Why youth leave Bosnia? In my opinion, I don't know... the war stopped long, long time ago but it is still the main topic, after 14-15 years, it's the main topic. And everyone knows Bosnia for the war. If you say to someone "I am from Bosnia", they answer: "Ah, you had war". Ok, but it's not the only thing we have. My opinion is that people leave Bosnia because they see there is no prosperity, there is no future. When you look at the head of the state and at those politicians, they are stealing, they are robbing, they are bringing the whole country to self destruct, actually. So the best way and the only way to enter European Union is to leave Bosnia. And I think youth here are familiar with life on the west, how people live, how they earn money, they see that's a lot easier to earn a large amount of money abroad. In Bosnia it doesn't matter how good at something you are, you won't get paid that much as for example Germany, Great Britain or America. And also those other countries saw a potential in Bosnian youth. So wherever we go we are better, I don't know, in some subjects or at work. Here education for me is kind of bad, because we get a lot of theory but no practical use of that knowledge. We don't learn how to use that knowledge. It's just books and books and books. And I think we figured out that it's a lot easier to work and get money abroad. That's why a lot of youths are going out of Bosnia. I don't know, I don't see no future, first opportunity that I get, I'll leave. Nothing is holding me here. I could go abroad, to study somewhere, I don't have problems with languages, it could be German, English, maybe even French but the main problem is how to get outside, for me. And there are a lot of my age youth that are thinking the same. Because this land, this country, doesn't make no progresses, what it had 15 years ago still exists.

Not so long ago I met a girl, we met during a handball tournament. She was also playing for a handball female team and we met and agreed to go out that day after the tournament was over. But I didn't say her my name, I met her but didn't say my name. So when we got out she asked me somehow "what's your name" and I said my name was Hazim and she was like "Hazim!?" It was strange because, she didn't date guys that have Muslim names. Actually, my Muslim name was a problem to get a date with her. And the thing is that we are living about 10 kilometres from each other. She is also from Bosnia. I don't know what's the problem with her, and the people, I really don't know.

Something exciting I wanted to mention about Sarajevo was the 'cup extra'. You saw that drinking coffee is typical here in Bosnia and there is a tradition called 'cup extra' or 'fildzan viska'. When coffee is prepared at home there is always a cup extra left for whoever comes in and he is invited to drink coffee. After war that tradition got lost, there are only few families that still carry on with that tradition of the cup extra.