BACKGROUND: The country of Yugoslavia came into existence at the end of World War I with the union of the republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia. In 1991 and 1992, four of those republics, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, and Slovenia, broke away from Yugoslavia and became independent countries, leaving only Serbia and Montenegro as the constituent republics of Yugoslavia. In 2003, the name of the country was changed to Serbia and Montenegro. In 2006, Serbia and Montenegro split into two separate, independent countries. In 2008, the republic of Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia. In 2019, the name of Macedonia was changed to North Macedonia. This instruction sheet provides guidelines on the usage of the headings Serbia and Montenegro, Yugoslavia, Former Yugoslav republics, and the headings for the independent countries that had been part of Yugoslavia. It also provides guidelines on the usage of the term Macedonian as an adjectival qualifier, and on the assignment of geographic area codes.

1. Yugoslavia. Assign the heading Yugoslavia, with appropriate topical and period subdivisions, to works on the country of Yugoslavia during the period 1918-1992 as well as to works on the country of Serbia and Montenegro during the period 1992-2003 when it was called Yugoslavia.

2. Serbia and Montenegro. Assign the heading Serbia and Montenegro to works on this country from the time its name changed in 2003 until 2006 when it split into two separate, independent countries.

3. Independent countries. Treat Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo (Republic), North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia as fully independent countries. As geographic subdivisions, use these headings directly after topics, even for works covering the time period when they were republics of Yugoslavia.

4. Former Yugoslav republics. Assign the heading Former Yugoslav republics, with appropriate topical subdivisions, to works discussing collectively the independent countries that emerged from the breakup of Yugoslavia in 1991-1992 and 2006, or to works discussing the equivalent area. When using geographic subdivision, do not divide localities through Former Yugoslav republics. Divide only through the name of the current country or, in the case of areas that span more than one country, assign the heading directly after topics.
5. Macedonian as an adjectival qualifier. When used as an adjectival qualifier to denote nationality, the term Macedonian refers to ancient country and kingdom of Macedonia (which later became a Roman province), the present-day region of the Balkan Peninsula that has somewhat indefinite boundaries, and/or the country of North Macedonia.

6. Geographic area codes. Assign the following codes for these countries or regions:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina e-bn---
- Croatia e-ci---
- Kosovo (Republic) e-kv---
- Montenegro e-mo---
- North Macedonia e-xn---
- Serbia e-rb---
- Serbia and Montenegro e-yu---
- Slovenia e-xv---
- Yugoslavia e-yu---
- Former Yugoslav republics e-yu---