

**MEMORANDUM**  
**OF THE REGIONAL NATIONAL LIBERATION**  
**COMMITTEE FOR THE SLOVENE LITTORAL**  
**AND TRIESTE**

# MEMORANDUM

OF THE REGIONAL LIBERATION COMMITTEE FOR  
THE SLOVENE LITTORAL AND TRIESTE TO THE  
INTERALLIED COMMISSION FOR EXAMINATION  
OF THE JULIAN MARCH CONCERNING THE ESTAB-  
LISHMENT OF THE ITALO-JUGOSLAV BOUNDARY

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The Regional National Liberation Committee for the Slovene Littoral and Trieste as the elected representative of the entire Slovene population and a great majority of the Italian population of the Slovene Littoral and Trieste, of the peoples which with their heroic struggle more convincingly than in any plebiscite proclaimed their wish for the union of the Julian March and Trieste with Jugoslavia, welcomes the Interallied Commission, convinced that its impartial examination of ethnographic and economic conditions and the people's will shall promote the final settlement of the question to whom the Julian March and Trieste should belong. The Regional National Liberation Committee considers it its duty to submit to the Interallied Commission the arguments on the basis of which the people of the Julian March and Trieste feel that they are fully justified in demanding the union of their country with Jugoslavia in accordance with the right of self-determination, solemnly guaranteed by the Atlantic Charter.



I.

**1) The Slovenes and Croats represent a compact population in the Julian March while Italians formed but linguistic islands.**

The above fact is confirmed also by the Italian ethnographers. It is obvious at the first glance at any ethnographical map that the ethnographic frontier between the continuous Slovene and Italian territories begins at Tržič (Monfalcone) and goes northward to the point where the River Vipava (Vipacco) flows into the River Soča (Isonzo). From there it follows the line of the Soča (Isonzo), south-west of Gorica it turns west and runs parallel with the Gorica (Gorizia)—Videm (Udine) railway line as far as Krmin (Cormons). From the latter place it turns north towards the town of Čedad (Cividale) which has a mixed population, and continues in a north-westerly direction cutting through nationally mixed communes along the Čedad (Cividale)—Tarčent (Tarcento) road. North of Tarčent (Tarcento) the linguistic frontier turns north again and then east, in such a way as to include the Slovene Valley of the River Rezija (Resia), a tributary of the River Bela (Fella) which in its turn flows into the Tilment (Tagliamento). Thence the frontier proceeds to M. Kanin (Monte Canin); thereafter in a north-westerly direction following the former Austro-Italian boundary, passing between the railway stations of Pontabelj (Pontafel) and Ponteba (Pontebba) and finally reaching M. Rosskofel (Monte Cavallo) where German settlements begin.

The present ethnographic frontier did not change, in essence, for 1300 years. During the whole of this period the Italians of the Julian March were confined to Trieste and a few towns along the Istrian coast. The sole occupants of the country were the Slovenes and Croats.

Trieste has a nationally mixed population and is surrounded on all sides by continuous Slovene linguistic territory. The whole coast from Trieste to Tržič (Monfalcone) with its hinterland has been purely Slovene for 1300 years.

**2) More than nine tenths of the landed property in the Julian March is in Slovene and Croat hands.**

Clear evidence of the unbroken settlement of Slovenes and Croats is given by the structure of landownership.

According to the Italian administrative division of 1921, the Province of Gorica (Gorizia) included 34 communes, situated east of the Italo-Slovene



ethnographic frontier. Amongst them 33 are quite Slovene and only one, the town of Gorica (Gorizia) has a mixed Italo-Slovene population. From the territory of 2471, 72 square kms, covering 34 communes 2369,69 square kms or 96 per cent belonged to Slovenes, while only 102,03 square kms or 4 per cent were in the hands of a mixed Italo-Slovene population.

Of the 22 communes lying east of the ethnographic frontier, 20 were totally Slovene, while 2 (i. e. Trieste and Milje [Muggia]) had a mixed Italo-Slovene population. Here 875,41 square kms or 88 per cent of landed property were in exclusively Slovene hands and nothing more than 128,23 square kms or 12 per cent in the hands of a mixed Italo-Slovene population.

The following table gives a survey of the above mentioned facts for the Julian March:

Province	In Jugoslav ownership in km <sup>2</sup>	Per cent	In mixed Jugoslav-Italian ownership in km <sup>2</sup>	Per cent
Gorica . . . . .	2369,69	96	102,03	4
Trieste . . . . .	875,41	88	128,23	12
Reka . . . . .	991,46	98	19,57	2
Pulj . . . . .	3127,62	84	575,—	16
Total . . . . .	7364,18	91	824,83	9

91 per cent of the land was in exclusive Slovene-Croat ownership, while not more than 9 per cent were in mixed Italo-Slovene ownership.

These facts demonstrate clearly the territorial distribution of the Italian population, i. e. that the Italians are nothing else but linguistic Islands in towns.

### 3) The Julian March is occupied predominantly by Slovenes and Croats.

The last official census about the ethnographic composition of the Julian March which can be relied upon is the Census of 1910, despite the fact that the nationality of the individual was determined by the language commonly used (language of intercourse; "Umgangssprache") — to the detriment of the Slavs. For the Census was carried out by Italian Irredentists who confused the "nationality" of the people concerned with the language they used. Thus Slavs were classified as Italians simply because they knew the Italian language. For these reasons the Census returns are open to doubt what is sufficiently proved by the fact that an official revision of the Census in Trieste discovered abuses of the term of the "language commonly used" ("Umgangssprache"), to the detriment of the Slovenes in 22.550 cases.

The Italian official Census of 1921 is even more open to criticism, as it was carried out after preliminary terrorist actions perpetrated upon the whole Slovene and Croat population.



The test of the "Umgangssprache" was abused even more. The present Italian Government itself in its Memorandum, submitted at last year's London Conference, states (Annexe 6, Report of the ethnical groups on the Venezia Giulia, p. 10) the following: "As already stated, the accuracy of the aforesaid census returns is not vouched for".

The Census of 1910 reveals the following numerical relationship regarding nationality:

Administrative unit	Inhabitants	Jugoslavs	Italians	Various	Aliens
Gorica . . . . .	260.749	154.751	90.146	5.024	10.828
Trbiž . . . . .	8.992	2.202		6.416	374
Venetian Slovenia .	52.050	36.178	15.872		
Inner Carniola . .	57.858	57.348		239	271
Trieste . . . . .	229.510	59.319	118.959	12.635	38.597
Istria . . . . .	404.309	223.481	147.416	16.277	17.135
Reka . . . . .	49.608	19.738	23.283	6.029	558
Total . . . . .	1,063.076	553.017	395.676	46.620	67.763

According to the above table there were 553.017 or 51,3 per cent of Slovenes and Croats and 395.676 or 38,6 per cent of Italians on the territory of the Julian March. But for the above stated reasons — abuse of the test of the "language commonly used" (Umgangssprache) — we cannot accept these figures as reliable evidence.

According to the assertions of many objective statisticians and other authors, also of Italian origin (A. Vivante, G. Salvemini, Sc. Slataper), the number of Slovenes and Croats was much higher. In his analysis, "Le recensement de 1910, ses methodes et son application dans la Marche Julianne", Professor Dr. J. Roglič on the basis of the election returns of 1907 and 1911 and other demographic facts arrives at the following figures of the ethnographic composition in the years 1910 and 1911:

Administrative unit	Inhabitants	Croats	Slovenes	Italians	Friulians	Various	Aliens
Gorica . . . . .	260.749	187	157.081	34.046	53.583	5.024	10.828
Trbiž . . . . .	8.992		3.000			5.618	374
Venetian Slovenia	52.050		36.178		15.872		
Inner Carniola . .	57.858	3	57.462			122	271
Trieste . . . . .	229.510	18.000	62.000	98.278		12.635	38.597
Istria . . . . .	404.309	215.135	55.522	100.240		16.277	17.135
Reka . . . . .	49.608	19.700	4.535	18.787		6.029	558
Total . . . . .	1,063.076	253.025	375.778	251.351	69.455	45.705	67.763

This table shows that the number of Slovenes and Croats exceeds that of the Italians and Friulians in the proportion of 628.803 or 59,2 per cent to 320.806 or 30,2 per cent.



**4) Trieste has a nationally mixed population with a strong Slovene minority.**

Without doubt Trieste is a town where the Italians are in majority. However they are concentrated in the centre of the City, whereas the population of the suburbs and their immediate surroundings is compactly inhabited by Slovenes. Even so many thousands of Slovene families are living also in the centre itself. This is a consequence of the historical development of Trieste. Up to the XVIIIth century, Trieste was a small coastal town with a preponderantly Italian population (in the year 1735: 3865 inhabitants). The territory of the town of Trieste was then limited to the Old City (Città vecchia) of to-day round the S. Giusto Hill. The town was surrounded by purely Slovene settlements. Parallel with the economic growth of Trieste the territory of modern Trieste began to extend on Slovene soil. More than three quarters of the entire territory of the present municipality of Trieste are even to-day in the possession of Slovenes. Besides, the municipality of Trieste is on all sides surrounded by an unbroken Slovene ethnographic hinterland. According to the Census of 1910 the population of Trieste was 229.510, of this number 118.959 were Italians and 59.319 Slovenes and Croats. The test of the "language commonly used" (Umgangssprache) was grossly abused at Trieste and the official revision found 22.550 or 36,4 per cent more Slovenes and Croats than the original census. On the basis of the election returns of 1907 and the abuses at the Census of 1910 on one hand and on the basis of the numerical relationship between the number of school children and the number of the total population on the other, many distinguished authors have shown that the number of Slovenes and Croats in Trieste was between 82.000 and 83.000 and that of the Italians about 100.000.

**5) The Slovene western ethnographic frontier of the Julian March did not change during a period of 1300 years.**

As far as the ethnographic composition is concerned that part of the mountainous regions of the Forealpine-Dinaric System, called the Julian March, from their first settlement up to now was inhabited by Slavs. Only the places settled by Slovenes in the Plain of Friuli turned Romanic in the course of the centuries. Some place names of Friulian villages still show their Slovene origin (Gorizzo, Goricizza, Belgrado, Sella, Medea Sclabonica, Lonca, Sclavone, etc.). The entire territory of the Northern Julian March east of the ethnographic frontier is purely Slovene with one exception, i. e. the town of Gorica (Gorizia) which has a mixed population. All the other settlements east of the ethnographic frontier have been exclusively Slovene from the time when the Slovenes first came into the country and up to now.

According to the Austrian Census of 1910 the town of Gorica (Gorizia) within the communal borders of to-day had 44.353 inhabitants, 21.845 or 49 per cent of whom were Slovenes. If the abuses of testing the language commonly used (Umgangssprache) (2500 cases were officially established)



are taken into account, Gorica (Gorizia) had even then a Slovene majority. Gorica (Gorizia), too, is surrounded from all sides by Slovene villages.

It is marvellous to see, how the Slovene element, as far as national feeling is concerned, is preserved in Venetian Slovenia. This forms the westernmost part of the continuous Slovene territory along the Rivers Nadiža (Natisone), Ter (Torre) and Rezija (Resia). Venetian Slovenia has been under Italian rule from 1866 which has deprived her inhabitants of all national rights, especially of schools. But notwithstanding all this, the Venetian Slovenes preserved their national character. According to the census of 1911 all in all there were 52.050 inhabitants numbered in Venetian Slovenia, of whom 36.178 or 69 per cent were Slovenes and 15.872 Friulians.

#### **6) The Italian population of the Julian March is overwhelmingly of Slovene descent.**

The population of Trieste is for the most part of Slovene blood. This is an undisputed fact, very much discussed by numerous ethnographical writers such as Ruggero Fauro, Angelo Vivante, Scipio Slataper, Carlo Schiffrer, all of whom are Italians, A. I. P. Taylor, an Englishman, and many others. The Romanic towns of the Julian March had no territorial contiguity with the continuous Italian ethnical territory. The population of these towns was being renewed and increased mainly by the afflux of the Slovene and Croat rural population. With the rapid economic growth of Trieste, the afflux of the Slovene population augmented tremendously. The numbers of Slovenes exceeded by far that of other nationalities (Greeks, Armenians, Jews, Germans, Albanese, Italians). Italian was then the language habitually used as the maritime language of the Adriatic Sea and on a great part of the Mediterranean as well. The new-comers were economically and culturally rather backward in comparison with the old town population. Thus they quickly became italianised. This process of assimilation came to an end only in the second half of the XIXth century when the revival of the national consciousness of the Slovenes began to be felt. The Slav descent of the majority of the Italian population is even to-day reflected above all in the Slovene names and surnames of the majority of Italians of the Julian March. Fascism, trying to hide this fact, decreed a compulsory changing of all Slovene names and surnames into Italian ones. More than 100.000 persons were thus compelled to change their surnames. In order to give a false picture of the ethnical composition the Fascists went as far as to decree that all Slovene or Croat inscriptions on tombstones, be changed or even effaced.

## II.

#### **1) Trieste is economically dependent on its Jugoslav hinterland.**

A certain amount of light is thrown upon the economic interdependence of the port of Trieste and its hinterland, by the railway traffic returns of Trieste. From the share of the states of the hinterland, in the export and import railway returns of Trieste we can conclude which of them contributes



to the economic growth of the port and at the same time which state is most in need of that port. It is obvious that Trieste, up to the year 1941, when still politically part of its natural hinterland, steadily prospered. It is true also that after the inclusion of Trieste into Italy, a general decline of the Trieste traffic is to be observed which still continues. In order to ascertain the dependence of Trieste upon its hinterland we have to study the railway traffic of Trieste before the year 1914, when, for the last time, all conditions were given which had made the growth of Trieste possible.

In 1912 the total of the railway traffic of Trieste with its hinterland amounted to 2,630.782 tons (exports and imports together) and was divided between different countries as is shown in the following table:

Carniola . . . . .	347.000 tons	13.2 per cent
Carinthia . . . . .	178.000	" 6.8 "
Styria . . . . .	258.000	" 9.8 "
Province of Gorica . . . . .	298.000	" 11.3 "
Istria . . . . .	72.000	" 2.8 "
Lower Austria . . . . .	290.000	" 11.0 "
Upper Austria . . . . .	30.000	" 1.1 "
Salzburg . . . . .	21.000	" 0.8 "
Bohemia . . . . .	251.000	" 9.5 "
Moravia . . . . .	215.000	" 8.2 "
Silesia . . . . .	41.000	" 1.5 "
Galizia . . . . .	61.000	" 2.3 "
Hungary . . . . .	219.000	" 8.4 "
Bosnia . . . . .	8.400	" 0.3 "
Serbia . . . . .	3.572	" 0.1 "
Russia . . . . .	6.630	" 0.2 "
Germany . . . . .	181.000	" 6.9 "
Switzerland . . . . .	15.200	" 0.6 "
Italy . . . . .	94.000	" 3.7 "
Others . . . . .	40.900	" 1.5 "

The participation of the different Jugoslav territories would be as follows:

Carniola . . . . .	347.000 tons	13.2 per cent
Province of Gorica . . . . .	298.000	" 11.3 "
Istria . . . . .	72.000	" 2.8 "
Styria . . . . .	103.000	" 3.9 "
Carinthia . . . . .	53.400	" 2.0 "
Croatia-Vojvodina (Hungary) . . . . .	131.400	" 5.0 "
Bosnia . . . . .	8.400	" 0.3 "
Serbia . . . . .	3.572	" 0.1 "
Total . . . . .	1,016.972 tons	38.6 per cent

(The figures for the Slovene part of Styria and of Carinthia underrate these regions as they had the largest share in the Slovene exports of timber and ore. Up to 1918 Croatia was in union with Hungary. Slavonia made an important contribution to the export trade with larger quantities of flour



and timber. Corn-growing Vojvodina [Srem, Banat] exported mostly flour. Slavonia and Vojvodina were the chief flour exporters over Trieste.)

Of the total railway traffic of Trieste, the great majority was Jugoslav, as shown by the official returns for 1912:

Jugoslavia . . . . .	1,016.972	tons or 38.6 per cent
Austria . . . . .	620.400	" " 22.6 " "
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	466.000	" " 17.7 " "
Italy . . . . .	94.000	" " 3.7 " "

The railway traffic returns reveal that Trieste owed its commercial prosperity to Jugoslavia, and that only the territories which constitute Jugoslavia to-day can give Trieste its former economic position. This is also confirmed by the official railway traffic returns for Trieste for 1938.

In the total railway traffic of 1,997.808 tons Italy participated with 492.577 tons or 24.65 per cent, Austria with 662.398 tons or 33.16 per cent, Czechoslovakia with 397.344 ton or 19.89 per cent, while Jugoslavia's share was only 111.000 or 5.5 per cent, in contrast with that of 1912, when the Jugoslav territories participated with 38.6 per cent. This is the reason for the decline of the Trieste traffic for 630.000 tons or 24 per cent in comparison with 1912. Jugoslavia was under these conditions forced to reorientate her trade and to make the port of Sušak her outlet while the Slovene lands were forced to find new markets within the newly formed State. Her overseas trade was transformed into continental foreign trade. The abnormal situation thus created, can be seen from the fact that in 1914 Carniola's share (Carniola was only one half of to-day's Slovenia) was 347.000 tons or 17.3 per cent.

In spite of the new political organisation, Italy's share in the railway traffic remained unchanged.

In the 492.577 tons or 24.65 per cent, the Julian March participated in 1912 at least with 20 per cent. In 1912 the share of Gorica and Istria was 370.000 tons or 14.1 per cent, increasing thereafter steadily on account of the inclusion of two Carniolan districts, viz. Idrija and Postojna (timber), and the growth of the Trieste industry and excessive exploitation of the Istriian mines. The participation of the different States in the railway traffic remained essentially unchanged, while the participation of Jugoslavia practically disappeared which was a great loss for the trade of Trieste.

We shall realise even more clearly the economic dependence of Trieste on Jugoslavia, if we take into account the importance for Trieste of the "Trieste—Postojna—Ljubljana" main line from the economic and traffic point of view. All the four Trieste railway lines: Trieste—Cervignano—Udine—Venice, Trieste—Podbrdo—Jesenice, Trieste—Postojna—Ljubljana and Trieste—Pulj, are running across compact Slovene or Croat national territory.

In 1912 the total railway traffic of Trieste of 2,612.667 tons was distributed among these four lines as follows:

1) Trieste—Cervignano . . . . .	94.054	tons or 3.6 per cent
2) Trieste—Podbrdo—Jesenice . .	990.877	" " 37.8 " "
3) Trieste—Postojna—Ljubljana . .	1,456.422	" " 55.7 " "
4) Trieste—Pulj . . . . .	71.318	" " 2.9 " "



The railway traffic returns of Trieste for 1912 show, that in this total, the post war Jugoslav provinces participated with 40 per cent, while 96.4 per cent of the total traffic passed these territories in transit.

The most important line is the main line Trieste—Ljubljana—Vienna, starting in Vienna and passing 320 km through Slovene territory. This line is the most practical, as it crosses the Alpine—Dinaric Mountain System at its lowest point, the Postojna Gate, and has less elevations than all the other lines leading to the hinterland. In 1912 the Bohinj line handled a pretty high percentage of traffic, but only because it was owned by the State Railways, the State giving it preference before the privately owned main line (Southern Railways).

The importance of the main line is also evident from the percentage of the traffic passing through Postojna in 1938. Of the total Trieste railway traffic of 1,997.808 tons, 1,137.200 tons or 56.9 per cent passed through the frontier station of Postojna while 346. 800 tons or 17.3 per cent, through the frontier station of Podbrdo. The local traffic to and from Postojna resp. Podbrdo, constituting together with the lines of Istria and Cervignano 25.8 per cent of the Trieste traffic, is not comprised in the above figures. The decline of the Bohinj line, compared with the main line, is obvious: there was no more competition between the private and the State-owned line, and the economic and traffic moments were alone decisive.

The main line runs from Vienna to the sea through the Gate of Postojna and is joined by the secondary lines of the whole Carpathian—Dinaric Basin. Of all the lines leading from the Central Europe to the sea it is the one built with the least elevation. The only exception is the Semmering Pass. But if it would be possible from Vienna to reach Pragersko via Bratislava, Szombathely and Nagy Kanisza, thus the last obstacle on the Vienna—Pragersko line would be removed. The main line has a double track from Vienna and Zagreb to Trieste. It can easily compete with all the Alpine lines leading to Trieste, which seemingly shorter, but single tracked pass steep gradients. The actual distance from the railway junction Bruck a. d. Mur to Trieste via Udine is only 409.9 kms. However, reckoning in virtual kilometres, which serve as a basis when calculating the user costs, the distance rise to 539 km, while the route via Ljubljana covers 424 kms resp. 490 kms.

In our survey of the principal Alpine lines we must not consider only their own gradients, but those of their secondary lines as well. In the direction North-South there is no line equal to the main line.

The main line and the Bohinj line, both deeply pass through the Slovene national territory. This has given cause to chauvinist circles to adopt the old plan of the Predil line. In spite of its having been repeatedly rejected, it is again being revived. This line, should pass over Slovene territory starting from Trieste—Tržič (Monfalcone) and then following the ethnographic frontier. Its aim is to maintain the Italian claim for the annexation of Trieste to Italy through a corridor running along the sea shore from Trieste to Tržič (Monfalcone).

This plan is based on two erroneous economic premises; the first that the economic life of Trieste depends on Austria and Czechoslovakia, and secondly that this line would absorb the entire traffic of these two countries.



Trieste is in the first place dependent on its Jugoslav hinterland. It has already been stated that in 1912 Jugoslav lands participated with 1,016.972 tons in the total railway traffic of Trieste, whereas only 620.000 tons fell to Austria and 466.000 tons to Czechoslovakia. After 1918 the participation of Austria and Czechoslovakia did not surpass that of the pre-war period. In 1938 the traffic with Austria amounted to 622.398 tons and that with Czechoslovakia to 397.344 tons. So it is obvious that without the Julian March and Jugoslavia, the traffic of Trieste, would not surpass by much a million tons. This would mean a real economic catastroph even if compared to the situation between 1918—1938.

On the other hand it is also impossible to suppose that Austria and Czechoslovakia would direct all their traffic down the Predil line. This would be an Alpine line with a number of elevations before reaching Predil as well as beyond it. In addition, the secondary lines which are mainly single track lines offer the same disadvantages. In regard to the tariff this line could not compete with the main line. The economic nonsense of the Predil line plan, and the political plan for linking Trieste to Italy is self evident.

It is a fact that all the four lines departing from Trieste run across Slovene territory and that the main line Trieste—Ljubljana—Vienna, represents the principal artery of Trieste traffic. This means that the economic fate of Trieste lies in the hands of Jugoslavia.

## **2) The Julian March with Trieste and Jugoslavia are economically interdependent.**

Trieste and the Julian March are economically interdependent. It has already been stated that the provinces of Gorica and Istria had a 14.1 per cent share of the total railway traffic of Trieste in 1912. This high percentage indicates the important part which even this immediate hinterland, compactly inhabited by Slovenes and Croats, plays in the economic life of Trieste.

Trieste is completely dependent on its neighbourhood and hinterland, as regards the supplies of fish, wood and coal. This has been most evident during the war, and particularly now under the unnatural division of the Julian March into two different zones of occupation. Trieste does not need wood only for fuel; a great part of its heavy and light industries use it as their auxiliary building material or the raw material for their final products.

This interdependence has considerably increased in the last 30 years owing to the development of the Trieste industries and the greater exploitation of the Julian woods and mines.

The Julian March and especially Trieste has a highly developed industry while Jugoslavia is mainly an agricultural country. Jugoslavia is rich in wood, coal, minerals and all kinds of raw materials. As the traditional exporter of wheat, maize, fruits, vine, meat, fats, cattle, pigs, poultry, eggs etc. the immediate hinterland of Trieste can supply the town and the Julian March with all the necessary raw materials, agricultural products. On the other hand Jugoslavia represents the only market for the industries of Trieste just because of her agricultural character, Austria and Czechoslovakia being themselves industrially highly developed countries.



The ship-yards of Trieste should have in Jugoslavia much to do. They would construct new merchant ships and at the same time supply the State with bridges, cranes, trucks and locomotives.

If one wants to understand thoroughly the position of the industry of the Julian March, it is necessary to know its composition. Only 30 per cent of this industry based on local raw materials are capable of supplying the local needs, while 70 per cent of the industry has to import the whole of its raw materials.

The unnatural composition of the industry of the Julian March is in many respects the consequence of Fascist economic policy. The decline of the industry of Trieste after the annexation of the Julian March to Italy was caused by the loss of its immediate Slovene hinterland. The Italian Government's policy partly contributed to this decline for political reasons as this industry has been in Slovene or Austrian hands. Fascist Italy needed Trieste as her springboard on to the East, for the reason it has to be supported economically in spite of all the natural obstacles to its development. This was done by building up to a large extent the armament industry. It was working for the State, and would have been doomed to decay without the support of Italian imperialism. Besides, the industry of Italy is sufficiently developed to meet the peace time needs, and works in much better economic conditions.

The above statements prove that the entire economic life of Trieste and of the Julian March depends on their union to Jugoslavia, their true economic hinterland.

### **3) Italy does not need Trieste.**

For economic reasons Italy does not need Trieste, for she had enough ports to satisfy the needs of all her provinces. In the north-easternmost part of Italy the big port of Venice can easily master the entire traffic of the territory up to the Italo-Slovene ethnographic frontier. Therefore Italy scarcely counts in the internal traffic with Trieste. The share Italy had in the railway traffic of Trieste both in 1912 as well as in 1938 proves this. In both cases the traffic with Italy did not even reach 5 per cent of the total railway traffic of Trieste. There is a considerable difference between the position of Trieste and the position of Venice and Genoa: 95 per cent of the total railway traffic of Venice and Genoa represent internal traffic while the rest traffic with foreign countries.

It is furthermore interesting to note how Venice progressed while Trieste declined. In 1913 the maritime traffic of Venice was far weaker than that of Trieste. The following figures illustrate the proportion:

Trieste 3,450.000 tons, Venice 2,644.000 tons.

In 1938 the tables have turned.

Trieste 3,380.000 tons, Venice 4,207.000 tons.

The traffic of Venice had increased by 1,543.000 tons whereas that of Trieste has decreased by 70.000 tons. It should be mentioned that the overseas traffic in 1938 surpassed the average quota of the post-war years, by 1,000.000 tons, due to war preparations.



It is therefore impossible to explain the decline of the maritime and railway traffic of Trieste with some general crisis. The only cause lies in its being politically severed from its natural hinterland, and annexed to the state that did not need it. But the real economic decline of Trieste is even worse than that reflected in the traffic returns. In 1938 70 per cent of the transported goods consisted of ashes, iron-ore scraps, coal stones, sand etc. but the traffic of higher quality goods such as sugar, cotton, cotton fabrics, dried fruits, oil and fats, skins, rice, glass and cristal were far more restricted, compared with the year 1913.

The economic decline is most clearly revealed by the complete standstill in the population figures of the town. Up to the year 1914 the population grew by leaps and bounds:

in 1785	20.000
„ 1867	123.000
„ 1900	176.000
„ 1913	247.000

But in 1936, i. e. after 23 years, the town had only 252.238 inhabitants, that is 5139 more than in 1913. It could have been expected that the natural increase would be higher not to speak of the normal development of the town.

Italy got Trieste on the basis of her imperialistic claims and the Pact of London. The Peace Conference took little account of the economic situation of the city. The sad experience of the first 28 years showed the whole world that Italy does not need Trieste and that the town cannot live in Italy. Only the political union between its town and its hinterland will secure economic prosperity for Trieste.

### III.

#### **1) The Pact of London and the Treaty of Rapallo have been the greatest injustice to the Slovene and the Croat people of the Julian March.**

By the Pact of London (April 26, 1915) the Julian March with Trieste had been given to Italy as a reward for her participation in the war (1914—1918) on the side of the Allies against the Central Powers.

The Slovene and Croat population of the Julian March had been kept in the dark about the Pact for a long time. Consequently the publication of the Wilson Fourteen Points on January 8, 1918, and the proclamation of the Pact of Rome made public on the Congress of Rome on April 8, 1918 by the representatives of Italy and the oppressed nations of Austria-Hungary (Jugoslavs, Poles, Czechs, Rumanians) gave them confidence that they would be in a position to dispose themselves of their destinies. Both Wilson, and the Pact of Rome, with regard to the frontier delimitation after war, refer to the principle of nationality and self-determination.

Terrible was the disappointment of the peoples of the Julian March when they heard of the Pact of London. All ethnic and economic arguments were against such a solution. The Julian March had been compactly inhabited



by Slovenes and Croats. The Italians lived in a few towns and even there mixed with the Slav population. The economic situation of Trieste as a whole was dependent on its hinterland and not on Italy. Neither the Italian people, with the exception of a few fanatical anti-Slav irredentists, had never considered seriously such a solution. Out of 350.000 Italians of the Julian March, only 1781 had taken part in the war against Austria, of whom 46 died. Considerably larger was the number of Slovenes who from the Austro-Hungarian Army, joined the "Jugoslav Legion" on the Italian Front, those who had for centuries been their greatest national enemy.

The people of the Julian March kept relying on Wilson for long, who, in spite of his goodwill-ideals was by his Allies bound to the Pact of London, so that he was unable to make a point of a just solution for Trieste and the whole Julian March, but issued instead the well-known compromise proposal "The Wilson line".

The people of Trieste and the Julian March demanded a plebiscite. Jugoslavia proposed this in a motion supported by Wilson, but opposed by imperialistic Italy, naturally being aware that she could only loose it.

And thus vanished the best hope of the people of the Julian March for a just solution of their destiny and the union with Jugoslavia. Rapallo (November 12, 1920) is only the conclusion of a tragedy. The Jugoslav Government under pressure of the Western Allies and its own internal political problems signed the shameful treaty. The people of the Julian March never accepted this decision, in direct opposition to its will and to democratic principles. Only with violence could democratic Italy maintain this uncorrect solution against the will of the large majority of her people. The uncompromising struggle for the union of this people with Jugoslavia continued.

## **2) The Slovenes and Croats of the Julian March were inhumanly oppressed in democratic pre-Fascist Italy.**

The opinion is current that national oppression in the Julian March began only under Fascist Italy. The contrary is the truth. In spite of all solemn declarations of Victor Emanuel III, Prime Minister Giolitti, the Foreign Minister count Sforza, and other representatives of the Government, given to the Slovenes and Croats of the Julian March, guaranteeing the freedom of language, culture, religion, and customs, the terror against Slovenes and Croats set in immediately after the occupation of the Julian March by Italy.

From the very first day of the occupation in 1918 about 1000 Slovene intellectuals were deported into Southern Italy, particularly to Sardinia. They returned only in 1919 after they had been retained in Trieste for four months. Immediately after the end of the war Italy closed the Slovene secondary school at Gorica, the Croat secondary school in Pazin, the lower secondary school at Opatija, the Slovene training college for teachers at Gorica, the Croat training college in Kastav, the Croat training college for female teachers at Pazin, and the private commercial school in Trieste. She closed, immediately after the occupation and even before the annexation, all private schools and all provincial schools, so that only in Istria 149 elementary school classes were abolished and transformed into Italian ones.



In November 1918 in the Julian March, not including Rijeka, 541 Slovene and Croat schools with 80.000 pupils still existed. In the school year 1918—1919 Italy reduced this number to 392 with 65.000 pupils.

At the same time the terror against the Slovene cultural associations set in; they were dissolved and deprived of their property. This kind of terror had been developed by Italian chauvinistic groups with the silent approval of the Government. The police never intervened in time, although present at these terrible scenes. Terror spread all over the country, there was no place which had not suffered, particularly the towns. Let us quote only a few examples of crimes, committed under the Italian "Democratic Government": the burning down of the "Narodni dom" (Slovene National Centre) in Trieste (July 13, 1920), a beautiful five-storied building, centre of the Slovene cultural and economical life; the burning down of Josef Krmpotić's house in Pulj (September 9, 1920); the burning down of the "Narodni dom" (Slovene National Centre) in Pulj (July 17, 1920); the demolishing of the printing-works "Edinost" in Trieste (December 20, 1920); the burning down of the Jugoslav library in Volosko (February 12, 1921); the burning down of 26 farms at Krnica, where 3 persons were killed, many injured and 89 arrested (April 8, 1921); the demolition of the village Mačkovlje (April 7, 1921); the burning down of the "Narodni dom" (Slovene National Centre) at Sv. Ivan in Trieste (September 2, 1921); the burning down of the "Narodni dom" (Slovene National Centre) at Rojan in Trieste (September 8, 1921); the demolition of the monument to the composer Volarič in Kobarid (June 22, 1922). The Serbian lecture hall in Trieste, the People's centres of Barkovlje (Barcola), Škedenj (Servola), Sv. Jakob (San Giacomo) at Trieste, Pazin (Pisino), the savings Bank in Pulj, were likewise destroyed and burnt down.

In May 1921 the first provincial elections took place. The terror in Trieste and Istria had taken the following forms: the Fascist elements assisted by the authorities tried to bully the electors with arson, murder and arrests to such extent that even Pope Benedict XV found himself compelled to make a public declaration against such proceedings.

Already by that time the prosecution of the Slovene clergy set in. In April 1919 the Bishop Mahnič of Krk had been interned. After returning on February 11, 1920 from confinement he died of the consequences of ill-treatment suffered. The Bishop of Trieste, Dr. Karlin, was compelled to resign. Many members of the lower clergy were forced to emigrate, because they could not stand the prosecutions any longer.

In March 1922 a body of judges of the Province of Trieste, decided not to accept any more applications written in the Slovene language. At the same time they forbade the use of the Slovene tongue in Courts.

Thousands of Slovenes and Croats were beaten, forced to drink castor oil, deprived of their property by destruction, confined and arrested, and thus forced to emigrate from the Julian March. On these and later years more than 70.000 Slovenes and Croats emigrated into Jugoslavia, over 30.000 into South America, about 5000 into France and Belgium, while a minor number left for other countries. Along with the emigration of Slavs from the province the Italian Government was seconding the immigration of Italians from the former Kingdom of Italy, the so-called "regnicoli" into the Julian



March. According to the census of 1931 there were the 128.897 persons residing in the Julian March born in Italy, outside the Julian March. If we add another 33 per cent for the children born in the Julian March their total rises to 170.000. Later on, this figure has further greatly increased.

This is only a rough balance of the treatment meted out by Italians to Slovenes and Croats before the Fascists came into power. With the advent of Fascism, illegal terror was legalised.

**3) Fascist Italy completely destroyed all Slovene and Croat cultural, economical and social institutions. She deprived the Slovenes and Croats of all national rights and refused to recognise even their existence.**

Fascist Italy only continued the work of democratic Italy. All this was done with the direct support of the official organs of the administration. The Slovenes were thus outlawed, they could be tortured and murdered without the fear of penalty. Bands on trucks rushed villages, sacked and burnt, attacked people with bombs and revolvers, torturing and killing. (Particularly frightful was the terror in Istria.) The people lived in constant fear for the safety of their property and lives not knowing where he may meet his doom.

Since 1925 the Slovene and Croat languages had been officially abolished in Court and soon after this in all offices. In schools and churches use of the Slovene and Croat languages was forbidden, as well as singing in the mother tongue. Public use of the Slav language on streets and in trams was connected with considerable risk.

In the period 1923—1928, the authorities applying Gentilli's school-reform, succeeded in closing all Slovene and Croat schools in the Julian March. 52.000 Slovene and Croat pupils remained without their own schools and were forced to attend purely Italian schools. Of a total of nearly 1300 Slovene and Croat teachers and professors for the Julian March only 5, and something more than 50 were transferred to Italy. The rest were dismissed, of which a few were forced to retire.

After the year 1924 there still remained about 400 cultural and gymna-stical associations. After a series of persecutions round about 1927 Fascist Italy dissolved all these associations, seized their property, while their premises were occupied by Fascists. All associations of humanitarian or social nature were likewise dissolved.

By the year 1918 the Slovenes and Croats of the Julian March had more than 600 co-operative, credit and economic associations. Their funds amounted to more than 300 millions of Austrian gold crowns (about 60 millions pound sterlings). In the centre of Trieste the Slovenes and Croats had 7 banks, while the Italians had only 3. These excellent economic institutions became a prey of flames and destruction soon after 1918. During the period 1925—1940 almost all banking institutions were annihilated by all sorts of chicannes and measures. To-day in Trieste there is no Slovene or Croat banking or co-operative institution.

In 1931 the "Ente per la rinascita agraria delle Tre Venezie" had been founded, with the object of planned purchases of Slovene or Croat land,



and colonisation of Italian peasants in the Julian March. The institute followed a planned policy of ruining the Slovene farms, then bying them up at frequently ridiculously low prices, with the object of passing them on to Italian colonists either gratuitously or on a long-term enstalement system.

The years 1928 and 1929 saw the suppression of the Slovene press and of Slovene book publishing. A novel of the author France Bevk, to-day President of the Regional National Liberation Committee for the Slovene Littoral and Trieste, had to appear with a title page in Italian ("I morti ritornano")

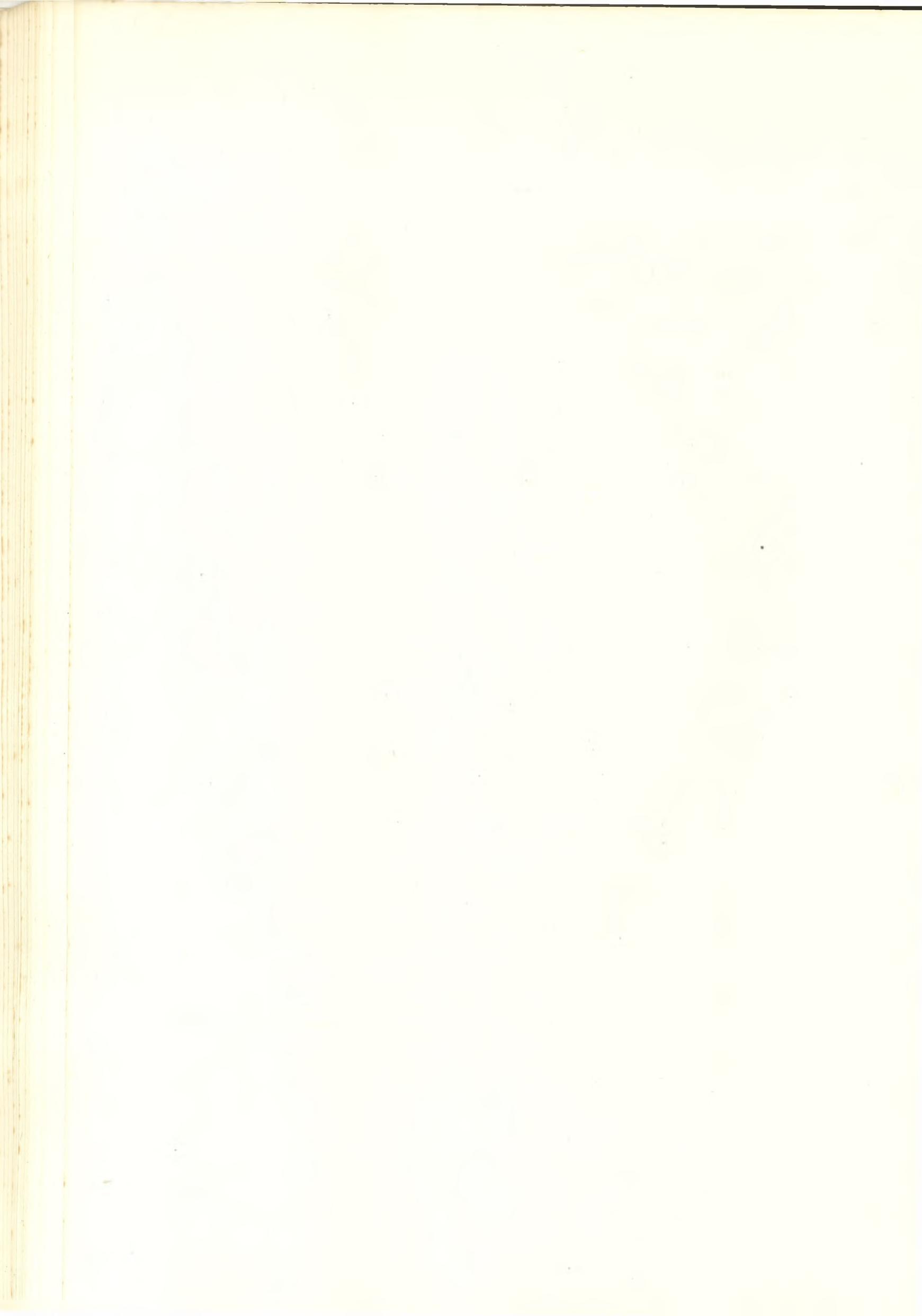
In order to remove the Slovene character of the Julian March the Italian Government in April 1923 published a decree relating to the alteration of the names of places, towns, rivers, mountains, in one word of all geographical terms in the Julian March. The suppression of Slovene inscriptions, family and personal names, reached its peak in 1927 in a decree ordering the alteration of Slovene family names. Up to now more than 115.000 cases of change of family names could be ascertained. The passion to annihilate all Slav went so far, that even the inscriptions on the tombstones in churchyards were changed from Slav into Italian, if they were written in Slovene or Croat.

From 1930 there did not exist officially any Slovene or Croat minority. According to election and census figures the Julian March does not know any Slovenes and Croats, only Italians.

The people of the Julian March have never lost hope that the time will come when the injustice of the annexation by Italy will be repaired, and that the union with Jugoslavia will become possible. This faith gave them the force to resist terror and continue the struggle against the Fascism. In this superhuman struggle of the Slovenes and Croats of the Julian March, against imperialistic Fascist Italy, their losses were heavy. In 1926 Italy instituted a Special Court which was to be the means for the final subjugation of the Slovenes and Croats of the Julian March. In 1929 the first big trial has been held which resulted with the execution of the Istrian hero Vladimir Gortan. In 1930 criminal proceedings were instituted against 87 Slovenes and Croats. Their end was marked by the shooting of the heroes of Bazovica: Ferdo Bidovec, Franc Marušič, Zvonimir Miloš and Lojze Valenčič (September 6, 1930). After a series of trials in 1941 a big trial was started against Slovenes in Trieste, which, however, already belongs to the period of the World War II.

**4) In the world struggle between Fascism and democracy the people of the Julian March at once decidedly joined the world democratic block convinced that through its fight it would gain the so much desired national liberty and that it would finally be united with its national State, Jugoslavia.**

When in 1939 Germany started the new World War, the people of the Julian March started to prepare an armed revolt. In 1940 already the first greater actions began (on February 25, 1940) the army magazine at Klanja was burnt down, to the north of Reka; on June 25, 1940 the first demolition of a railway line was accomplished and that on the line Beljak (Villach)—Videm (Udine) at Trbiž (Tarvisio). To intimidate the Slovene population the Fascist Government had a great number of Slovenes arrested and in 1941 it



started the well-known monstre-trial of the Special Tribunal against sixty people. The trial ended by the shooting of Pino Tomažič from Trieste and of his comrades. The other accused were convicted to heavy terms of penal servitude.

Before the attack on Jugoslavia the Italians started a mass deportation of the Slovene population to the interior of Italy. Yet — immediately after the attack on Jugoslavia, in April 1941 — in all localities of the Julian March committees of the Liberation Front of the Slovene and Croat peoples were founded. The struggle expanded more and more. In the autumn 1941 Partisan groups were accomplishing sabotage actions on the lines St. Peter—Reka and Postojna—Trieste, but in the spring 1942 the struggle already got the character of a general people's insurrection. Movable Partisan units supported by the whole population of the Julian March menaced the Italian hinterland so successfully that Italy was forced to take in the territory of the Julian March special measures for the protection of lines of communications, her garrisons and for the security of her army (building of bunkers, fortification of garrisons, the compulsory marching of soldiers in greater numbers, the protection of the railway with a special fortification system and with special troops). The Italian Commander in Chief formed two special Corps in Vldem (Udine) and Trieste, that is, the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Corps for the protection against Partisan activity. To these Corps also two divisions for fighting the Partisans were attached. Just then, that is in the spring 1942, more than 5000 Italian soldiers tried to expel the Partisans from the Nanos, but in vain.

In autumn 1942 Italian units — 20.000 men — carried out a big offensive upon the Plateau of Banjščica and the Vipava Valley yet they had no success. On February 21, 1943 in the Julian March the "Littoral operative zone" was founded. From the new fighters the V<sup>th</sup> and VI<sup>th</sup> Littoral Brigades were formed. The Partisan units were present everywhere. In the farthest north they repeatedly demolished the Pontebba railway line (May 25, 1943). They crossed the whole Plain of Friuli and damaged on June 16, 1943 the railway line on the river Tilment (Tagliamento). In Istria at that time new battalions were formed.

A general national insurrection and mobilization to the Partisans took place at the moment of the capitulation of Italy. Only in the Julian March more than 70.000 Italian soldiers were disarmed. A vast booty was seized. With new thousands of fighters new brigades were formed, new and old brigades grew to divisions which formed the glorious IX<sup>th</sup> Corps of the Jugoslav Army. The whole territory of the Julian March except the largest towns (Trieste, Gorica, Pulj, Reka, Postojna, Št. Peter) was liberated.

On September 11, 1943 the Regional National Liberation Council for the Slovene Littoral was formed, and on September 10, 1943 a similar committee for Istria. As the assembly of responsible representatives from all localities they stated that the people had liberated itself of the 25 years lasting Italian oppression and that it had taken over authority. They declared the will of the Julian March to unite with Slovenia respectively Croatia and thus with Jugoslavia.



The whole Julian March echoed from one sole shout of joy: Jugoslavia.

All German offensives upon the liberated territory, on the whole seven, ended in a new strengthening of the national army. In the struggle the whole civil population collaborated. An important part as to the supplying of the army had Trieste where with the aid of over 500 town, local and terrain committees of all anti-Fascist mass organizations actively the whole Slovene and the majority of the Italian population took part in collecting and delivering the necessary material, food and drugs for the heroic Partisan Army.

**5) The people of the Julian March with its struggle contributed to a large extent to the common Allied victory.**

Germany and Italy were from a military point of view very much interested in the territory of the Julian March. This area is crossed by three railway lines which connect Germany with the Italian Front. Beside these three lines there remained only one, i. e. that which runs over the Brenner Pass.

To secure these lines first the Italians but later the Germans were forced to keep great contingents of soldiers. At the end of 1944 on the territory of the Julian March were 60.000 German and 20.000 Italian soldiers, altogether 80.000 men.

Up to the end of the war in the Julian March 2570 attacks upon railway lines were made causing a considerable stopping of traffic, and 960 demolitions of the line; 125 trains were damaged and 80 bridges, 9 railway stations and on 540 places the grid was destroyed. Actions took place especially on the lines Trieste—Ljubljana, Trieste—Pulj, Trieste—Št. Peter—Reka, Trieste—Gorica—Jesenice, Gorica—Videm (Udine) and Videm (Udine)—Ponteba—Tržič (Monfalcone). The lines Gorica—Ajdovščina and Gorica—Dornberk—Trieste were completely destroyed. In 1942 already the traffic Trieste—Ljubljana had to be limited to a daily one only. Thus the traffic decreased for 40 per cent. In June 1944 the traffic on the line Trieste—Postojna—Ljubljana could be maintained only with 26.100 carriages or with 12,43 per cent of the capacity of this line. On the line Trieste—Št. Peter—Reka the traffic could attain only 8,96 per cent of the capacity, but on the line Trieste—Pulj 18,92 per cent. In January 1945 the traffic on the same lines amounted to 1,36 per cent (Trieste—Ljubljana), 19,07 per cent (Št. Peter—Reka), 5,76 per cent (Trieste—Pulj), but on the line Trieste—Gorica—Jesenice 1 per cent. The attacks upon the lines of communication in the Littoral just then greatly helped the Allies on the Italian Front. According to the agreement between Marshal Tito and Fieldmarshal Alexander the Jugoslav Army co-ordinated its operations with the operations of the Allies. The co-ordination was the most successful in Slovenia and especially on the Littoral when after June 10, 1944 within a week the whole railway traffic was stopped. Then the lines Ljubljana—Trieste, Gorica—Jesenice (the action in the Bača Valley) and Jesenice—Ljubljana, were damaged.

General Wilson, Commander in Chief of the Expedition Forces in the Near East then sent to Marshal Tito the following wire:



"With admiration I learnt of the last successes of your units that thus greatly assisted the operations of the Allies in Italy and France. These successes, especially those in Slovenia, were of great importance as they stopped the action of highly important traffic arteries of the enemy. I beg you to receive and to communicate to the units under your command my sincerest thanks and acknowledgements."

Special thanks were then expressed in the name of the Commander in Chief also by the Chief of the British Military Mission at the IX<sup>th</sup> Corps, Major Wood.

**6) In the struggle against Fascism the people broke the old Fascist authority and created its own democratic authority.**

Towards a successful struggle against the occupiers in 1941 and 1942 in all localities of the Julian March committees of the Liberation Front were founded. Their main task was to look after the mobilization of Partisans for the Partisan Army. Owing to the extended fights, these committees had ever more difficult and greater tasks, therefore the people began to consider them as their true national authorities. Already in the years 1942 and 1943 in many a place the Fascist authority ceased to exist, because the Fascist rulers either fled or went into hiding. And with the collapse of Italy the Fascist authority in the country crushed all of a sudden with the exception of those in the largest towns. The people everywhere enthusiastically acknowledged the National Liberation Committees as their sole national authority. These committees only temporarily managed the functions of authority. For in the spring 1944 the writs for the general secret elections had been issued for the composition of the local National Liberation Committees. The object of the elections were: the people itself should built up the new authority. In this time only in the Slovene Littoral more than 400 National Liberation Committees had been elected. In spite of the sometimes great dangers the participation in the elections amounted to more than 90 per cent. The elections were a veritable festivity, a national holiday. Many a time the members of the Anglo-American Mission at the Head-Quarters of National Liberation Army and Partisan Detachments of Jugoslavia attended them. The Major Arthur Tucker when he witnessed the magnificent electoral meeting, at which the people of the Littoral manifested for Tito's Jugoslavia, expressed his admiration for the Liberation struggle and the liberation elections with the following words:

"Friends and Allies!

I arrived to your country only a few hours ago. In the short time I witnessed events which have filled me with admiration. I consider it as a great honour to be among you. In England to-day everyone knows the history of your struggle, your present struggle, your courage, organisation and discipline. We are fighting for the complete destruction of the Fascists and for the defeat of Nazi Germany. Our soldiers are dying in thousands on French soil. Our struggle is your struggle, our enemy is your enemy. He who gallantly fights on our side is our friend. But he who is keeping aloof from or is even going to give the enemy direct or indirect help is our mortal enemy. We



shall find him and crush him. Your country, let us hope, will soon be liberated from the enemy. Your splendid efforts will manage it. Already now you are carrying out free elections. You are preparing for a free life which peace will bring. You carried out elections with an admirable faith and organisation although the enemy was so near and under such difficult conditions. Let me address a word of admiration to your women and girls. Although the enemies carried away your sons and husbands and burnt down your homes, the courage of your women never gave way. Accept my greetings and the assurance that we in England are proud to be with you and your rising freedom and the flourishing Slovenia in the new Jugoslavia."

The National Liberation Committees organized over the whole Julian March the People's Defence, took care of public order and peace and struggled against criminality. In the autumn 1944, the People's courts were in the Slovene Littoral elected as well, that is to say, 21 Regional People's courts, 4 local People's Courts and one high People's court that carried out all civil and non-military affairs. Likewise in Istria.

**7) In the struggle against Fascism the Slovene-Italian fraternity had been forged. The great majority of the Italian population in the Julian March and Trieste wishes the union with Jugoslavia.**

Dreadful injustices and crimes were inflicted upon the Slovene and Croat people in the Julian March by the Italians since the year 1918 onwards. A deep abyss of crimes and outrages divided the Italian from the Slovene and Croat peoples. Therefore besides the victory over Fascism and besides the liberty obtained by fighting the Italian-Slovene fraternity is one of the greatest acquisitions of the National Liberation struggle. Already in the first years of the World War II rare Italian individuals decided to fight against Fascism and joined the ranks of Slovene and Croat fighters, by whom they were brotherly received. Their collaboration in the struggle and the call of the Liberation Front was sufficient that the Slovene and Croat people after the collapse of Italy, while ten thousands of Italian soldiers were disarmed and fled home, did not take revenge on the troops that a little before had burnt, killed and robbed. On the contrary, they even helped them at their flight with clothes and food. Over 200.000 soldiers then passed the Julian March. At this generosity the Italian democratic masses awoke: Many of the Italian Trieste and Tržič (Monfalcone) workers joined the Partisans, many soldiers of the fleeing Italian army remained with the Partisans. The Italians began to form battalions and brigades. In the frame of the IX<sup>th</sup> Corps of the National Liberation Army and the Partisan Detachments of Jugoslavia the Italian division "Garibaldi Natisone" was formed. In the common struggle, in the common suffering, in the common blood-shed the Italian-Slovene fraternity was born. The Slovene people in the villages provided the Italian with the same care as the Slovene units.

The townspeople as well grasped the situation and found their right way. By the committees of the Liberation Front and the Worker's Unity food, clothes and other things were sent to their fighters. In Trieste among Italian and Slovene anti-Fascists a close collaboration started. The internal resi-



stance in Trieste, which was joined also by the Italians was led all the time by the Command of City of the Jugoslav Army, which was illegally organised in Trieste by the IX<sup>th</sup> Corps of the National Liberation Army and the Partisan Detachments of Jugoslavia.

Already in 1944 the Italian people sent hundreds of resolutions to Marshal Tito and to the Jugoslav Assembly. They were conscious of the deep democratic changes taking place in Jugoslavia in regard of equality of all nations and the economical reality. They were namely conscious that Trieste had been in economical regards unsuccessful in Italy and it is inevitably dependent on the Jugoslav hinterland. Therefore in these resolutions the people immediately claimed the union of Trieste and the Julian March with Jugoslavia.

To-day the great majority of the Italian population is for a union with Jugoslavia and it showed this repeatedly by manifestations on the greatest scale — because it is conscious that it has only there to expect a proper economic development and welfare but at the same time that the Jugoslav Constitution guarantees it all regard of its national rights.

**8) The people of the Julian March have suffered in the struggle for their liberation heavy losses. This struggle is a plebiscite of blood for Jugoslavia. In this struggle the peoples of the Julian March were in the highest degree supported by their Jugoslav Army.**

During the National Liberation struggle in the units of the National Liberation Army in the Julian March 72.000 fighters fought (among them also women and youth under 17). At the end of 1944 in the Julian March were 30.000 fighters, but 15.000 fighters born in the Julian March, were fighting in the ranks of the Jugoslav Army in Jugoslavia.

In this struggle so to say the whole Julian March was fighting for its population was permanently subject to "purgations", attacks, burning of villages, deportations to internment camps, shooting, hanging etc.

During the struggle according to the hitherto collected data 42.800 persons were killed, and 95.460 persons interned. If we consider that the whole population of the Julian Region amounts up to a million, and from these Trieste itself has 300.000 inhabitants, we can see what great part the people of the Julian Region took in this struggle. These numbers are a true plebiscite of blood for Jugoslavia. Besides 19.357 buildings were burnt and ruined, and partially destroyed were 16.837.

Also Trieste itself has sacrificed a lot. The Fascist terror reached its culmination in the shooting of 72 hostages at Opčine and in the hanging of 52 hostages in Via Ghega in Trieste. But in the Trieste rice mill the Germans burnt about 3.000 anti-Fascists from all over the Julian March.

All these enormous sacrifices on the Allied side the people of the Julian March made believing and trusting that it were fighting for the union to Jugoslavia, that is to say for its real freedom and for its happy future.

The Julian March was definitely liberated by the IV<sup>th</sup> Army Corps of the Jugoslav Army.



The Regional National Liberation Committee for the Slovene Littoral and Trieste herewith gives the Honourable interallied Commission a survey of the most important ethnographical, economical and political reasons for the annexation of the Julian March and Trieste to the Federal People's Republic Jugoslavia. To show it more clearly two collections of documents are included.

The Regional National Liberation Committee speaks on behalf of the people in the Julian March and Trieste, which it represents and sets the claim, that the Julian Region and Trieste are to be united with the Federal People's Republic Jugoslavia in the extent and way as it was represented by the Jugoslav Government at the Conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in London.

The Regional National Liberation Committee has the full confidence in the Interallied Commission of the United Nations of America, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and France, on the side of whom the people of the Julian March thus decidedly and self-sacrificing were fighting. The confidence namely, that after a thoroughly and impartial consideration of all reasons it will agree with the will of the people of the Julian March and Trieste and put to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Allied States its proposal: the whole of the Julian March should be united with Jugoslavia.

