

Shëngjin. Reports by the plenipotentiary Nicola Squitti on the German bombardment, and the participation of Ricciotto Canudo, a writer from Puglia, in the Battle of Vardar against Bulgarian troops shed new light on Italy's role in war-torn Serbia. In addition, Imperato emphasizes the Franco-Italian animosities regarding the division of spheres in Asia Minor, the Allied military presence on Corfu in 1915/1916, Venizelos' 1917 aspirations for Northern Epirus, and strained relations among Allied troops on the Salonica front. Through the Agreement of San Giovanni di Moriana on April 19, 1917, Italy gained the city of Smyrna and the right to political influence in the northern regions of Asia Minor, only to lose all except Adalia at the Paris Peace Conference.

Imparato touches on every aspect of war: social, demographic, economic, and geostrategic. He discusses topics such as the subdivision of the port of Otranto; Italy's illusory hope for German benevolence (Italy declared war on Germany in 1916); the geostrategic importance of the occupation of Vlorë; the naval conventions; the occupation of the Dalmatian and Ionian islands; the chronology of the naval war with Austria-Hungary; Italian intellectuals' views on the Treaty of London, the Agreement of San Giovanni di Moriana, etc. He also includes some passages about Brindisi where the main Allied fleet was headquartered.

In the chapter on Albania, *La Puglia e l'Italia nella 'lunga prima guerra mondiale' dell'Albania* (pp. 127–255), the author mentions that Luigi Cadorna was opposed to sending landing troops from Vlorë to Durrës, and that Essad Pasha Toptani had relied on Italy to prevent the return of the Young Turks to Albania (who operated from Corfu and were transferred from Puglia's ports). Furthermore, Toptani sought to facilitate trade relations with Italy during the war. Imperato points out it was a challenge for Italy to retain the south of Albania, the "key to the Adriatic" (which was achieved by sending a small military contingent on the destroyer *Etna*), while at the same time apply Article VII of the renewed Triple Alliance. The intention to colonize Albania and to appease the Albanian population, which was prone to rebellion, prevented Salandra's and Boselli's governments from actively overthrowing

the unstable Greek constitutional order as the Allies demanded. This would later come about due to strained relations between Italian troops on the Salonika front and the French Allied command, as was embodied by General Sarrail.

Imparato's book contains a clear, chronological narrative, employs a well-rounded approach, and makes considerable use of published archival and monographic materials. The author provides some new insights concerning the prevalence of a South Slavic perception in certain circles of both the Italian public and Italian diplomacy. There is also a certain amount of ambivalence towards the concept of a South Slavic state, which was predicated on the challenge of resisting a common enemy, Austria-Hungary, and the complications that might arise if it were overthrown. Although it seems that, in some segments, the title of the study does not correspond to the breadth of the topic and content, it is evident that this is an important subject to be researched. This investigation is unique not only due to an emphasis on the intellectual climate and the unquestionable influence on it by the processes of major historical events, but also because of Federico Imperato's ability connect the problematic aspects of a particular topic, such as Italian foreign policy in the Balkans, into a well-written, cohesive whole with a clear thematic structure.

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Goran Latinović, *Yugoslav-Italian Economic Relations (1918–1941)*, Faculty of Philosophy, Banja Luka, 2019, 291 pp.

During socialist Yugoslavia, the economic history of the first Yugoslav state was quite studiously researched by numerous eminent historians (Nikola Vučo, Smiljana Đurović, Sergije Dimitrijević, Nikola Gačeša, Mijo Mirković, and others), which resulted in a series of monographs published in the second half of the

twentieth century. Using the Marxist theory of base and superstructure as a guide, and in full accordance with the spirit of the times in which they were created, these Yugoslav historians sought the root causes of the issues faced by the Kingdom of Yugoslavia by looking at the economic exploitation of the working class, domination by foreign capital, and so on. In the last twenty-five years or so, however, such topics have been almost completely suppressed within our historiography, so the publication of Goran Latinović's book is like a breath of fresh academic air. Latinović became interested in Yugoslav-Italian economic relations during the interwar period while working toward his doctorate at the University of San Marino, and he recognized their importance for relations in general between these two neighbors who shared the Adriatic Sea. The outcome of this interest, along with many years of archival and library research in Rome and Belgrade, is a successfully defended doctoral dissertation, *Yugoslav-Italian Economic Relations (1918–1941)*, which the author then prepared for publication and offered to the respected press at the Faculty of Philosophy in Banja Luka.

Latinović first acquaints the reader with the complex political relations between Yugoslavia and Italy in an instructive introduction (*Yugoslavia and Italy 1918–1941: An Overview of Political Relations*). Then, in the first chapter (*Economic Relations between the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and the Kingdom of Italy 1918–1929*), he addresses their economic relations up to the beginning of the Great Depression. He analyzes trade, transportation infrastructure, currency exchange between the lira and the dinar, debt, and the institutions involved in the two countries' economic cooperation. In the second chapter, (*Yugoslav-Italian Economic Relations during the Great Economic Crisis 1929–1933*), the author draws attention to the impact of the Great Depression on Yugoslav-Italian economic relations, and underlines the significant decline in trade between them during this period. The third chapter, (*Yugoslav-Italian Economic Relations Post-Crisis and in the Years of the German Economic Penetration into Southeastern Europe 1933–1941*) deals with the years following the

Great Depression, which was marked by Yugoslav economic sanctions against Italy (due to Italian aggression in Abyssinia) and the significant penetration of German economic influence into the Yugoslav market (to Italy's detriment). Finally, in the fourth chapter (*Italian Capital in the Yugoslav Economy 1918–1941*), the author turns to the small amount of Italian investment capital in the Yugoslav interwar economy.

Finally, Latinović summarizes his conclusions drawn from his research. The most important of these were the compatibility of the two economies (Italy imported mostly wood, grain, livestock, and meat from Yugoslavia, and exported textiles and textile products), and that Yugoslavia usually achieved a significant trade surplus – so much so that the Italian public speculated about Yugoslav economic exploitation of Italy." In this sense, the author places particular emphasis on the role of Trieste as an important railway and maritime hub, not only for trade between Italy and Yugoslavia but also between Central and Southeast Europe.

At the very end, a summary in Italian is included, along with a comprehensive bibliography and a register of personal names and geographical terms. These are accompanied by numerous tables, which help the reader navigate the complex issues of economic history Dr. Goran Latinović grapples with. We hope that his effort will motivate other researchers to investigate more thoroughly the role of economic factors in the development, as well as the decline, of the Yugoslav state.

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