

PRIMORSKI SLOVENCİ POD ITALIJANSKO ZASEDBO, 1918–1921. By Milica Kacin-Wohinz. *Zgodovina Slovencev, 1918–1945*, vol. 1. Maribor and Trst: "Obzorja" and Založništvo Tržaškega tiska, 1972. 468 pp. 96 Din.

Although many works have been written about the territory along the Italo-Yugoslav border and about its people, Kacin-Wohinz's scholarly book, *Primorski Slovenci pod italijansko zasedbo, 1918–1921* (*Slovenes of the Littoral Under the Italian Occupation, 1918–1921*), deserves special attention. Access to the rich source material of the Italian state archives in Rome gave the author the opportunity to shed new light on controversial issues and to clarify the old suppositions. Moreover, her book introduces a new series on the history of Slovenes for the period between the wars under the direction of the Institute for the History of the Labor Movement in Ljubljana.

Kacin-Wohinz deals with the period of the Italian occupation of the Slovene Littoral (the county of Gorica, Trieste, northern Istria, and parts of Carniola) from the dissolution of the Habsburg Empire until its annexation by Italy in 1921. She is mainly concerned with the aspirations and the activities of the people as expressed by their political parties which she groups into three distinctive blocs—the Italian bourgeois, the Slovene bourgeois, and the socialist. Needless to say, the Italian bourgeois parties greeted the occupation of the land and called for its annexation to Italy. The Slovene bourgeois parties protested against Italian occupation and demanded instead the annexation of the entire Slovene Littoral to the newly created South Slavic state. The Slovene and the Italian socialists, who had merged into one party in 1919, favored internationalizing the ethnically mixed area while ceding the rest of it to Italy and Yugoslavia according to the ethnic principle. Consequently, the Italian bourgeois parties and the occupational authorities regarded the Slovenes and the Socialists as being hostile to Italian national interests.

Therefore, when the rumor spread in 1920 of a Slovene Socialist alliance which was allegedly preparing riots against the Italian occupation, the Fascists struck first against the Slovenes, burning their cultural and political center (*narodni dom*) in Trieste, and two months later attacking the barricades of the striking workers. Kacin-Wohinz confirms the old assertions that the above rumors were fabricated by the Fascists in an attempt to achieve the reputation of being the defenders of Italian national interests and gain the support of the Italian bourgeoisie. In reality, a Slovene Socialist alliance was impossible because the Slovenes regarded their own Socialists as traitorous to national interests. On the other hand, the Socialists regarded the territorial question as subordinate to the Socialist proletarian revolution which was, according to them, just around the corner and which would also bring along a just territorial settlement.

The book is well written, and includes footnotes, a bibliography, and an index of personal names. It contains many photographs, maps, photocopies of important documents, and a lengthy summary in French.

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LA LIBERAZIONE DELLA ROMANIA DAL FASCISMO: XXX ANNIVERSARIO. Rome: Editori Riuniti, in collaborazione con l'Istituto di studi storici politici e sociali di Bucarest, 1976. 918 pp. Lire 15.000.

This thick volume contains thirty-one conference papers on the overthrow of the Antonescu government in 1944, with a documentary appendix occupying almost two-thirds of the volume. The papers discuss the preparation, execution, and consequences of the August 23 coup. The authors reassert the familiar official interpretations: the reversal of alliances is explained as the product not of a palace coup, but of a Commu-