

## **The *Provveditore in Istria* Marino Malpiero**

### **Summary**

This essay outlines the figure of the *Provveditore in Istria* Marino Malpiero, who was elected in 1580 by the Venetian Senate and sent to the Province with the aim of supporting and coordinating the process of immigration in Istria. Many factors – such as cyclic famines, precarious health conditions and forced enrolments – contributed to reduce the population of Venetian Istria. For this reason, from 1530 to 1670, the Venetian Republic tried to coordinate the population's movements by encouraging different people to move to Istria. From 1579 to 1592 the Venetian intervention was more pressing: during these two decades the process of repopulation was entrusted to an ad hoc officer who was sent to Istria with extraordinary powers, in the hope of avoiding the mistakes made with previous immigrations. Five *provveditori* were dispatched to the Province. This essay focuses on the second, Marino Malpiero, and describes how the Venetian patrician carried out his job and was welcomed in Istria. A brief description of Venetian Istria at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century is also included, thanks to his "relazione di fine mandato". Moreover, it analyses the difficult relation between the *provveditore* Malpiero and the members of the City Council of Pula in order to highlight how Pula's élite was able to recriminate even the highest positions of the Republic.