

Soče i Goriških brda te pritom jasno upozorio da se radi o opstanku Slovenaca kao jednoga od jednakopravnih dijelova jugoslavenstva, bez kojega o pravom jugoslavenstvu ne može ni biti govora.

Slovene-Croatian relations in the Austrian Littoral in the context of the Croatian policy of "new course", 1903 - 1907

Summary

The paper sheds light on the Slovene-Croatian relations in Istria and Trieste in one of the crucial periods for the area starting at the end of the "period of concord" and encompassing the first decade of the 20th century marked by the Croatian policy of "new course".

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Slovene-Croatian political camp saw the ideological split and diversification of concepts that led to the establishment of the Political Society for Croats and Slovenes in Istria. As a result, the influence of the Edinost ("Unity", a Trieste political society) in Istria decreased considerably. Nevertheless, Slovene-Croatian solidarity managed to survive, which was particularly evident during the Croatian mass rallies of 1903.

Despite certain antagonisms, the Edinost – led by the Croatian politician Matko Mandić until 1905 – maintained good relations with the political leadership of the Croatian camp. However, after the establishment of the "Slavic-Latin Union" in 1904 in Paris, it came into severe conflict with Dr. Ante Tresić-Pavičić, a Dalmatian politician, poet, writer and editor of the newspaper *Jadran*. The notorious Croatian policy of "new course" soon started toying with the idea of forging an alliance with Italy or, more precisely, with the informal irredentist movement, yet it soon found itself in a situation where it could not avoid the policy of appeasement when it came to territorial issues related to the Austrian Littoral, in particular to Trieste and the western half of Istria. The circle gathered around the Edinost whose presidents (Rybař, Gregorin, Slavik) after 1906 were of liberal and national orientation, responded in a variety of manners as it felt that the "new course" did not even take into account its views related to Austro-Hungarian internal affairs. Concomitantly, the sharp polemics with Tresić-Pavičić and the activities of the "Slavic-Latin Unity" compelled the Edinost to assume an extremely cautious and tolerant attitude towards Croats from Istria and their Political Society for Croats and Slovenes in Istria, which was initially active only in Croatian Istria and only gradually spread its sphere of operation to Slovene Istria, which gave rise to tension and disagreements in the following years, in particular during the elections of 1907. In order to avoid a negative impact upon national unity between Slovenes and Croats living in this sensitive ethnically diverse area, the Edinost did not aggravate the situation. As a result, Trieste kept its role of a linking element between the two nations up to the first world war.