



Doctoral Program in Modern and Contemporary Croatian History, Department of History
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Institute for Historical Studies, Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia

Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe (MIREES) program
University of Bologna, Italy

Organize a conference on the

LONDON MEMORANDUM OF 1954

The beginning of the Eternal peace in the Northern Adriatic?

The entry of the Yugoslav Army and Slovenian partisan units into Trieste on May 1, 1945, saw the beginning of one of the most significant border issues in Europe after the Second World War. The border between the Kingdom, and after 1946, between the Italian Republic and Tito's Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, remained unresolved de jure until 1975 with the Osimo agreements. Only then, in the spirit of the Helsinki process and Detente, did the temporary border from 1954 finally become permanent.

The end of the Second World War saw the questioning of several borders with some being shifted once again. As the continent first began to divide into two ideological blocs, only to be followed by the Yugoslavia's departure from the Soviet orbit in 1948 with the Tito and Stalin split, the situation in the northern Adriatic became particularly sensitive. The fate of the Julian March and Trieste became emblematic of the broader struggle for influence and control in the post-war Europe.

The withdrawal of the Anglo-American forces from Zone A of the Free Territory of Trieste in 1954, as mandated by the London Memorandum, symbolized the shifting tides of influence in the region. Similarly, the conclusion of the Allied occupation in Austria with the signing of the Austrian State Treaty in 1955 signaled a turning point in the post-war order. However, these developments were not without their controversies and complications, as evidenced by the Soviet intervention that had suppressed the events known as the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, serving as a stark reminder of the limits of the geopolitical order created in 1945.

The Yugoslav-Italian negotiations, which concluded in October 1954 resulted in the temporary London Memorandum. As the chief Yugoslav negotiator, Ambassador Vladimir Velebit stated, temporary agreements can often prove to be the most enduring.



The Conference organized on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the London Memorandum, jointly organized by the Doctoral Program in Modern and Contemporary Croatian History in European and Global Contexts, Department of History, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, and the Institute for Historical Studies, Science and Research Centre Koper and Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe (MIREES) program of the University of Bologna, aims to clarify the multifaceted repercussions of the end of the war in Venezia Giulia and Istria, Slovenian Littoral, Kras, and Gorizia, situating them within the broader tapestry of European history and geopolitics. Through a nuanced exploration of the intertwined fates of Croatia, Slovenia, and Italy, the conference aims to deepen our understanding of the enduring complexities of post-war Europe and its ongoing ramifications for the continent and beyond.

We are especially interested in contributions on the following topics:

- Links between the London memorandum and military/political/territorial adjustments in 1950s Europe (e.g. Austria, Hungary, Germany etc.)
- Consequences of the de-facto dissolution of the Free Territory of Trieste for local societies in the border area
- Consequences of the de-facto settling of the border dispute for Italian and Yugoslav relations
- Historiography on the London Memorandum and its shifts, with particular reference to events that affected the Upper Adriatic region (Treaty of Osimo, the dissolution of Yugoslavia for example.)

Please send proposed topics and abstracts (300 words) with your CV by 15 July 2024 to our account: london.memo.1954@gmail.com. Notice of acceptance by 31 July 2024.

Participants must cover their own travel expenses. Accommodation and food will be provided by the conference organization. The Conference will take place in Zagreb, Croatia, at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb.

The publication of conference proceedings is planned.

CONFERENCE LANGUAGES:

English.

Knowledge of Croatian, Italian and Slovene is welcome.

SAVE THE DATE:

November 14-15th, 2024. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Library, Conference room, Ivana Lučića 3, Zagreb and Hotel International, Miramarska cesta 24, Zagreb.