



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Article [Talk](#)

Read [Edit](#) [View history](#)

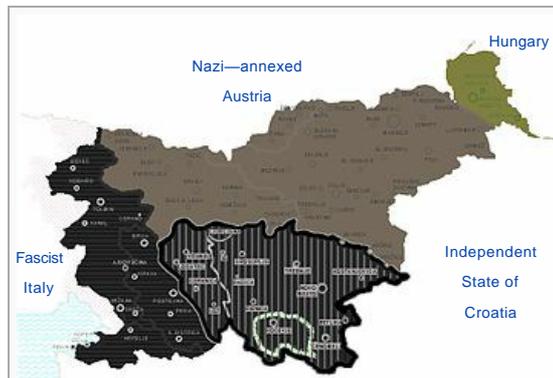
Province of Ljubljana

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Province of Ljubljana** (*Italian: Provincia di Lubiana*, *Slovene: Ljubljanska pokrajina*, *German: Provinz Laibach*) was the central-southern area of **Slovenia**, the only present-day European nation and the only part of **Yugoslavia** that was trisected and completely annexed into neighboring **Nazi Germany**, Fascist **Italy**, and **Hungary** during **World War II**.^[1] Until 1943, it was annexed by the Fascist Italy, and after 1943 occupied by **Nazi Germany**. Created on May 3, 1941, it was abolished on May 9, 1945, when the **Slovene Partisans** and partisans from other parts of Yugoslavia liberated it from the Nazi **Operation Zone of the Adriatic Littoral**. Its administrative centre was **Ljubljana**.

Contents [hide]

- 1 Background
- 2 Territory
- 3 Administration
 - 3.1 The Italian period
 - 3.1.1 Pre-resistance
 - 3.1.2 Post-resistance and war crimes against the Slovene civil population
 - 3.2 The German period (1943–1945)
 - 3.3 Administration
- 4 Armies
- 5 Ending
- 6 References
- 7 Further reading
- 8 See also



During WWII, **Nazi Germany** and **Hungary** occupied northern areas (brown and dark green areas, respectively), while Fascist **Italy** occupied the vertically hashed black area, including **Gottschee** area. (Solid black western part being annexed by Italy already with the **Treaty of Rapallo**). After 1943, Germany took over the Italian occupational area, as well.

Background [edit]

During World War II, Slovenia was in a unique situation. While Greece shared its experience of being trisected, Slovenia was the only country that experienced a further step—absorption and annexation into neighboring **Nazi Germany**, Fascist **Italy**, and **Hungary**.^[1] After Yugoslavia was invaded by **Axis Powers** on 6 April 1941, Germany and Hungary occupied northern Slovenia. The ethnic German **Gottscheers** were moved out of the province because Hitler opposed having them in the Italian occupation zone.

Territory [edit]

After the attack on Yugoslavia by Germany and **Italy**, the central area of Slovenia was occupied by Italy as a territory that had historically belonged to the **County of Gorizia**, the **Duchy of Friuli**, and the Ancient **Roman provinces** of Illyria, and the Roman city of **Emona** (modern Ljubljana) had been an important hub of communication.^[2] The bulk of its territory was:

- **Lower Carniola** (except a strip of land along the Sava River, occupied by the **Third Reich**);
- The eastern portions of **Inner Carniola** (the present-day municipalities of **Logatec**, **Cerknica**, **Bloke**, and **Loška Dolina**),
- The city of Ljubljana and its southern suburbs. The northern suburbs (**Šentvid**) were under the occupation of the Greater German Reich.

Fascist Italy occupied **Marindol** and other villages that had previously belonged to the **Banovina of Croatia**, Milič-Selo, Paunović-Selo, Žunič-Selo, Vukobrati, Vidnjeviči, and Vrhovci. These villages were annexed to the municipality of **Črnomelj** as part of the Province of Ljubljana, despite being predominantly inhabited by Orthodox Serbs.

After the war the inhabitants of those areas demanded to be returned to the **People's Republic of Croatia** as part of the county of **Karlovac**^[*citation needed*]. By the administrative organization of 1947, Marindol and the surrounding villages on the left bank of **Kolpa** constituted a local community in the composition of the county of **Karlovac**. It was still a constituent part of the county at the time of 1948 census. After that the complete area was under Slovene authority. Parts of the **Žumberak/Gorjanci** area were also annexed by Italy to the **Ljubljana Province** and parts of **Gorski Kotar** mainly in the Čabar area (villages around Prezid), all from what was earlier part of the **Banovina of Croatia**. This was an agreement between the Kingdom of Italy and the

- [Main page](#)
- [Contents](#)
- [Featured content](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Random article](#)
- [Donate to Wikipedia](#)
- [Wikimedia Shop](#)

Interaction

- [Help](#)
- [About Wikipedia](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Contact page](#)

Tools

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Upload file](#)
- [Special pages](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Page information](#)
- [Wikidata item](#)
- [Cite this page](#)

Print/export

- [Create a book](#)
- [Download as PDF](#)
- [Printable version](#)

Languages

- [Čeština](#)
 - [Deutsch](#)
 - [Italiano](#)
 - [Latina](#)
 - [Русский](#)
 - [Slovenščina](#)
 - [Српски / srpski](#)
 - [Srpskohrvatski / српскохрватски](#)
 - [Svenska](#)
 - [Українська](#)
- [Edit links](#)

Part of a series on the

History of Slovenia

Italy / Noricum / Pannonia
Slavic settlement of the Eastern Alps

- Eurasian Avars
- Samo's Realm
- Carantania
- Carneola
- Holy Roman Empire
- March of Carniola
- Windic March
- Illyrian Provinces
- Kingdom of Illyria
- Inner Austria
- Drava Banovina
- World War II in the Slovene Lands
- Socialist Republic of Slovenia
- Republic of Slovenia

Slovenia portal

v · t · e

Administration [edit]

The Italian period [edit]

Pre-resistance [edit]

Compared to the German policies in the northern Nazi-occupied area of Slovenia and the forced [Fascist italianization](#) in the former [Austrian Littoral](#) that was annexed after the First World War, the initial Italian policy in the central Slovenia was not as violent. Tens of thousands of [Slovenes](#) from German-occupied [Lower Styria](#) and [Upper Carniola](#) escaped to the Province of Ljubljana until June 1941.

The central area of Slovenia was first occupied by [Fascist Italy](#) in April 1941. It was subjected to military occupation but on May 1941, after the *debellatio* of the [Yugoslav State](#) by the [Axis Powers](#), it was formally annexed by the Kingdom of Italy under the name of *Provincia di Lubiana*. The province was created as a specific administration unit within Italy. Although considered as an integral part of Italy, it was treated as a *corpus separatum*. Unlike other provinces, it was administered by a High Commissioner, appointed by the Italian Government. The High Commissioner had a similar position as *prefects* in other Italian provinces, but was given wider competences. The first High Commissioner was [Emilio Grazioli](#). The province did enjoy some political or administrative autonomy and several concessions were given to the local [Slovene](#) population. In the countryside, most of the municipal administrations, elected in general elections during the [Kingdom of Yugoslavia](#), could continue to function. Judiciary and local administration personnel were also kept. Both [Italian](#) and [Slovene](#) were given the status of [official languages](#) and also the status of an administrative language. Most Slovenian cultural and educational institutions of national importance, such as the [University of Ljubljana](#) and the [Academy of Sciences and Arts](#), were kept. Education in the Slovene language was kept, although Italian was introduced as an obligatory second language. The population of the Province was exempted from military service in the Italian Army.

Also, the Consult was created as an advisory council of the High Commissioner's office. It was composed by members of local economic and professional associations, as well as of those political party leaders that were willing to *collaborate* with Italian authorities.

Post-resistance and war crimes against the Slovene civil population [edit]

The initial tolerant policies of the Italian administration did not last long. After the establishment of the [Liberation Front](#) and the emergence of the [partisan resistance](#), the Italian army's opinion has been in accord with the 1920s speech by [Benito Mussolini](#):

When dealing with such a race as Slavic - inferior and barbarian - we must not pursue the carrot, but the stick policy.... We should not be afraid of new victims....

The Italian border should run across the [Brenner Pass](#), [Monte Nevoso](#) and the [Dinaric Alps](#).... I would say we can easily sacrifice 500,000 barbaric Slavs for 50,000 Italians....

—Benito Mussolini, speech held in [Pula](#), 22 February 1922^{[3][4]}

As noted by Minister of Foreign Affairs in Mussolini government, [Galeazzo Ciano](#), when describing a meeting with secretary general of the Fascist party who wanted Italian army to kill all the Slovenes:

(...) I took the liberty of saying they (the Slovenes) totaled one million. It doesn't matter - he replied firmly - we should model ourselves upon ascaris (auxiliary Eritrean troops infamous for their cruelty) and wipe them out".^[5]

General [Mario Robotti](#), Commander of the Italian 11th division in Slovenia and Croatia, issued an order in line with a directive received from Mussolini in June 1942: "I would not be opposed to all (*sic*) Slovenes being imprisoned and replaced by Italians. In other words, we should take steps to ensure that political and ethnic frontiers coincide.",^[6] which qualifies as [ethnic cleansing](#) policy.

The Province of Ljubljana saw the deportation of 25,000 people, which equaled 7.5% of the total population. The operation, one of the most drastic in Europe, filled up [Italian concentration camps](#) on the island Rab, in Gonars, Monigo (Treviso), Renicci d'Anghiari, Chiesanuova and elsewhere.

[Mario Roatta](#)'s "Circular 3C" (Circolare 3C), tantamount to a declaration of war on the [Slovene](#) civil population, involved him in [war crimes](#) while he was the commander of the 2nd Italian Army in Province of Ljubljana.^[7]

Italians put the [barbed wire](#) fence - which is now [Path of Remembrance and Comradeship](#) - around Ljubljana in order to prevent communication between the [Liberation Front](#) in the city and the resistance ([Chetniks](#) and [Partisans](#)) in the surrounding countryside.

On February 25, 1942, only two days after the [Italian Fascist](#) regime established [Gonars concentration camp](#) the first transport of 5,343 internees (1,643 of whom were children) arrived from - at the time already overpopulated - [Rab concentration camp](#), from the Province of Ljubljana itself and from another [Italian concentration camp](#) in Monigo (near [Treviso](#)). The survivors received no compensation from the Italian state after the war.



The violence against the Slovene civil population easily matched the German.^[8] For every major military operation, General M. Roatta issued additional special instructions, including one that the orders must be "carried out most energetically and without any false compassion".^[9]

One of Roatta's soldiers wrote home on July 1, 1942: "We have destroyed everything from top to bottom without sparing the innocent. We kill entire families every night, beating them to death or shooting them."^[10]

After the war Roatta was on the list of the most sought after [Italian war criminals](#) indicted by Yugoslavia and other countries, but never saw anything like the [Nuremberg Trials](#) because the British government saw in [Pietro Badoglio](#), also on the list, a guarantee of an [anti-communist](#) post-war [Italy](#) within the context of the [Cold War](#). Some of the most notorious were put on trial however, including Roatta. But he escaped just before being jailed, and fled to Spain.^{[11][12]}

The German period (1943–1945) [edit]

After the [Italian armistice](#) in September 1943, the province was occupied by Nazi Germany. The province was kept in the same borders that were set by Italian occupation forces. The province was included in the [Adriatic Littoral](#). It was finally abolished on May 9, 1945.

Administration [edit]

During the Italian period (1941–1943), the province was ruled by a High Commissioner. In the first months after the province was officially annexed to Italy (May 1941), a so-called Consultation Council (*consulta*) was set up from high-ranking members of local economic, professional and political elites. The first chairman of the council was [Marko Natlačen](#), former Yugoslav governor of the [Drava Banovina](#). Already in 1942, he stepped down in opposition to Italian occupation policies, and the Council itself ceased to be summoned.

After the German occupation in September 1943, [Leon Rupnik](#) was named president of the province. He managed to establish a fairly autonomous provincial administration with the help of a small circle of collaborators.

Armies [edit]

In 1942 so called *village guards* started appearing spontaneously, as a self-defense against partisan revolutionary violence. They turned to Italians for weapons and equipment, and the Italians soon organized them as a part of [Anti-Communist Volunteer Militia](#). They were called [White Guard](#) by the partisans (and even Germans later on).

After the capitulation of Italy most of the Slovene [Chetniks](#) were destroyed in the [battle of Grčarice](#) (quietly helped by the [Partisans](#), who then became the only resistance group in Slovenia) and members of the 'White Guard' were killed, captured, dispersed or fled to the Germans, where they formed the core of the newly established the [Slovenian Home Guard](#) corps led by former general of the Royal Yugoslav Army [Leon Rupnik](#). He become chief of the puppet provincial government of [Ljubljana Province](#) and came into the service of the Third Reich. Many previously captured or dispersed members of the White Guard soon joined the [Slovenian Home Guard](#).

While the war was still going on some of the leaders of the 'White Guard' underwent a military court-martial in [Kočevje](#) and were sentenced to death. The trial was organized by the [Slovenian National Liberation Council](#).

On the Allied side there was the [Liberation Front of the Slovenian People](#) which was formed on 27 April 1941 by the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovenia, which refrained from active participation in the fighting as the Communist line at the time was that both sides were engaged in an 'imperialist' war. Originally, organizations from the entire political spectrum participated, but as the influence of the Communist Party within the Liberation Front started to grow, some of them turned against it.

Ending [edit]

The area of the Province of Ljubljana after the Second World War were united with the rest of [Slovene Lands](#) that were under the control of [Tito's Yugoslavia](#) and formed the [People's Republic of Slovenia](#) in 1947 that was in the mean time called the Federal State of Slovenia (short form: Federal Slovenia).

Some of its territory was returned to Croatia but some was subsequently claimed by Slovenia.

Bulk of its territory is now the [Republic of Slovenia](#).

References [edit]

- ↑ Gregor Joseph Kranjc (2013). *To Walk with the Devil* , University of Toronto Press, Scholarly Publishing Division, p. introduction 5
- ↑ Davide Rodogno (2006). *Fascism's European empire: Italian occupation during the Second World War*. Cambridge University Press. p. 82. ISBN 0-521-84515-7.
- ↑ Verginella, Marta (2011). "Antislavizmo, razzismo di frontiera?" . *Aut aut* (in Italian). ISBN 978-88-6576-106-9.
- ↑ Santarelli, Enzo (1979). *Scritti politici: di Benito Mussolini; Introduzione e cura di Enzo Santarelli* (in Italian). p. 196.
- ↑ *The Ciano Diaries 1939–1943: The Complete, Unabridged Diaries of Count Galeazzo Ciano, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, 1936–1943* (2000) ISBN 1-931313-74-1
- ↑ Tommaso Di Francesco, Giacomo Scotti (1999) *Sixty years of ethnic cleansing* , *Le Monde Diplomatique*, May Issue.
- ↑ James H. Burgwyn: "General Roatta's war against the partisans in Yugoslavia: 1942", *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, Volume 9, Number 3, September 2004, pp. 314-329(16), link by IngentaConnect
- ↑ Ballinger, P. (2002). History in exile: memory and identity at the borders of the Balkans. Princeton University Press. ISBN 0-691-08697-4
- ↑ Giuseppe Piemontese (1946): Twenty-nine months of Italian occupation of the Province of Ljubljana . Page 10.
- ↑ James Walston, a historian at the American University of Rome. Quoted in Rory, Carroll. Italy's bloody secret. *The Guardian*. (Archived by WebCite®) , *The Guardian*, London, UK, June 25, 2003
- ↑ Effie G. H. Pedaliu (2004) Britain and the 'Hand-over' of Italian War Criminals to Yugoslavia, 1945-48. *Journal of Contemporary History*. Vol. 39, No. 4, Special Issue: Collective Memory, pp. 503-529 (JStor.org preview)
- ↑ Rory, Carroll. Italy's bloody secret. *The Guardian*. (Archived by WebCite®) , *The Guardian*, London, UK, June 25, 2003

Further reading [edit]

- Ballinger, P. (2002). History in exile: memory and identity at the borders of the Balkans. Princeton University Press, ISBN 0-691-08697-4
- Burgwyn, H.J. (2005). *Empire on the Adriatic: Mussolini's Conquest of Yugoslavia 1941-1943* (introduction by Lutz Klinkhammer), Enigma Books, ISBN 1-929631-35-9
- Giuseppe Piemontese (1946): *Twenty-nine months of Italian occupation of the Province of Ljubljana* (the book's content download link)

See also [edit]

- Liberation Front of the Slovenian People
- Anti-Communist Volunteer Militia

Categories: Former Slavic countries | States and territories established in 1941 | States and territories disestablished in 1945 | Historical subdivisions of the Slovene ethnic territory | Yugoslavia in World War II | World War II occupied territories | Former countries in the Balkans | Client states of Nazi Germany | Client states of Fascist Italy | Corpus separatum | Italy–Yugoslavia relations

This page was last modified on 8 April 2014 at 14:20.

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.

Privacy policy About Wikipedia Disclaimers Contact Wikipedia Developers Mobile view

