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THE WORLD WAR II DEMOGRAPHY: SLOVENIAN LITTORAL
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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to present the demographic and the historical consequences of the World War II in Slovenia and specifically in the Slovenian Littoral. These consequences are indicated as well by the gender structure of the human losses, since around 90 % of all human losses are being male, and by the age structure as well, since of more than 97,700 human losses in Slovenia – representing a loss of the population in the amount of 6.5 % – the percentage of people younger than 25, is amounting to well over a third of all fatalities. This research has also shown a different dimension, since it has pointed out the WW II historical specifics of the Slovenian Littoral in comparison to the Central Slovenia.

Key words: World War II, Slovenia, Slovenian Littoral, human losses of war, post-war violence, demography of war

LA DEMOGRAFIA DELLA SECONDA GUERRA MONDIALE: IL LITORALE
SLOVENO (1940–1945) A CONFRONTO CON LA SLOVENIA CENTRALE

SINTESI

Il saggio prende in esame le conseguenze della Seconda Guerra Mondiale in Slovenia, con particolare attenzione alle conseguenze demografiche che la guerra ebbe sulla Primorska (Litorale sloveno). La natura delle conseguenze demografiche si riflette, infatti, anche nella struttura delle vittime. Tra più di 97.700 vittime, che rappresentano la perdita del 6,5 % della popolazione della Slovenia nell'ultima guerra mondiale, almeno il 90 % delle vittime erano uomini. La struttura per età dei morti indica, invece, che i giovani con meno di 25 anni rappresentavano più di un terzo di tutte le vittime. Allo stesso tempo l'intervento mette in luce le specificità della Primorska (Litorale sloveno) per

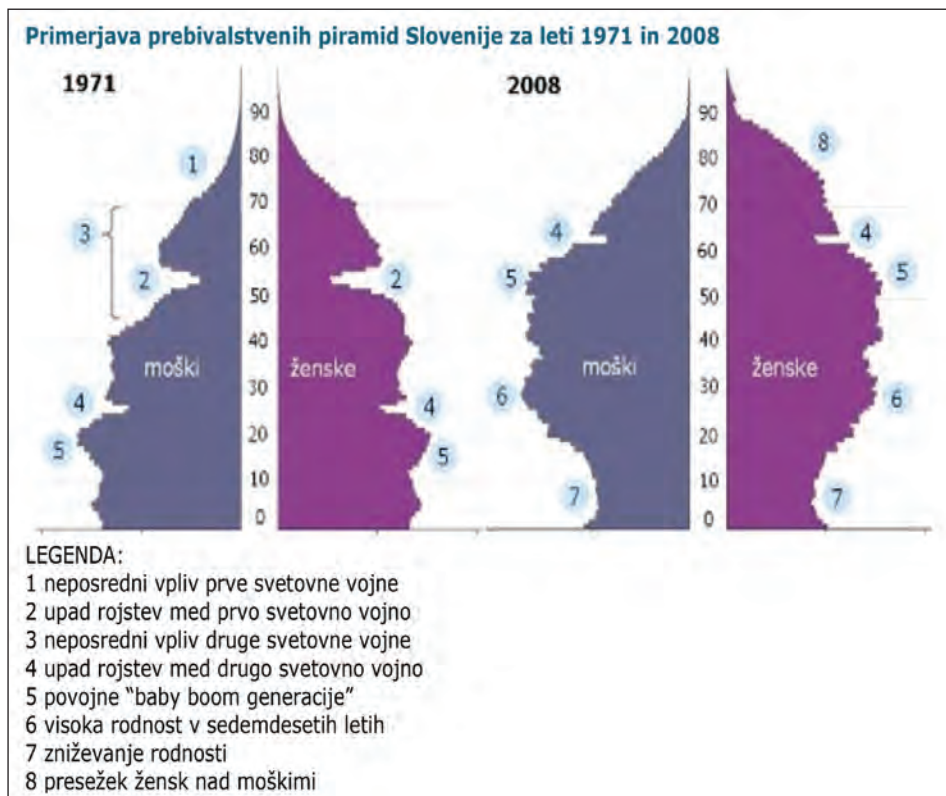
quanto riguarda il suo sviluppo storico e la struttura delle vittime della guerra, nonché il segmento delle perdite demografiche.

Parole chiave: II Guerra Mondiale, Slovenia, Litorale sloveno, morti, guerra, violenza post-bellica, demografia di guerra

THE ETHICAL ASPECT

Slovenia certainly experienced extensive violence during and immediately after World War II due to oppression coming from the occupying forces as well as internal conflicts as the war helped fuel the revolution and civil war. The civil conflict ended after the war, whereby the winning Communist side took massive revenge on those who had collaborated with the occupying forces. That gave rise to “real” victims and those that were left “unacknowledged”. In the single-party system, the public memory of the “real” victims was welcomed and even indispensable as it served the communist state to legitimise its existence in light of its former resistance movement. However, any remembrance of the other victims was absolutely forbidden. In case of the “unacknowledged” victims, the conflict between non-existent public memory and intimate urge emerging in those specific environments the victims had come from, started to grow extensively after the war, finally surfacing in the early 1980s when the political environment started to show pluralistic tendencies, and especially in the 1990s after Slovenia had become an independent country. At that point, historical dialogues held at the academic level resulted in the state appointing several expert committees and supporting a few science projects dealing with the issues of war and post-war violence in Slovenia. In this way, the authorities attempted to encourage mutual tolerance in dialogues on the subject of casualties and the nature of World War II events in Slovenia, and also to free the dead from any tendencies of polarisation. Besides a science project on establishing the structure and identity of killed victims, carried out by the Institute of Contemporary History in Ljubljana (WW II Casualties’ List, 2012),¹ a commission has been appointed with the task to search for locations of “concealed” mass graves, and there was also a science project organised to interpret the symbols of public sites commemorating the victims of World War II and the post-war violence. The traumatic events taking place from 1941 to 1945 continue to affect the Slovenian society therefore the memory of victims from that period is still alive and the issue is still being thoroughly researched (Dežman, 1989; Okrogla miza, 1989; Žrtve druge svetovne vojne na Slovenskem, 1996).

1 This e-source is composed of the data acquired in many relevant monographs, further in the archive materials kept in Slovenian archive institutions: The Archives of Republic of Slovenia, The Regional Archives Koper (Capodistria), The Regional Archives Nova Gorica, The Historical Archives Ljubljana. Also many periodicals were taken into consideration: Goriški list, Jutro, Slovenski dom, etc.



Legend:

1. *The Direct Effect of World War I*
2. *The Decline of Births During World War I*
3. *The Direct Effect of World War II*
4. *The Decline of Births during World War II*
5. *"Baby boom generations"*
6. *The High Fertility Rates in the '70s*
7. *The Decline of Fertility*
8. *The Excess of Females over Males*

Chart 1: The Comparison of Population Pyramids of Slovenia in 1971 and 2008 (Statistical Office RS, 2012)

THE DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECT

This time we are presenting the results of the project of registering the fatalities during World War II and in the immediate post-war period, taking place at the Institute of

Contemporary History in Ljubljana from 1997 until its recent conclusion. The processing of all the documents collected has already been completed in 2012. But for now we would like to underline the Slovenian Litoral (the Primorska region).²

The issue of human losses is one of the important aspects of the research on wars, as the nature of wars is often assessed in terms of human losses and the radicalness of violence. Each war affects the population in various ways; the wars among others mark the post-war societies with deep emotional traumas, masses of refugees, homeless, disabled persons and orphans.

If we look at the consequences of the wartime and post-war violence from the demographic point of view, these are still reflected in the Slovenian population pyramid (Statistical Office RS, 2012) in 1971, which can only broadly be referred to as a “pyramid” at all. Even at the first glance we can discern how the two World Wars have influenced the population of Slovenia, directly as well as indirectly. Probably at the time when it was drawing up the population pyramid, the Slovenian Statistical Office resorted to the information about the war casualties it had collected itself in the beginning of the 1960s and then communicated to the Yugoslav Statistical Office. According to this data, during the war Slovenia supposedly suffered **42,000** fatalities (excluding post-war violence). (The List of WW II Fatalities in Slovenia, 1964). This means that the indents representing the direct and indirect losses due to World War II are in fact even deeper, as in the context of the aforementioned project more than **97,700** wartime and post-war fatalities were identified.

This time we shall focus our attention only on the direct and most severe consequences of the war: on the deaths due to wartime and post-war violence, even though the indirect consequences of wars have had a greater impact on the population structure. This impact is reflected in the pyramid as the indents caused by the diminishing birth rates caused by the war. These are the still evident consequences of World War II. Only World War I no longer actually affects the structure of the population pyramid (Statistical Office RS, 2012).

These long-term demographic consequences are also indicated by the age structure of World War II casualties, since of more than **97,700** fatalities in Slovenia (WW II Casualties' List, 2012) – representing a loss of the population in the amount of 6.5 % – the percentage of people younger than 25, who had mostly failed to found a family before then, is high, amounting to well over a third of all casualties (1920–1945: **33,384** casualties). We should underline that we failed to acquire the information about the birth year for more than **15,800** persons, and the percentage of youth among these is certainly similar to the said percentage.

However, the issue of casualties of war is not only demographic in nature. Namely, for a long time the historical profession has been interested in the critical scientific analysis of this issue, especially after the new circumstances have arisen after the attainment of Slovenian independence. The nature of wars is most often in fact evaluated with regard to

2 Because of the methodological approach on the represented project the term Slovenian Litoral in this case defines only the territory between the so called “Rapallo border” after the World War I and present-day state border.

the number and structure of fatalities, even if they also result in a large number of people affected in other ways. In order to understand the implications and limitations of victimology research, which collects precise personal information, information about wartime participation, as well as information about the destinies of individual people, we should first look at its methodological foundations.

In view of the complete Slovenian victimology research, the establishment of the number of fatalities in the Primorska region, identification of the relations between the individual groups of victims and their placement into the historical context outline the peculiarities of the Primorska region historical development. The Primorska region war demography has been affected primarily by two facts. First we should mention the state legal framework, in which this region ended up after World War I, since it influenced the region's subsequent historical development and, last but not least, the structure of casualties. However, the specific nature of the Primorska region has also been defined by its geostrategic (and geopolitical) position.

The fact that after World War I this region became an integral part of the Kingdom of Italy also gave rise to methodological problems with our research. In the research it was expected that such problems would primarily stem from the population makeup, which was, in certain places, nationally mixed, also as a result of the Italianisation of names during the period of fascism. However, these issues had already been partially overcome in the context of the research already conducted, as well as resolved in the official state registry documents. In fact, the research we are hereby presenting has not encompassed the territory as far as the Slovenian ethnic borders. Instead (especially due to the possibility of carrying out the research at the Institute for the History of the Resistance in Udine) it stopped at what is today the Slovenian-Italian border (Caduti, dispersi e vittime civili, 1990 and 1991).

The aforementioned research – a mix of historical and victimology methods – is still based on historical materials, that is, on relevant publications, periodical press, archive sources and lists of victims, drawn up by various civil societies, for example by the Veterans Association for the Values of the National Liberation Struggle (Združenje borcev za vrednote NOB) and by the New Slovenian Commitment (Nova slovenska zaveza), and also on the unpublished lists compiled by professional historians (regarding Primorska Region: Tone Ferenc, Nataša Nemeč, Nevenka Troha)³ as well as published lists of the amateur historians (Vilhar, Klun, 1967).

As far as archive materials used for the part of the research focusing on the Primorska region are concerned, they originate from Slovenian archives, since the financial resources did not enable us to explore foreign archives. These are mostly secondary sources, for example individual registrations of fatalities with the State Commission for the Determi-

3 The most important unpublished lists of World War II human losses in Primorska Region used for the research were mostly compiled by professional historians, namely Tone Ferenc: Human Losses of WW II in Primorska Region; Nataša Nemeč: The List of the Italian Deportees from the Province of Gorizia; Nevenka Troha: The List of The Arrested and The Deported Italians From the Part of the Province of Trieste, 1945–1950.

nation of Crimes Committed by the Occupying Forces and Their Collaborators (Komisija za ugotavljanje zločinov okupatorjev in njihovih pomagačev – KUZOP), listing almost **8,000** names of war casualties in the Primorska region. The lists of names of war casualties, compiled by the Yugoslav Statistical Office in Belgrade in 1964, are also essential (The List of WW II Fatalities in Slovenia, 1964). These official lists include more than **42,000** names for Slovenia, of these more than **3,800** for the Primorska region. The lists primarily include the names of fatalities caused in this region by the fascist and subsequently German occupation authorities, while in order to study the fatalities suffered by the opposing side, of the archive materials the information provided by the security and police bodies of the partisan movement (Security Intelligence Service, National Guard and Department for the Protection of People) as well as by certain fragmentary archive collections (of the Italian Quaeastorship in Tolmin and the partisan military judiciary) have proved to be most relevant.

In the research this historical approach has been importantly complemented by the official registry documents, namely by death and birth registers in The Registry Offices in Ajdovščina, Koper (Capodistria), Nova Gorica, Ilirska Bistrica, Sežana, Idrija and Tolmin.

As we have looked at the issue of casualties in the Slovenian Littoral and Istria, we have especially been able to solve the dilemmas with regard to the identities of the fatalities, brought about due to the Italianisation of names, because the post-war official bodies had already translated individual Italianised names or even whole registers. However, these documents point out a certain specific feature of the Primorska region, originating from the specific way in which the Italian civil register services have operated or how the Italian death registers have been kept. The basic problem involved in the verification of the identity and structure of victims at the “Italian” civil registers was that regular entries into death registers – that is, entries made by the authorities immediately after the deaths of persons – did not state the cause of death, nor the birth date of the deceased, only their age. Therefore the comparison of our information with the aforementioned civil registers has been limited. It has only been possible in cases when the identity of the victim was undisputed. If we look at this problem from another angle, such entries into death registers have also enabled the authorities to cover up crimes taking place in the time of fascism and war.

Death registers in themselves are a very dynamic source, since entries have been made on the basis of various documents: communications from military authorities, testimonies of family members, and testimonies of other contemporaries. However, thanks to the birth registers the identities of those fatalities, who had not been entered into the death registers, could be confirmed. Perhaps the most important aspect about the situation is that the official entries in the birth registries – for example those with regard to marriages or deaths in the post-war period – have made it possible for us to realise that the persons entered into the death lists had actually survived the war.

Among other things the research of registry documents has also revealed the positive aspects of temporal distance. Primarily this aspect is related to the attainment of Slovenian independence and democratisation of the political life as well as to a range of legal acts addressing the compensation for victims of wartime and post-war violence, which Slovenia has adopted since the 1990s. As it was, families have had to have their killed,

deceased and missing family members officially proclaimed dead in judicial proceedings. On the basis of court orders, as a rule stating the fate of individual people, these casualties have been entered into death registers. In this manner we have acquired a lot of information about victims, which could previously not be found in the archive materials. It is true that many people have been proclaimed dead on the basis of oral statements; therefore the matter had to be approached in a critical manner.

Even before the research took place, it was clear which of the casualties were representative for the post-war authorities. However, a large number of fatalities remained “outside” – the authorities failed to “identify their names” or did not pay (enough) attention to them, although they were not “politically connotated”. On one hand these have been “ignored casualties” from the ranks of the anti-partisan camp, while on the other hand such victims also include children, victims of bombings and various (war-related) accidents. In cases when we identify these people on the war damage application forms, which had been the basis for lists drawn up by the State Commission for the Determination of Crimes Committed by the Occupying Forces and Their Collaborators, the piece of information about their deaths has frequently been lost already in the collective lists of names prepared by the same Commission. All that is left is a statistical number. This is the very aspect where the significance of civil registers and methodological approaches aimed at the identities of the victims has been confirmed once again.

THE HISTORICAL ASPECT⁴

Despite all research problems and the fact that unfortunately the list of names cannot be perfect for many reasons, with regard to the Primorska region a database of **14,015** fatalities caused by the war and the post-war violence taking place between 10 June 1940 and the end of January 1946 has been drawn up. In approximately **9.100** cases the deaths could also be confirmed in the civil registers (death registers and partly also birth registers). Therefore the collected data is sufficient for the purpose of establishing a victimology overview, addressing the number and structure of fatalities as well as indicating the relations between individual groups of these fatalities. This in itself enables a certain historical analysis.

War Related Deaths	Number	Loss of Population (%)
Slovenia	97.720	6.5
Primorska region	14.015	5.4

Table 1: The Number of World War II and post-war Human Losses in Slovenia and Primorska region (WW II Casualties' List, 2012)

4 The statistical data presented in the paragraph “The Historical Aspect” are based on aforementioned research, carried out by the Institute of Contemporary History in Ljubljana (WW II Casualties' List, 2012).

The list includes everyone who lived in the territory of what is today the Republic of Slovenia during World War II. This research does not identify casualties among Italians immigrating to the Primorska region during the fascist rule. Therefore in these cases it resorts to the research conducted by other historians, who estimate that in the autumn of 1943 roughly **300** (Novak, 1992, 135) of these Italians were killed, while immediately after the war they represent more than a half of **1600** fatalities that were caused by the post-war Yugoslav occupation authorities (Pirjevec, 2012, 117–118; Troha, 1999, 9–10, 43–60, 67–71; Kacin Wohinz, Pirjevec, 2000, 121).

In this manner, during and immediately after World War II the Primorska region lost more than **14,000** citizens or as much as 5.4 % of its population, which is just below the established Slovenian average. Similarly as in other Slovenian territories, in the Primorska region war got increasingly intense every year, and this was reflected in the number and structure of victims.

Year of Death	Number of Human Losses
1940	27
1941	139
1942	718
1943	3.665
1944	5.278
1945	3.474
1946	46

Table 2: Human Losses of Slovenian Litoral Regarding to Time of Death (WW II Casualties' List, 2012)

After Italy had joined the war on 10 June 1940, **27** fatalities were established in the same year. These were mostly men drafted into the regular and other detachments of the Italian Army. Later, in 1941, the number of fatalities climbed to as many as **139**. In 1942 as many as **718** fatalities were identified: **77** casualties among the political activists and fighters of the nascent partisan resistance should be added to the **440** fatalities among Italian soldiers. Then we should mention the **84** unarmed civilians, mostly supporters and collaborators of the partisan movement, retaliated against by the fascist authorities. Finally we should also underline **25** people, shot at that time by the partisan units. Supposedly throughout the most of the year 1942 these units fought against people, who were mostly immigrant Italians or suspected and actual confidants among the natives. Towards the end of the same year the situation tensed, and the regional Party leadership started leaning towards retaliating against the political opponents of the communists, which was a fact later criticised by Edvard Kardelj himself. In the year of 1942 a few people, mostly

hailing from Brkini, were identified as persons who died in concentration camps. The following wartime years could be referred to as years of total war, as in 1943 **3,665** fatalities were identified; in 1944 **5,278** fatalities were identified; and in 1945 **3,474** fatalities were identified. Of these persons at least **167** natives were allegedly killed after the war (including autochthonous Italians and those immigrant Italians – **53** of them – who married native Slovenians and staid in this region). The victims included at least **40** Home Guard members from the Primorska region and a majority of the **43** members of the Italian collaboration and certain German units. After the war at least **183** persons died due to the consequences of wartime violence.

The structure of fatalities – we are referring to the damage and relationship between the individual groups of victims – illustrates the nature of World War II in the Primorska region very clearly. The number of fatalities still point at armed persons, taking part in various military and police formations – this conclusion is clearly evident from **8,351** vic-

Category	War related deaths (Primorska included)	Percentage of all war related deaths (%)
Unidentified unit	11.991	12
Partisan movement	31.692	32
Civilians	25.259	26
Home Guards	14.004	14
German uniformed units	10.988	11,5
Italian Royal Army	1.315	1,3
Hungarian Army	314	0,3
Milizia volontaria antisicurezza	817	0,8
Slovenian Chetniks	456	0,5
Yugoslav Royal Army	371	0,4
Slovenian Police unites under German control	190	0,2
Resistance in Europe	119	0,1
Allied Armies	73	0,07
Other	528	0,5

Table 3: The Structure and Number of Human Losses of WW II in Slovenia – including Primorska region (WW II Casualties' List, 2012)

tims (59.6 %). The largest number of victims – **6,628** – was determined among the members of the partisan units (fighting at home as well as at the former Yugoslav territory). Together with the politically active members of the movement (the so-called activists of the Liberation Front), the losses of the partisans represent more than half of all the casualties and a loss of 2.7 % of the region's population. Only in the Gorenjska region these losses are higher, amounting to a loss of 2.9 % of the population. Victims among unarmed civilian population follow with a little under a third; however its **4,101** fatalities point at the totality of wartime violence. If we take into account that for **1,093** casualties we were unable to ascertain their role in the war, we can establish that quite a few of these people could have been civilians. Therefore the violent nature of World War II in the Primorska region is obvious, since the percentage of killed, dead and missing civilian population climbs to more than a third of all casualties. With few discrepancies this correlates with other Slovenian regions. Only one other group included more than **1,000** casualties – men drafted in the departments of the Royal Italian Army. There **1,307** men fell, were killed or died in war prison camps, special labour battalions, i.e. the so-called military internment (Čermelj, Perini, 2005, 38–45), or due to other war consequences.

Category	War related deaths	Percentage of all war related deaths (%)
Unidentified unit	1.093	7.8
Partisan movement	7.074	50.6
Civilians	4.101	29.2
Home Guards	252	1.8
Italian Royal Army	1.307	9.3
Italian partisan movement	62	
Resistance in Europe	22	
Allied Armies	43	
TIGR	7	
Other	35	

Table 4: The Structure and Number of Human Losses of WW II in Primorska region (WW II Casualties' List, 2012)

Due to the effects of wartime violence in the Primorska region the environments where the fascist or Nazi violence manifested itself most prominently suffered the most

severe consequences. It had all started with the arrest of **300** Primorska region anti-fascists in 1940 and the related 2nd Trieste Trial, which, a year later, dealt a difficult blow to the pre-war political associations between Slovenians in the region. We are also referring to offensive operations, undertaken by the fascist and later even more violent German occupation authorities against the partisan movement (Ferenc, 1983, 661), in order to establish control over the region. We should also at least underline the autumn of 1943 and the first months of 1945, as well as all the other violence caused against the civilian population (special court proceedings, hostages, internment of the population, repression against offensive operations etc.). Where this sort of violence has been contributed to by the internal (inter-Slovenian) conflict, the consequences suffered by the population were even harder.

Municipality	Numb. of Human Losses	Loss of Population (%)
Brda	469	8.9
Miren-Kostanjevica	461	8.8
Komen	467	8.7
Cerkno	542	8.6
Tolmin	1168	7.1
Nova Gorica	1637	6.7
Sežana	657	6.7
Idrija	956	6.7
Ajdovščina	1030	6.5
Kanal	509	6.5
Ilirska Bistrica	1091	6.1
Vipava	404	5.8
Other communities	/	Less than 5 %
Piran	272	Less than 2 %
Izola	146	1.6

Table 5: World War II Human Losses in Local Communities of Primorska region (WW II Casualties' List, 2012)

Kraj: Koper
Okrožje: Trzinško.

UMRJI POVOLJI

Datum ali pri- bližni čas:	Število žrtev:	Način izvršitve:	Storilci:
1941 do 1943.	53	ustreljeni	Italijani.
" "	10	mučeni do smrti	
" "	12	pobiti s bombami	
1943 do 1945	116	ustreljeni	Nemci.
" "	64	mučeni do smrti	
1945	3	ustreljeni	DVE.

ŠKODNE CIVILISTOV

datum ali pri- bližni čas:	Način izvršitve:	Storilci:
1941 do 1943	135 tonaž lakota	Italijani.
1941 do 1945	85 " "	Nemci.

ISTAKRANJE CIVILISTOV POD NEHUMANIMI POGOJI

Datum ali pri- bližni čas:	Število žrtev:	Kam odrejeni:	Storilci:	Opomba:
1943 do 1945.	75	v Italijo	Italijani	v taborišču marlo 12.
1943 do 1945.	188	v Nemčijo	" in nemci	" "
1945	3	"	DVE	

PRISILNA MOBILIZACIJA

Datum ali pri- bližni čas:	Štev. mobiliziranih:	Kam odvedeni:	Storilci:
1941 do 1945.	96	v Italijo Bet. specialne.	Italijani.

PRISILNO DELO

Datum ali pri- bližni čas:	Štev. mobiliziranih:	Storilci:	Kakšno delo:
1943 do 1945.	780	Nemci	Kopanje jarkov, doma in v Nemčijo.

PRISILNA IZSELITEV

Datum ali pri- bližni čas:	Število:	Storilci:	Kam odvedeni:
1941 do 1943	8	Italijani	v Italijo.
1943 do 1945.	12	Nemci	"

NEHUMANNO RUSENJE PO IZGANJU IN DOVAHARDITAVJU NEHUMANIŠNIH ŽOST

datum ali pri- bližni čas:	Stanova in gospod. sredst.	Storilci:
1941 do sept. 1943.	289	Italijani.
1943 do 1945.	350	" nemci.

Fig. 2: Statistical data on war violence for the Koper (Capodistria) district (ARS, AS 1818, t.e. 225, a.e. 2964)

Such an internal conflict took place especially in the Gorizia region, where the radical Catholic camp surrounding Janko Kralj, following the Ljubljana policy of the Slovenian People's Party, was even stronger. The elements of the revolutionary violence became more and more evident, and after the Italian capitulation the formation of the Primorska Home Guard, operating under the German control, took place. At that time the internal conflicts, especially in the Gorizia region, developed into armed conflicts between the conflicting Slovenian camps: partisans and anti-partisans. Despite that, in the Primorska region – especially due to the Slovenian experience with fascism, Slovenian anti-fascist disposition, the calming role of the Primorska region centre and the importance this region represented to the communists – this internal conflict did not culminate to such extents as, for example, in the Ljubljana Province (Mlakar, 1982, 7–16, 21–37; Mlakar, 1997, 325–334; Godeša, 2001, 65–75; Pelikan, 1997, 21–49; Bajc, 2000, 91–146; Podbersič, 2011). Therefore the established proportion of fatalities of the aforementioned conflict was lower here as in central Slovenia. Including the immediate post-war period the partisan formations retaliated against at least **516** civilians and **225** armed adherents to counter-revolution (Home Guard and Slovenian Chetniks). In independent or joint actions with occupation forces, the latter caused **565** deaths among the partisans and their political activists, as well as **96** civilian casualties. All of these people represent a 10.7 % share of all the casualties, while only in the Ljubljana Province the interwar victims of the conflict among Slovenians (**5,946**) represent 18.4 % of all the dead; in addition to those Ljubljana Province experienced another **9,952** victims of the post-war retributions, who were mostly Home Guards.

Similarly as elsewhere, the male population in the Primorska region suffered the most, as the war was still mostly a matter of men. Namely, we have established **12,591** casualties among men, representing almost 90 % of all the casualties in the Primorska region.

Largely the Primorska region casualties – as is the case all around Slovenia – involved people, among whom many had not (yet) created a family or who could conceivably have a few children more. Among these casualties, until the year 1900 from a few ten to a maximum of **100** casualties were born per year of birth. Meanwhile, between the years of 1901 and 1907 from **200** and **300** casualties were established per individual years of birth. Between 1908 and 1915 we have established between **300** and **400** casualties per individual year of birth, while those who were born towards the end of World War I were a bit less prominently represented among the casualties, as up to **205** casualties per individual birth year were established. However, as of 1920 people most severely affected by the war started to be born. Until 1925 between almost **500** to almost **700** casualties have been established each year. As it is, among the casualties we have indicated **5,241** single persons (mostly young), **1,106** underage casualties, while for **3,941** casualties we were unable to determine their marital status. However, for these persons we are able to predict they were unmarried. These data make us suspect that after the war the Primorska region had to face severe demographic consequences.

This research has also shown a different dimension – all the locations where the people of Primorska have lost their lives. As Italian soldiers they fought from Africa to the vastness of the former Soviet Union. Most of them died in special labour battalions in



Fig. 3: Monument to the Exiles in Third Reich from Community Komen, where 17 people died (photo: Tadeja Tomišek Čehulič, May 2016)

Year of Birth	Numb. of Human Losses (Females and Males)	Year of Birth	Numb. of Human Losses (Females and Males)
Unknown Year of Birth	1592	1920	492
Born before 1900	2132	1921	573
1900	174	1922	556
1901	205	1923	482
1902	202	1924	682
1903	215	1925	641
1904	235	1926	482
1905	231	1927	407
1906	231	1928	208
1907	249	1929	82
1908	300	1930	42
1909	342	1931	31
1910	291	1932	27
1911	323	1933	31
1912	415	1934	33
1913	376	1935	21
1914	367	1936	25
1915	308	1937	22
1916	205	1938	26
1917	205	1939	23
1918	197	1940–1945	70
1919	350		

Table 6: The Number WW II Human Losses in Slovenian Litoral by the Year of Birth (WW II Casualties' List, 2012)

Italy; further in the German concentration camps all around Europe; in the Allied prison camps in Africa and even India. As members of overseas and other partisan units they have perished in the Balkans, but most of them have been lost in the war back home. In the territory of what is today Slovenia, **8,319** people from the Primorska region have lost

their lives, another **1,226** of them in Italy, **1,158** in Germany, **1,008** in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, and **382** in the former Soviet Union.

In comparison with the rest of Slovenia, perhaps in the Primorska region – in view of the structure of the victims – the following fact may be most evident: that the partisan movement lost at least **7,074** people, what amounts to as much as a half of all the casualties (50.6 %), while in this case the proportion established for Slovenia amounts to approximately one third (32 %). Meanwhile, in the Primorska region a few more civilian casualties have been identified – 29.2 % of all casualties, in comparison with the Slovenian percentage of 26 %. Perhaps the reasons for this could be found in the escalation of the resistance since 1943, as well as in the fact that the demobilised Italian soldiers have been known to join the Overseas Brigades (Bajc, 2002, 182–196, 215–219, 226, 228, 285, 292–294; Uršič, 2014) and contribute to the liberation taking place all the way from Dalmatia to Trieste (Vilhar, Klun, 1969; Klun Gošnik, 1984). After 1943 the struggle for the Primorska region, undertaken by the partisan movement, began. However, the geostrategic location of this region had contributed to the fact that all of the retreating army forces, collaborating with the German occupation units in the Balkans, gathered here. This even intensified the military situation and caused harm to the local population.

Furthermore, in the Primorska region the circumstances of the total war, blurring the dividing line between the hinterlands and the front, were most obvious during the German occupation, as the fascist wartime violence resulted in approximately **1,100** fatalities (repression during military offensives, reprisals, confinement for political suspects, internation of people in concentration camps, special court proceedings etc.), but the German occupiers themselves killed at least **7,696** Primorska inhabitants. In **3,048** cases these were civilians. Of these at least **1,347** civilians died or were killed in German concentration camps or due to their consequences. Furthermore, purges during offensive operations and other forms of repression claimed another **1,321** lives. Thus – as elsewhere in Slovenia – the intention to commit an ethnocide against Slovenians was expressed clearly.

We would also like to point out that all those war and post-war events (post war violence, emigrations, deportations of the German nationals etc.) caused a great demographic loss in Slovenia, which was no less than around 146,000–150,000 people (Vodopivec, 2005).

Nevertheless, present-day Slovenian deliberations about the character of World War II in Slovenia still burden social relationships, especially when dealing with the dimensions of the issues pertaining to victims of the internal struggle among Slovenians during the occupation and with the retributions undertaken in its aftermath (Žajdela, 2011). Among the other goals with the presented – demographic in nature – project this gap tried to be narrowed.

DEMOGRAFIJA DRUGE SVETOVNE VOJNE: SLOVENSKO PRIMORJE (1940–1945) V PRIMERJAVI Z OSREDNJO SLOVENIJO

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POVZETEK

V prispevku so orisane posledice druge svetovne vojne na Primorskem, pri čemer so upoštevane smrtne žrtve vojne. Demografske posledice so še vidne v prebivalstvenih piramidah Slovenije. Statistični urad je zanje verjetno uporabil podatke o številu vojnih žrtev, ki jih je zbral na začetku 60. let. Glede na te podatke je Slovenija utrpela 42.000 žrtev. Danes pa vemo, da je projekt Inštituta za novejšo zgodovino ugotovil več kot 97.700 vojnih in povojnih žrtev v Sloveniji. Ugotovitev števila smrtnih žrtev, določitev razmerja med posameznimi skupinami žrtev in njihova umestitev v slovenski zgodovinski kontekst izkažejo posebnosti razvoja Primorske. Državno-pravni okvir, v katerem se je ta znašla po prvi svetovni vojni, in geopolitični položaj, sta vplivala na njen bodoči zgodovinski razvoj ter na strukturo vojnih žrtev.

Seznam smrtih žrtev sicer ne more biti popoln. Za Primorsko obsega 14.014 imen, ki pomenijo 5,4 % izgubo prebivalstva. To je sicer manj kot slovensko povprečje (6,5 %). Izstopa pa podatek, da predstavljajo žrtve med pripadniki partizanskega gibanja na Primorskem več kot 50 % delež vseh žrtev, medtem ko v slovenskem povprečju 32 %. Kako težke so bile demografske posledice te vojne za Slovenijo in Primorsko, nakazujejo podatki, da je bilo vsaj 90 % žrtev moških, mlajši od 25 let pa so predstavljali več kot tretjino vseh žrtev.

Razmerja med posameznimi skupinami smrtnih žrtev, povzročitelji smrti, naraščanje nasilja, starostna in spolna struktura žrtev pa omogočajo tudi natančnejšo identifikacijo narave druge svetovne vojne na Slovenskem.

Ključne besede: druga svetovna vojna, Slovenija, Primorska, smrtne žrtve, vojna, povojno nasilje, vojna demografija

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