

Abstracts

Hansjörg Gutberger

Towards a radical social order: National Socialist territory research (Raumforschung), concepts of territory and rural social science prior to Nazi resettlement policies during the Second World War

The Reich Institute for Territory Planning (*Reichsstelle für Raumordnung*) and a policy advisory unit, the Reich Study Unit for Territory Research (*Reichsarbeitsgemeinschaft für Raumforschung*), were established in 1935. This constituted an important preliminary step towards the cooperation of scholarly institutions in the subsequent resettlement policies of the Second World War, related to the concept of 'living space' (*Lebensraum*). Numerous universities and academics were now involved in working on the goals and measures connected to territorial re-ordering. There was a Study Unit for Territory Research at almost every German university. The article describes chronologically the essential steps in the development of 'area planning' and 'territory research' up until September 1939. This early phase of Nazi territory planning becomes particularly interesting when the historical perspective on the re-ordering of populations in Europe is expanded as far as 1955. The development of territory planning during the war was based on foundations laid before 1939.

Martin Dröge

"Westphalia has a strong interest in a resettlement of the East." Initiatives and plans for a cohesive tribal settlement of Westphalian farmers to the 'Reichsgau Wartheland', 1940–1942

The contribution deals with aspects of National Socialist plans for a cohesive settlement of one German 'tribe' (*Stamm*) at the beginning of World War II. This regional study concentrates on a concept developed in the former Prussian province of Westphalia for the relocation of Westphalian peasant farmers to the 'Warthegau' in occupied Poland. The study describes the ideology underlying this plan and the driving forces behind it, as well as providing information about the progress of these efforts. The relocation plans focused on two central issues: 1) the cohesive 'tribal' settlement of Westphalian peasant farmers in the Warthegau; 2) the restoration of agriculture in Westphalia. The article argues that the concept of cohesive 'tribal' settlement was integrated into the plans drawn up for the 'Generalplan Ost' on the initiative of the provincial governor (*Landeshauptmann*) of Westphalia, whose ideological concept met with Himmler's approval and was thus included in the plans for enforced resettlement.

Michael Wedekind

Planning and force. The re-ordering of territory and population planning in the context of the population transfer from South Tyrol

The article investigates the role of the population transfer agreed between Italy and Germany of approximately 200,000 South Tyroleans within the overall complex of the ethno-political and territorial restructuring of Central and Eastern Europe by Nazi Germany. The author analyzes the expertise, visions and implementation strategies involved in the ‘complete’ transfer of the South Tyrolean population and population planning as a whole, understood in sociological terms. Attention is focused on the participating planners as well as on their conceptions of territory, population, and economic and social structures. At the same time, the interdependence between science, administration and politics is examined within the fields of population management and the planning of social space.

Roberta Pergher

The plebiscite (Option) in South Tyrol and Fascist population policy between nationalisation and failed racial segregation

In 1939, Italy and Germany entered an agreement concerning South Tyrol, a northern Italian border province inhabited predominantly by German and Ladin speakers. The accord required every adult member of the population to choose between either resettlement in the German *Reich*, thereby preserving their German heritage and language, or staying in their home villages and towns and becoming Italians. This policy, known as the *Option*, represented a curious mix between a racial conception of citizenship and a more liberal one. On the one hand, the programme was predicated on the notion of the ethnic separateness of Germans and Italians; on the other hand, it represented the possibility of choosing one’s citizenship and, implicitly, one’s ethnicity, at a time when not only Germanness but also Italianness was increasingly defined in racial terms. The article analyzes the *Option* and its ambiguities from the Italian point of view, situating it within a twenty-year-long effort by the Fascist regime to transform South Tyrol’s linguistic and cultural character, constantly veering between assimilationist and segregationist endeavours. The article pays particular attention to the opinions and ambitions of the Italians in the province, be they settlers, population settlement planners, or government representatives. While focusing on the specifics of the Italian Fascist project, the author locates the planned population movements in the context of a European-wide assertion of racial and ethnic homogeneity within state borders and a fervent belief in the possibilities of social engineering.

Nevenko Bartulin

Italian and Croatian ethnic politics in annexed Dalmatia and the Independent State of Croatia, 1941–1943

This article seeks to examine Fascist and Ustasha ethnopolitical demographic policies in Italian-annexed Dalmatia and the Independent State of Croatia (*Nezavisna Država Hrvatska*, NDH) from 1941 to 1943. Italian ethnopolitical policies were directed against the majority Croatian population of annexed Dalmatia as part of the Fascist regime's policy of Italianisation in its 'Mediterranean Empire'. Italy also sought to extend its political and economic influence over a large part of its formal ally, the NDH. In contrast, the Ustasha government aimed to create an ethnically and racially homogeneous Croatian nation-state on its territory, free of Serbs, Jews and Gypsies. Generally, the racial aims of the Fascists were opposed to those of the Ustasas. Accordingly, the NDH moved towards a closer political relationship with National Socialist Germany. This article explores both Italian and Croatian racial policies (and in particular, Fascist and Ustasha racial theories) within the context of Axis political and economic relations up until Italy's capitulation in September 1943.

Alberto Basciani

The Treaty of Craiova (September 7, 1940) and the exchange of populations between Romania and Bulgaria, 1940–1943

In August 1940, under the supervision of the Axis Powers, the Bulgarian and Romanian governments started bilateral negotiations to resolve the question of South Dobruja, a province gained by Romania after the Second Balkan War (1913). The negotiations led to the Treaty of Craiova (September 7, 1940), under which Romania ceded this territory to Bulgaria. At the same time, the contracting parties decided to enforce an exchange of population: Romanian citizens from the Bulgarian ethnic group living in North Dobruja were to be replaced by Romanians living in South Dobruja. The article examines the diplomatic negotiations and the enforcement of the treaty, making use of unpublished Romanian documents and published sources in Bulgarian. The exchange of populations was completed in 1943, by which time more than 100,000 Romanians had been resettled north of the Danube and about 65,000 Bulgarians transferred to South Dobruja.

Michael Portmann

Yugoslav Communist ethnopolitics between revolution and tradition (1944–1948), with special regard to the German and Hungarian-speaking minorities in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

In September 1945, the new, communist-dominated government of Yugoslavia created the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. The article examines population policy in the period 1944–1948 with special regard to the German and Hungarian-speaking minorities of this multinational region. Traditionalist Serbian forces, both inside and outside of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, considered national minorities in general to be a “calamity and weakness of the state” (Sreten Vukosavljević). These ideas affected party policy towards the remaining German minority in the region, which was collectively denounced as collaborators, traitors, and war criminals, and sent to labour and concentration camps. The fate of the Hungarians, however, was different. In this case, the revolutionary forces claimed that all ‘good’ – i.e., antifascist – people were to be equally treated. They prevented such individuals from being expelled and made efforts to integrate them into the party and government apparatus.