

Abstracts

Dmitar Tasić

*The Macedonian Youth Secret Revolutionary Organization (MYSRO)
1922–1927: A New Factor in the Macedonian National Movement*

The article deals with the circumstances surrounding the emergence of the Macedonian Youth Secret Revolutionary Organization (MYSRO) – a secret organization of senior high school and university students of Macedonian origin in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (which, in 1929, was renamed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia). With regard to its aims and actions, the organization was closely associated with the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization (IMRO). MYSRO was founded after IMRO activities had to be curtailed during the 1920s due to the changing security situation in Yugoslav Macedonia. A new generation of supporters reached maturity and wanted to join the national effort, but instead of joining armed bands they created yet another secret organization, as often occurred in the Balkan region. The most novel aspect to MYSRO was the equal participation and activism of female members. After police intervention, mass arrests and trials in 1927, MYSRO's infrastructure was disrupted, although its members continued with their activism throughout the interwar period.

Florian J. Schreiner

*The „Selected“. Academic Networks and the Downfall of the Munich
Soviet Republic 1919*

The article analyses the short and brutal suppression of the Bavarian Soviet Republic after the End of the Great War. Focussing on a regional perspective, it is argued that German Universities – in particular the three Bavarian ones in Wuerzburg, Erlangen and Munich – played a so far underestimated role in the violent afterwar period in Germany. Discussing the events in the Bavarian capitol in 1919, Schreiner examines their involvement in the so called *Freikorps Epp* under the renowned commander and former Guards officer Franz Xaver Ritter von Epp, from its establishment to its combat mission in April and May 1919. Derived from the military as well as the academic source material consulted, the students and their professors passively and actively supported the anti-revolutionary measures appointed by the government. By transforming war-related stereotypes into a perpetuated ready-to-battle mentality, the majority of the student body voluntarily subordinated themselves under a Primacy of the Military. Their ruthless and uncompromising behavior during the Munich Operation later gained Epp the historically untenable title „Liberator of Munich“, which lasted throughout the Weimar Republic into Nazi Germany.

Juliane Deinert

Students in a State of Emergency: Riots at Rostock University before and during the National Socialist Seizure of Power

The example of the small University of Rostock in the North German province of Mecklenburg illustrates the extent to which a process of political radicalization characterized student circles during the 1920s and 1930s, as well as demonstrating the aggressive form which this process could assume. In a climate of far-reaching social changes, which were accompanied by economic shocks and crises, there developed a generation of students whose loss of privileged status predisposed them more than any other social group to follow National Socialist ideology.

Irene Bolzon

The long Duration of Fascist Squads on the Frontier: Student Communities, Societies and violent Practices in Trieste (1918–1945)

This article offers a reflection on the relationship between student communities and the phenomenon of Fascist squads (squadristo) by taking the city of Trieste as a case study. The author's chronological sweep from the first years of the twentieth century to the end of the Second World War enables an examination of the transformations that encouraged students' engagement in the political life of the city, such as clashes in city squares, the use of violence and their gradual absorption into the regime's youth organizations. The article's analytical thread is provided by the biographies of two key protagonists of squadristo in Trieste, Tiberio Forti and Carlo Perusino, whose personal histories enable discussion on the theme of the "long duration" of squadristo. Indeed, Fascist violence continually re-emerged throughout the two decades of Fascist rule, above all in relation to moments of significant political crisis, before embarking on a new phase of radicalization following Italy's entry into the Second World War in 1940.

Simone Duranti

"The black shirt alone is enough": Propaganda and Political Activity among Fascist University Students from the Province of Trentino-Alto Adige

The article traces the history of the Fascist University Groups (*Gruppi Universitari Fascisti*, hereafter GUF) from the province of Trentino-Alto Adige, from their origins until the end of the regime. In analyzing the political organization and propaganda activity of the GUF in this border region, it soon becomes clear that there was scarcely anything original to their work. Nonetheless, here too, the rhetoric and bellicose behaviour of the fascist youth during the 1930s created the necessary elements for the construction of a consensus around the dictatorship among the university students in this particular area of the Italian provinces. An important element in this consen-

sus was a feeling of superiority about Latin Rome compared to democratic political systems and to Germany, which since the National Socialist takeover of power was eagerly eyeing Austria and menacing the Brenner border. Among the myths held most dear by fascist students from Trentino, those surrounding Cesare Battisti and irredentism occupied especially important positions, even if this article also demonstrates how far the creation of the new, separate province of Bolzano / Bozen occasioned a shift in the GUF's work towards the 'struggle' against German cultural influence.