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J. KALIĆ, *European Borders in Serbian History* · D. PRERADOVIĆ, *The Reception and Interpretation of Jerome's Description of Two of St Hilarion's Epidaurian Miracles in Dubrovnik-based Sources and Tradition* · N. S. ŠULETIĆ, *Usurpations of and Designated Successions to the Throne in the Serbian Patriarchat. The Case of Patriarch Moses Rajović (1712–24)* · M. KOVIĆ, *Liberalism and Imperialism: Croce and d'Annunzio in Serbian Culture 1903–1914* · A. BASCIANI, *A Late Offensive. Italian Cultural Action in Belgrade in the Last Phase of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1937–1941)* · T. SANDU, *Le fascisme roumain dans un contexte centre-européen : historiographie et problématiques* · R. YEOMANS, *Weddings of the Dead: Ustasha Funerals and Life Cycle Rituals in Fascist Croatia* · M. CUZZI, *The Refractory Community: Yugoslav Anti-communists in Post-war Italy* · S. MIŠIĆ, *Serbian Orthodox Church Municipality in Trieste in Yugoslav-Italian Relations 1954–1971* · A. ĐURIĆ MILOVANOVIĆ, *"Hidden Religious Landscapes": Religious Minorities and Religious Renewal Movements in the Borderlands of the Serbian and Romanian Banat* ❧

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Loupas Athanasios, *ΑΠΟ ΤΙΣ ΣΧΕΣΕΙΣ ΣΥΜΜΑΧΙΑΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΨΥΧΡΑΝΣΗ. Η ΕΛΛΑΔΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΟ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟ ΤΩΝ ΣΕΡΒΩΝ, ΚΡΟΑΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΣΛΟΒΕΝΩΝ (1919–1924)*, [From Alliance to Cooling. Greece and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (1919–1924)]. Athens: Herodotos, 2019.

*Reviewed by Radmila Pejić**

The study of Athanasios Loupas, dr. of Modern and Contemporary Balkan History, which is based on his Master thesis, aims at illuminating the main aspects of the Greek-Serbian political relations during the first Inter-war years. As the author indicates, both countries were experiencing a transitional period after WWI. The pre-war small Balkan states were now becoming important factors to be reckoned with. The Serbs were trying to consolidate the new situation that occurred since the establishment of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (hereafter KSCS), an on the other side Greece was about to realize the long-term dream of the Megali Idea.

The study is comprised of four chapters. The first covers the period from the end of the WWI until the Greek elections on November, 1920. The author refers to the diplomatic background concerning the recognition of the KSCS by the Greek government - underlining the fact that the Greek prime minister, Eleftherios Venizelos, had attached particular importance to that matter. As Loupas notes, Greece was the only neighboring state with whom KSCS had no territorial disputes, while Venizelos did not give in to lobbying from the Greek refugees deriving from Serbian Macedonia (Strumnitsa, Monastir – Bitolj – Gevgeli). In essence Venizelos abandoned the Greeks of North Macedonia for the sake of Greco-Serbian alliance. In the same chapter, the author describes the efforts that both sides made in order to create a common diplomatic front at the Paris Peace Conference against Bulgaria. He also reveals that, following the signing of the Treaty of Neuilly (1919), Greek and Serbian officials agreed

to clarify their mutual obligations by signing an interpretative protocol, in order to prevent misunderstandings such as had arisen in 1915.

The second chapter discusses the effect of the political change in Greece (November 1920) on the bilateral relations between Athens and Belgrade. As the author stresses, even though the re-establishment of the pro-German political elite and the return of King Constantine was a source of great concern for the Yugoslav government, relations between the two kingdoms remained unharmed as Greece was still considered an ally. In fact, Nikola Pasic declined both Bulgarian and Turkish offers for an anti-Greek alliance. At the same time, as Loupas points out, Serbian statesmen were reluctant to strengthen Greek-Serbian relations and re-examine the issue of the Greek-Serbian Treaty of Alliance (1913) as long as the war in Asia Minor was afoot.

The third chapter features the endeavors of the pro-venizelist political regime that emerged in Athens – after the total failure of the Greek expedition in Asia Minor and the abdication of King

Constantine – to ensure the support of the Yugoslav delegation in the upcoming Conference in Lausanne. To that end, on May, 1923, it was signed at Belgrade a Convention on the Regulation of Transit via Salonica, which provided the Yugoslavs with a free zone at the port of Thessaloniki. Apart from that, the Greek side went so far as to offer the Florina district to the KSCS, provided that two Yugoslav divisions or heavy artillery come to the aid of the re-organized

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Greek troops which would retake Eastern Thrace in case negotiations at Lausanne failed and a new round of Greek-Turkish hostilities arose. Loupas stresses that, eventually, the Yugoslav delegation in Lausanne sided with Venizelos in rejecting the Turkish demands on war reparations, but at the same time acted in such a way that was intended to highlight to all sides concerned that the resumption of warfare was the worst-case scenario.

The last chapter presents the deterioration of bilateral relations between the two states. On the pretext of the Greek-Bulgarian Protocol on minorities (September 1924), the Yugoslav government denounced the Greek-Serbian Treaty of Alliance (1913). The author claims that it was more than obvious that the Yugoslav government, and especially the minister of Foreign

Affairs Momcilo Nincic, were taking advantage of Greece's weakness and aimed at imposing their views upon Greece regarding several bilateral questions.

However, apart from political matters dr. Loupas does not overlook the importance that the Great Powers and domestic affairs of the two countries played on bilateral relations. The young historian very competently handles a large variety of both Serbian and Greek sources (archives, Press, literature, memoirs etc) as well as English and a few German documents. His critical approach and sobriety renders his study well written and easy to follow. Taking into consideration that there's a lack of studies concerning Greek Balkan policy during the Greek-Turkish war (1919–1922), dr. Loupas' attempt becomes even more prominent.

QUALESTORIA XLXI, NO. 1: *L'ITALIA E LA JUGOSLAVIA TRA LE DUE GUERRE*, ed. Stefano Santoro. Trieste: EUT, Edizioni Università di Trieste, 2021, 438 p.

Reviewed by Bogdan Živković*

The prominent role of Trieste in the history of Italian-South Slavic entanglements has led to its becoming a city of the utmost importance in scholarship on Italian-Yugoslav relations. Personal and institutional experiences of everyday contacts with South Slavs have produced an unparalleled body of academic knowledge on Yugoslavia in Italy. The historical journal *Qualestoria* forms a significant part of that milieu. For decades, it has been publishing articles on related topics by both Italian and (post)Yugoslav authors. One of the best examples of this role and importance of *Qualestoria* is the 2013 monographic volume on the Osimo agreements edited by Raoul Pupo.¹

This year's summer issue of *Qualestoria*, a monographic volume edited by Stefano Santoro, is a continuation of that endeavour. It deals with the interwar period in the history of relations between the two countries, featuring contributions by some of the most renowned scholars in the field, both Italian and post-Yugoslav. Its focus is on the political aspect of bilateral relations, but several articles deal with their non-political aspects (such as literature, art and sports).

The first of the twelve articles is penned by the editor, Stefano Santoro. His text is not a mere introduction. Besides summarizing the other contributions, Santoro contextualizes them into a broader interpretative framework of Italian policies towards the Danube-Balkan region. He also highlights the historical continuities which had an immense impact in formulating

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¹ *Qualestoria*. XLI, no. 2 (2013): *Osimo: il punto sugli studi*, ed. Raoul Pupo.

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