

# Nuova Rivista Storica

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## Abstracts

EUGENIO DI RIENZO, In June 1941 did Stalin want to give up the Baltic States and Ukraine to Hitler in order to halt the invasion of the Soviet Union?

*A few days after Hitler broke his alliance with Stalin and invaded the Soviet Union, Molotov and Stalin used a diplomatic back channel to explore whether Hitler would be prepared to end the war if the Kremlin agreed to hand over a large part of Russian territory to German rule. Lavrentij Pavlovič Berija, on Stalin's order, directed Nkvd officer, Pavel Sudoplatov, to meet with the Bulgarian Minister Plenipotentiary in Moscow, Ivan Stamenov, to explore what it would take for Hitler to halt his invasion of the Soviet Union. Among the concessions that Sudoplatov was authorized to discuss with the Bulgarian diplomat, whom Moscow believed would communicate his conversation to Berlin, there was the handing over to Hitler and his allies of Ukraine, Byelorussia, Baltic Republics, Finnish Karelia and the areas occupied in 1940-41 on the basis of the secret protocols of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.*

Keywords:

*Operation Barbarossa  
Russo-German Peace Feelers  
Covert Diplomacy*