

Nuova Rivista Storica

Anno XCVI, Maggio-Agosto 2012, Fascicolo II

Abstracts

STANISLAV SRETENOVIĆ, Le commemorazioni delle Province illiriche alla frontiera con l'Italia: l'aspetto politico e simbolico delle celebrazioni jugoslave nel 120° anniversario della creazione dell'Illiria napoleonica

The celebrations of the 120th anniversary of the creation of Napoleonic Ilirian provinces and the inauguration of the Monument containing the French Unknown Soldier in its basis, held in Ljubljana from the 12th to the 14th October 1929, does not represent only a symbolic event which recalls an ephemeral moment in the history of the French Empire in relation to the Balkans. It signifies the political wish of the royal government to impose from above the construction of the syncretistic Yugoslav identity with reference to France among Slovenians, in the context of the King Alexander Karadjordjević's dictatorship, established ten months previously. It also signifies the wish of the royal official circles to show in their internal and external policy the support of the politically divided Slovenians to the new regime and to the name of the country (Yugoslavia) proclaimed several days before the celebrations. With respect to the French government, it signifies the desire to support the integrity of the Kingdom, a French ally and *protégé* in a deep interior crisis, in accordance with the general French policy in Europe, based on the solutions adopted at the Paris Peace Conference. For the French, the most important preoccupation was how to prevent that the celebration does not turn into an anti-Italian manifestation in the year of particularly antagonistic Italian-Yugoslav relations. In this article, the author analyses the functioning of a politicized memory and the range and the limits of the actions undertaken by royal government officials and French diplomatic representatives.