



Institute for the History of the Resistance and of the Contemporary Age in Friuli Venezia Giulia

Call for papers

The wars in the Balkans and their heritage

Deadline: 31/3/2018

“The Balkans produce more history than they can consume”. The statement, by Winston Churchill, still holds true to some extent after several decades. The history of south-east Europe from the beginning of the 20th century until today encompasses the most relevant historical phenomena in Europe: the crisis of multinational empires, the process of nation building and the rise of nationalisms, the ideological clash between totalitarianism and afterwards between East and West, the complex intertwine between local and larger geopolitical factors. The 20th century was a century of wars for the Balkans, each of them profoundly changing the image of the peninsula: the Balkan Wars in 1912-1913 put an end to the Ottoman domination in Europe; the First World War replaced the grand Habsburg empire with the newly established but fragile Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, destined to be transformed, in the Second World War, into the Socialist Federal Republic. Even the history of socialist Yugoslavia ended as it had begun: with a war. At the beginning of the 21st century, Balkan societies and states continue to present numerous unresolved issues, in the historical, geo-political sense, of national cultures and identities.

Based on these considerations, «Qualestoria» (Journal of the Institute for the History of the Resistance and of the Contemporary Age in Friuli Venezia Giulia) opens a call for papers for the preparation of a monograph issue of the journal on the subject *The wars in the Balkans and their heritage*, to be published by December 2018. Through this initiative, we aim at promoting a transnational approach to the history of the Balkan area, fostering dialogue between historians coming from the Peninsula, from Italy and other parts of Europe, providing space to **original contributions**, based on unpublished sources and innovative methodologies, with a particular attention to comparative approaches.

We would like to point out the following topics – albeit not exhaustive – on which we would like to focus.

- *National – Multinational*: the stages of transition, with particular attention paid to the post-1918 period
- *Transitional law*: Theories and practices of justice and forgiveness; special, revolutionary, international courts
- *Culture during the war*: the role played by the intellectuals in promoting the culture of dialogue or the culture of war.
- *Remembering the war(s)*: common history and public use of history in the past and contemporary Balkan societies, construction and de-construction of collective representations through toponymy and monumentalization.
- *Violence*: logic, forms, objectives, symbolic uses, war rape.
- *Local-Global*: the Balkan societies and wars between local and wider influences.
- *Borders to be changed, borders to be crossed*: the numerous ideological conflicts and changes of sovereignty also involved the transformation of the concept of border area and even the relationship between the center and the periphery had to be reinvented several times in different situations.

We invite researchers (professors, post-doc researchers, PhDs and PhD students) to send their proposals, in Italian or English, through abstracts (no more than 2,000 characters) accompanied by a short biographical note, by the **31th of March 2018** to the Editorial Board of the journal (qualestoria@irsml.eu) and to Štefan Čok, monograph curator (info@stefancok.eu). The Editorial Board will select the proposals by **April 30, 2018**; the acceptance will be subsequently communicated to the interested parties together with the editorial standards. Authors must send their contributions in Italian or in English by **June 24, 2018**.