

exhibition

SLOVENIAN HISTORY

LJUBLJANA CASTLE

★ *exhibition*

Welcome to the exhibition about the history of Slovenia. The fragments of our history you are about to see, feel and hear at this exhibition are only a few of many you can find in museums, on show grounds and scenes all over Slovenia. They have been displayed here and now you are invited on a journey through our country and its stories.

With its extraordinary position at the crossroads of natural routes connecting the Alps, the Adriatic Sea and the Pannonian plain, the territory that is now Slovenia has been acting as a point of contact between various cultures and peoples since the oldest times. With their activities and way of life, these cultures and peoples have left us a rich heritage. Over the millennia, geographic diversity influenced the settlement types that characterise individual regions which were far from uniform.

exhibition

**SLOVENIAN
HISTORY
LJUBLJANA CASTLE**



DEAR VISITORS, DEAR GUESTS ...

The castle on a hill above the town - known simply as the Ljubljana castle - is history in itself. Due to the Turkish invasions in the 15th century, the original fortress was replaced by a stone castle and later enlarged a number of times. It was the residence of foreign nobles - feudal lords and aristocrats, a strategic military fortress in both world wars, and also the city jail and a temporary residence for immigrants.

The extensive and professionally demanding renovation, which lasted for more than five decades, has allowed the Ljubljana castle in recent years to become the picturesque venue of numerous cultural events and performances. Throughout this, it has remained the famous sign and symbol of Ljubljana; along with our latest acquisition, the funicular, it is one of the most visited tourist spots in the capital and the whole of Slovenia.

In addition to the beautiful views, monumental castle architecture, artistic events and opportunities for walks and refreshments, we also wish to offer the hundreds of thousands of town visitors an insight into the history, specialities and sights of this bit of the world between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea.

A group of top historians, museologists and designers, led by Dr. Božo Repe, MA Blaž Vurnik and Irena Šinkovec, faced an uneasy task. I am glad that they managed to set up a contemporary exhibition, which gives a concise, clear and comprehensive presentation of Slovenian history, with an emphasis on selected themes and personalities. May it satisfy the curiosity of the different generations of visitors, locals and foreigners, and our guests with special needs.

My special thanks also go to Blaž Peršin, director of the Museum and galleries in the city of Ljubljana and Stane Miklavac, the head of the Ljubljana Castle (Ljubljana Festival) for all his efforts, so that along with the necessary expertise, the exhibition could shine in the right light.

I believe that this attractive, popular and at the same time professional »introduction« will also draw you to visit the City Museum and other galleries of Ljubljana, where you can further satisfy your craving for knowledge.

Welcome to the most beautiful city in the world - and see you again soon!

Zoran Janković
Mayor of Ljubljana



200 000 BC - 500

PREHISTORY AND THE ROMAN PERIOD

- ★ WITH ITS EXTRAORDINARY POSITION AT THE CROSSROADS OF NATURAL ROUTES CONNECTING THE ALPS, THE ADRIATIC SEA AND THE PANNONIAN PLAIN, THE TERRITORY THAT IS NOW SLOVENIA HAS BEEN ACTING AS A POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN VARIOUS CULTURES AND PEOPLES SINCE THE OLDEST TIMES. WITH THEIR ACTIVITIES AND WAY OF LIFE, THESE CULTURES AND PEOPLES HAVE LEFT US A RICH HERITAGE. OVER THE MILLENNIA, GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY INFLUENCED THE SETTLEMENT TYPES THAT CHARACTERISE INDIVIDUAL REGIONS WHICH WERE FAR FROM UNIFORM. THE OLDEST, AND RARE, TRACES LEFT BY HUMANKIND IN SLOVENIAN TERRITORY DATE BACK FAR TO THE STONE AGE, IN THE PERIOD OF GLACIATIONS SEPARATED BY INTERGLACIAL WARMINGS, I.E. AROUND 200,000 YEARS AGO.

EMONEC,
2nd century
National Museum
of Slovenia

The Neanderthals settled here approximately 80,000 years ago. Around 40,000 years ago, they were joined by the Cro-Magnons, our immediate ancestors. They ensured their survival by hunting and gathering and made stone and bone tools. However, a high level of development is evidenced by a flute from the Divje babe cave and a needle from Potočka zijalka.

A long era of cold periods must have passed before humans were finally able to settle permanently. This was made possible by a warming that followed the Ice Age and the domestication of both plants and animals. Moreover, extra food also facilitated an increase in the population. By establishing permanent settlements, man decisively encroached on the natural environment for the first time in history. The geographically diverse territory of present-day Slovenia gave rise to various types of settlements, ranging from caves and lowlands to lakesides and river banks. Pile-dwellings characteristic of the Ljubljana Marshlands can certainly be regarded as some of

the most interesting settlement types. The oldest pile-dwellings date back to the Neolithic Period, i.e. around 4500 BC, and the most recent ones to the Copper Age, i.e. around 1800 BC. A changed way of living which went from constant migrations, dictated by hunting requirements, to farming and animal husbandry enabled people to develop new activities and produce more durable artefacts. Clay vessels, hand mills, loom weights, polished stone and bone tools may be mentioned as the most common relics from these people.

Interest in revealing the new resulted in the discovery of metals: copper was followed by more solid bronze and then iron. The oldest copper finds in Slovenia originate in the 4th millennium BC, whilst more extensive metalwork only developed during the Late Bronze Age (13th - 8th centuries BC), when many new settlements sprang up in the south-eastern Alpine region. Bronze was appropriate for fabricating new forms of tools and weapons (axes, sickles, knives, swords and daggers) as well as both decorative objects and

items of practical use (jewellery, buckles). Despite their value and significance, these items were often used as cult offerings dedicated to gods inhabiting caves and rivers. The Late Bronze Age is characterised by extensive flat cremation burial sites, where the dead were incinerated and interred. The entire period is named after this group as the Urnfield culture.

The use of iron and rich iron ore deposits in Slovenian territory considerably changed its settlement structure. The number of settlements established on naturally well-protected elevations rose significantly in the Early Iron Age from the 8th to the end of the 4th centuries BC. Hill forts - villages fortified by stone walls - were settlements of larger communities which were organised in a hierarchical manner. Princes, warriors, craftsmen, traders and high-quality blacksmith wares intended for warfare, "Situla Art" and other achievements placed the people inhabiting Slovenian territory in Prehistory only a step away from the nearby urban civilisations with which they maintained

contacts. Legends compiled by Greek and Roman writers provide accounts of Slovenian territory and the routes which long before the arrival of the Romans had been used by Etruscan traders as well as those coming from Greece and the Orient. The most renowned is the so-called Amber Route along which amber was freighted from the Baltic to the plains of the River Po, which is evidenced by amber jewellery found in well-to-do women's graves in our territory. The routes leading from the Black Sea to the Adriatic Sea are reflected in one of the versions of the Argonauts legend.

The end of the Prehistoric Period is marked by Celtic migrations starting around 400 BC, which outlined a new ethnic image of Europe and are confirmed by both written records and archaeological finds. The Celts reached our territory in around 300 BC. The many Celtic tribes also involved the Norici. In the late 2nd century BC, the latter established the Norican Kingdom (Regnum Noricum) to which the tribes inhabiting Slovenian also belonged. A special ac-

45000 BC

3200 BC



- < THE OLDEST FLUTE IN THE WORLD
approximately 45,000 years ago
National Museum of Slovenia
- > THE WOODEN WHEEL WITH AN AXLE FROM LJUBLJANA MARSH
around 3200 BC
City Museum of Ljubljana



count of Celtic warriors who in the eyes of Roman writers were fearless and bloodthirsty is rendered by rich finds of Celtic weapons. The Celts also left us the first money.

In the 3rd century BC at the very latest, interest in our territory was also shown by the Romans. They were originally attracted by the favourable trade routes, whilst the establishment of the Roman town of Aquileia in 181 BC was strategically important for conquering the pre-Alpine region. It was not many years later that they occupied Istria and, by progressively conquering land and Romanising the population, succeeded in pushing the border far towards the east. In the period 35–33 BC, the Delmatae, Iapodes and Pannonians were subdued, and around 15 BC the allied Noricum was annexed. Pannonia was occupied during 14–9 BC. The newly conquered territories were gradually included in the Roman Empire and legal order. The western and later central parts of Slovenia became a constituent part of Italy, whilst the other parts belonged to the provinces of Noricum and Pannonia.

Ancient Rome with its magnificent empire, multi-ethnicity and – on could even say – first globalisation made an indelible impression on Western civilisation. Slovenian territory underwent considerable development during the Roman period. Centres of Romanisation were towns connected by means of the strong road network. Each town had its administrative territory, i.e. the wider hinterlands from which it derived its existence. The territory of today's Slovenia was divided into five agri (Tergeste – Trieste, Emona – Ljubljana, Celeia – Celje, Neviodunum – Drnovo pri Krškem and Poetovio – Ptuj). Poetovio which was located on both banks of the Drava River was the largest Roman town located in Slovenian territory.

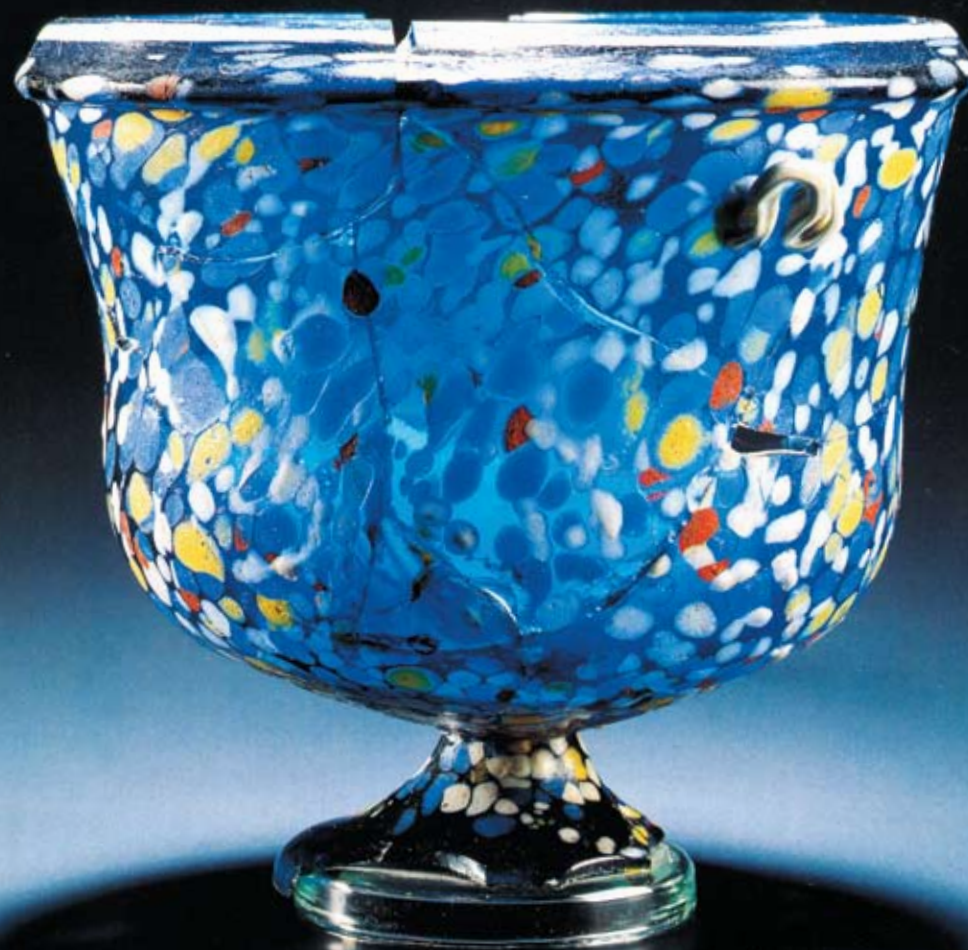
Towns acted as important administrative centres and centres of crafts and trade. Town construction was planned in detail, involving city walls, roads, the sewage system, residential buildings and a square flanked with administrative buildings and the central sanctuary. Only Emona was built following a proper rectangular ground plan, with

5th century BC

1st century

< SITULA FROM VAČE
5th century BC
National Museum of Slovenia

> CUP MADE FROM MOSAIC GLASS
1st century
City Museum of Ljubljana



the other towns being adjusted to the existing natural relief.

The Romans were not only masters of building the road network and towns but also brought certain other novelties to our territory. A two-field system and a plough were used in agriculture, marshlands were drained and riverbeds regulated, mining and crafts flourished, and trade remained one of the most important activities. Goods were freighted on roads and along waterways. Amphorae were marked to describe their contents and their producer. Money operations started to gain ground.

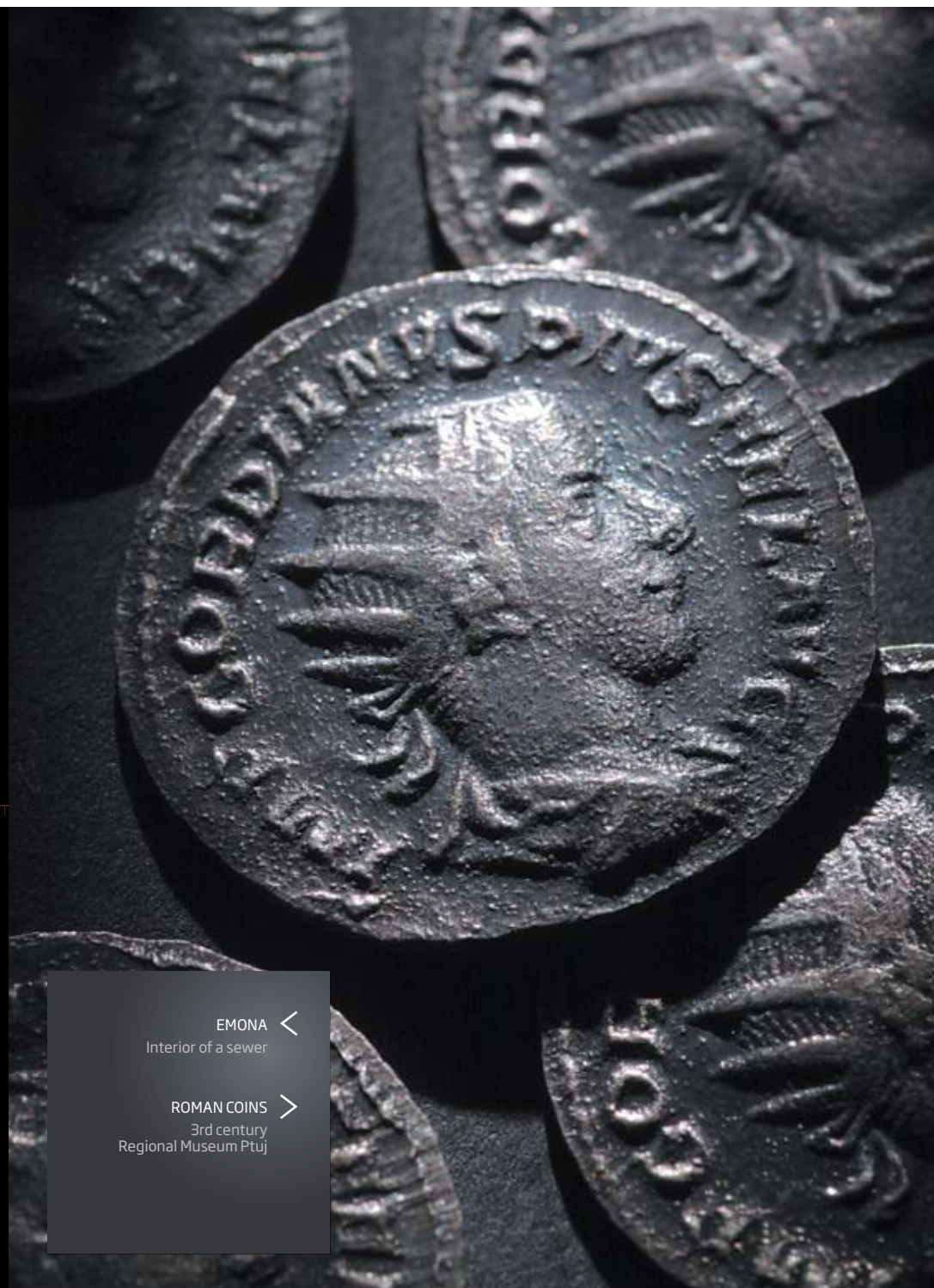
The Marcomannic Wars (167-180 AD) put an end to those peaceful times. Barbarian incursions and the plague also devastated our territory. Internal discords, civil wars and external pressures were typical of the following centuries. In the 3rd century AD, a new defensive system started to be built along the Karst passes intended to protect Italy from the east. It stretched from the Gulf of Kvarner in the south to the Gail Valley in the north. Claustra Alpium

luliarum is its name found in written records.

During these unsettled times, Christianity also played an important role. The faith which was once persecuted finally gained the status of the only official state religion with the Battle of the Frigidus in 394 AD which was fought precisely in our territory, i.e. between Hrušica and Ajdovščina and which Theodosius won. Some towns became seats of dioceses. As early as on the onset of the 4th century AD, bishop Victorinus was active in Ptuj where he wrote ecclesiastical texts. Sacral architectural monuments, inscriptions and objects intended for everyday use decorated with Christian symbols have been preserved from the period of Late Antiquity.

During the Migration Period (5th and 6th centuries), the settlement pattern in Slovenian territory was altered considerably. The splendour of the former towns was superseded by safe highland positions. On their way to Italy, the Huns, Goths and Langobards also settled here for a short period.

3rd century



EMONA <
Interior of a sewer

ROMAN COINS >
3rd century
Regional Museum Ptuj

500 - 1800

MIDDLE AGES AND EARLY MODERN TIMES

★ MIDDLE AGES

IN THE TERRITORY OF WHAT IS TODAY SLOVENIA, THE ONE-MILLENNIUM-LONG MIDDLE AGES BEGAN AT THE END OF THE 5TH AND START OF THE 6TH CENTURIES, AFTER THE ANCIENT STATE-LIKE, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS STRUCTURES HAD GRADUALLY COLLAPSED. THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD LASTED APPROXIMATELY UNTIL THE END OF THE 15TH CENTURY.

THE HOLY TRINITY,
Francesco Robba, 1721
City Museum of Ljubljana

Compared to Late Antiquity, the Middle Ages launched several new features of civilisation. Many of them have had a lasting influence on the history of this territory, thereby reaching well beyond medieval times, whilst some remain components of the modern world even today. The latter undoubtedly involve ethnic-linguistic features, the settlement pattern and the religious image. The settling of mainly southern Slavic and, to a considerably smaller extent, western Slavic groups along the Drava, Mura and Sava rivers which, since the middle and in particular the end of the 6th century, had inhabited the relatively empty and politically non-organised territory of the Eastern Alps, may be regarded as laying the linguistic-ethnic foundations on which the Slovenian nation was formed much later in a long-lasting process involving various ethnic associations, political formations and identities.

Although the Slavic newcomers had taken over certain cultural elements from the Romanised indigenous po-

pulation, the settlement of the Slavs helped shape a new linguistic, social, economic, cultural and religious image of the eastern Alpine region. The settlement of Slavs ended approximately around the year 800.

Both Carantania, a proto-state formation of the Alpine Slavs in the territory of present-day Koroška (Carinthia) which, after having been politically independent from the second half of the 7th to the mid-8th century, was a dependent principality under the Frankish state until 820, and the considerably less structured tribal formation of Carniolans situated south of the Karavanke mountain range, who since the late 8th century were likewise incorporated into the Frankish state, were the first two communities populating the present Slovenian national territory or its environs. It is here that a new identity was created whose core was Slavic.

To the north of the Karavanke mountain range, the Slavic principality of Carantania emerged after the year

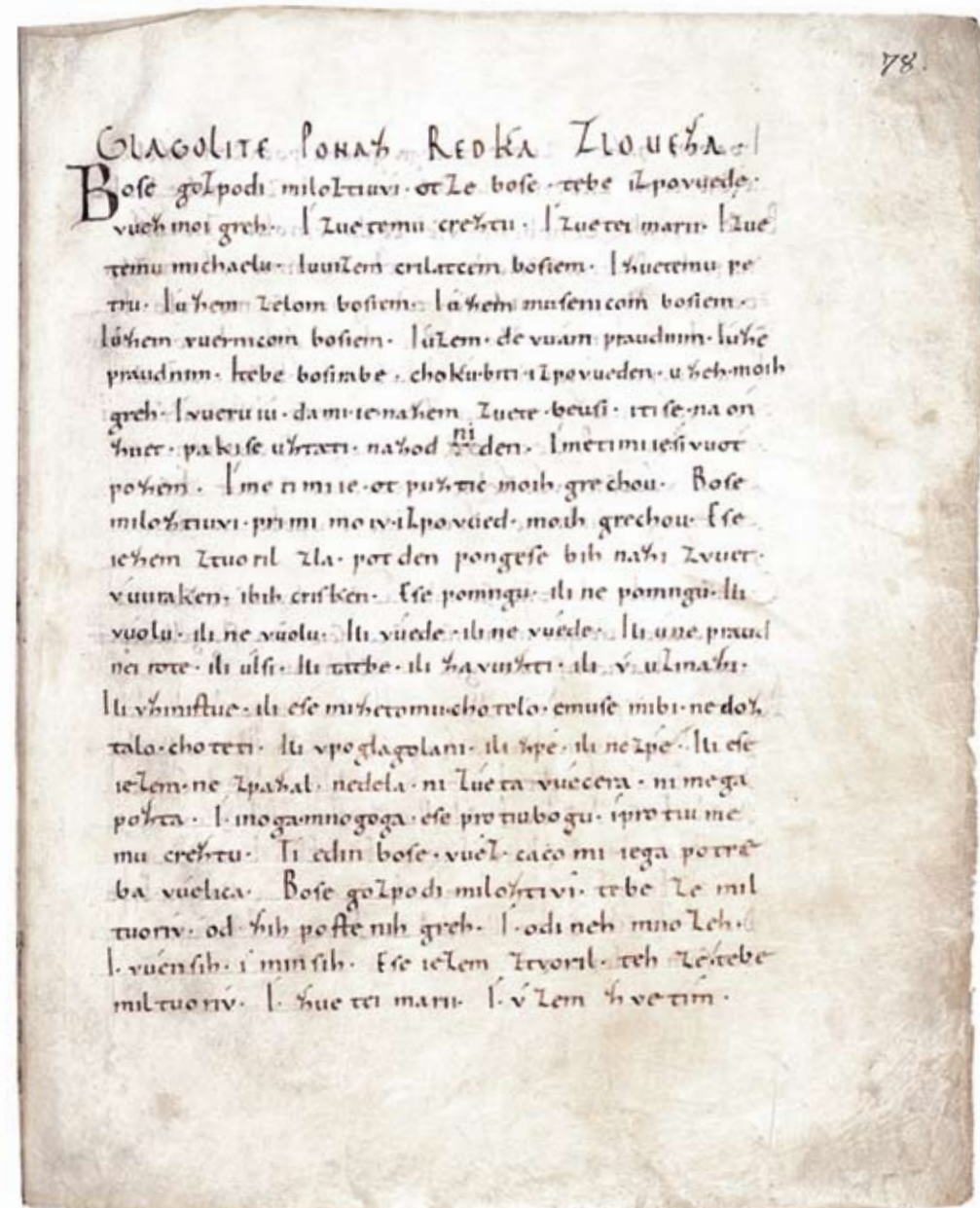
7th century

10th century



< SLAVIC FASTENER
7th - 8th century
National Museum of Slovenia

> FREISING MANUSCRIPTS
10th century
Facsimile, original kept at
the Bavarian State Library
in Munich





600, remaining an independent political community until the mid-8th century. It was here that the Slavic ethnic community of Carantanians was formed. The military pressure exerted by the Avars forced the Carantanian prince Borut to subject, shortly before 743, to the Bavarians and Franks in exchange for their support. When in 752 the princely authority was assumed by Borut's nephew Hotimir, who had been Christianised in Bavaria, the process of Christianisation in Carantania commenced. Revolts against Christianisation and the Christian prince in the 660s could not prevent the changes which enabled Carantanians to be integrated into the Western European cultural sphere. A failed revolt against the Frankish authority in 820 put an end to Carantania's internal independence. It was replaced by a Frankish administration.

Carantanian political elites vested power in the tribal prince with an installation ceremony which involved him being placed on the Prince's Stone. The ceremony, albeit changed considerably during the centuries of feudalism, was preserved until the early 15th century as a symbolic act of handing over power to Carinthian dukes. A ceremony unknown to feudalism, during which a peasant symbolically, using the Slovenian language, handed over power to a new duke dressed in peasant clothing, who in terms of his social status was a German-speaking nobleman, was particularly attractive to the Medieval and Early Modern Period writers, for instance the renowned 16th century French jurist, Jean Bodin.

After 861, the margrave of the Frankish march of Lower Pannonia was the Slavic Prince Kocelj. After having joined the 869 revolt against the Franks, he ruled as an independent prince in the capital located in Blatenski kostel up to 874. During Kocelj's reign, the brothers Constantine and Methodius, Greek missionaries from the surroundings of Thessaloniki, were active in the Lower Pannonia. The Slavic liturgical language was introduced by them.

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1248

ULRIK III. SPANHEIM <

Coin that was minted between 1248 and 1269 in Kamnik. City Museum of Ljubljana

The Freising Manuscripts (Brižinski spomeniki), comprising three religious texts, written in the 10th century in an archaic Slovenian language, are a representative example of linguistic differentiation from other southern and western Slavic languages. Along with the Stična (first half of the 15th cent.) and the Rateče (Klagenfurt) Manuscripts (second half of the 14th cent.), they constitute rare written evidence of the structure and development of the language that was spoken by a large majority of the population.

One of the Middle Ages' lasting legacies is the settlement pattern of today's Slovenia. Thus, the origin of certain villages can be traced back to the Early Middle Ages, whilst the majority of them sprang up during the period of the High Medieval economic and demographic expansion from the 10th to the 13th century. It was in the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries that the majority of towns also came into existence, whereas some settlements received their town charters during the 15th century. Nowadays, medi-

eval urbanism is still recognisable in the town centres of nearly all modern towns of Slovenia.

Through Christianity which, given that the two most significant young men belonging to the Carantanian princely family were raised in the Christian faith, again started to spread around 743 despite resistance offered by one part of the Carantanian social elite and managed to establish itself, at least on the surface, in the 9th century, Slovenian ethnic territory became part of the Catholic Western and Central Europe in both religious and cultural terms.

The medieval period is characterised by the distinct predominance of agriculture and the countryside. Agriculture operated within a specific organisational form, i.e. an estate, and within the social framework of feudal order. An estate in the form of either fiefs or allods belonged to a landlord. Individual nobles, or the Church, e.g. various dioceses, were capable of acting as landlords or feudal lords. Feudal lords

either cultivated land themselves, using a workforce in bondage or, especially from the 12th century onwards, granted a lease on land to peasants, receiving rent in exchange. During the High Middle Ages (11th to 13th century), peasants differed considerably in terms of their legal status, whilst in the Late Middle Ages a relatively uniform class of subjects was formed. Towns were small and did not go beyond the role of local markets and local producers of various crafts.

From 820 onwards, Slovenian ethnic territory was incorporated into various political entities (Carolingian state, East Frankish state, Holy Roman Empire, Hungarian Kingdom, Venice), whose centres were outside it. In the course of the High and Late Middle Ages (11th to 15th cent.), the provinces of Styria, Carniola, Carinthia, Gorizia, Celje and Istria were formed. These were autonomous territorial units under the rule of the provincial prince or provincial nobles which remained in existence, with the exception of Celje, until 1918.

The dislocation of political centres resulted in a specific structure of the social and political elites and in a drain on funds. Apart from that, it prevented the creation of major domestic centres, thereby quite marginalising Slovenian ethnic territory in political, economic and cultural terms. This situation could not even be improved by monasteries, the centres of literacy in a distinctly oral medieval culture, or courts of certain important territorial landlords, such as the court of the princely Counts of Celje in the first half of the 15th century, which were well familiar with current intellectual and cultural developments in Europe.

THE DANCE OF DEATH
Janez de Kastua, 1490
In the Church of
The Holy Trinity in
Hrastovlje

1490





EARLY MODERN TIMES

- ★ EARLY MODERN TIMES IN SLOVENIAN HISTORY COVER THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE END OF THE 15TH AND END OF THE 18TH CENTURIES. THE ONSET OF THE PERIOD IS MARKED BY A DEMOGRAPHIC RECOVERY AFTER THE CRISIS OF THE LATE MIDDLE AGES, WHILST ITS END IS INDICATED BY THE FIRST, NOT EXACTLY SUCCESSFUL MODERNISATION ATTEMPTS AND REFORMS OF THE THERESIAN AGE. FROM TODAY'S POINT OF VIEW, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULT OF THIS PERIOD IS THE CREATION OF THE SLOVENIAN LITERARY LANGUAGE.

F. K. REMB, A DETAIL OF THE
BAROQUE FRESCO
from the beginning of the 18th
century
Knight's Hall of the Brežice castle
Museum of Posavje Region, Brežice

A distinctly leading role in the economy of Early Modern Times was still played by the relatively underdeveloped and not very productive agriculture functioning within the framework of feudal estates. Agricultural production was based on a three-year crop rotation, cereal production and pasture livestock farming.

With the rising demands of landlords, an escalating state tax burden, inflation, impeded rural trade, and demographic pressure causing farm fragmentation, discontent among the rural population grew. This discontent was vented during major supra-regional and regional peasant uprisings, such as the uprisings of 1515, 1573, 1635, and 1713, and in a series of local rebellions. As regards non-agrarian activities, tradesmen united in guilds prevailed in towns. Towns, whose inhabitants accounted for approximately six percent of the total population, turned to local centres of trade and commerce. With the exception of Ljubljana, whose population around 1700 stood at approximately 7,500,

the number of inhabitants in Maribor and Trieste did not exceed 2,000.

In certain industries, such as the iron industry, mining and linen trade, and in distant trade, trade capital encouraged the emergence of more flexible forms of entrepreneurial organisation such as manufacturing, which is characteristic of early capitalism. Moreover, some traits of mercantilism appeared and were consolidated in the first half of the 18th century.

In the late 15th century, more efficient state and provincial administrations created an institutional background against which political, financial-political and religious-political disputes between provincial prince and provincial Estates were sparked off, ending with the ultimate victory of the provincial prince in the 1620s.

A major part of Slovenian ethnic territory still belonged to the Holy Roman Empire whose name was changed to the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation at the end of the 15th

16th century



- < PLATE
16th century
City Museum of Ljubljana
- > GLASS FROM THE TIME
OF THE REFORMATION
16th century
City Museum of Ljubljana



century. Within the framework of the Empire, the Slovenian provinces belonged to the hereditary possessions of the Austrian Habsburgs who ruled Styria, Carniola, Carinthia, Gorizia and Trieste. It was these provinces that formed Inner Austria. Prekmurje was part of the Hungarian Kingdom, whilst the coastal towns of Koper, Izola and Piran were, like Resia, under Venetian rule.

Despite the fact that in the 16th century the Ottoman Empire still posed a dangerous threat, Slovenian ethnic territory was quite efficiently defended by the system of strongholds established in Croatia and Slavonia after the 1530s (Military Border), which was mainly financed by the Inner Austrian provinces, and an effective signalling network of piles. Self-defensive anti-Ottoman measures also involved churches with walls erected around them called tabori. From the end of the 16th century onwards, the majority of Slovenian ethnic territory was safe from Turkish invasions.

Protestant, most notably Lutheran, ideas started to consolidate in the 1530s and 1540s, reaching their peak approximately between 1560 and 1590. Protestantism gained ground particularly among the nobles and among certain sections of the middle classes. Propelled by a wish to spread the 'Pure Gospel', Slovenian Protestants started to write and publish their works in the Slovenian language. It was in this context that the idea of the connectedness and unity of the people speaking different dialects of the Slovenian language emerged for the first time. Yet the Protestant writers were still unable to draw precise boundaries of the Slovenian language. Nevertheless, both Primož Trubar (around 1508-1586), the author of the first Slovenian book and numerous other religious-literary texts, and other Protestant writers established Slovenian as a fully developed literary language. During the period of the Catholic Restoration and Counter-Reformation, the considerably less ambitious religious-literary under-

1508

> PRIMOŽ TRUBAR
(1508 - 1586)
the author of the first
Slovenian book



takings by the Catholic part drew precisely on their work.

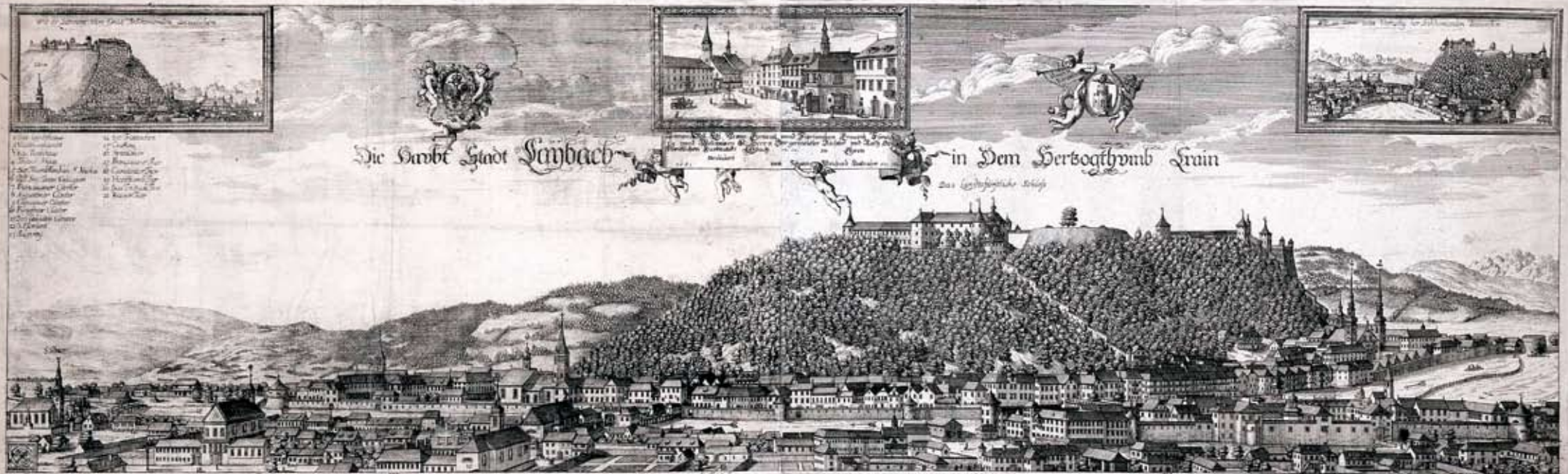
With the expulsion of Protestants (priests, the middle class and the nobles), the operation of religious commissions, burning of Protestant books, and introduction of other Counter-Reformation measures, the Slovenian provinces (with the exception of Prekmurje under Hungarian rule) were quite violently re-Catholicised and united in religious terms at the end of the 16th century and onset of the 17th century. During the Catholic Restoration, the arrival of Jesuits and Capuchins, the systematic education of clergy and its stricter discipline and morals, as well as new forms of picturesque, senses-oriented Baroque piety encouraged a dynamic religious life in the spirit of the victorious Catholicism.

The last quarter of the 17th century and first half of the 18th century

gave a considerable boost to cultural life in Slovenia. The most evident result of this revival was the flourishing of Baroque art. Baroque art, with its secular and ecclesiastical architecture, sculpture, painting and carving, today continues to contribute significantly to the architectural image of old town centres and to that of church interiors. Right at the end of Early Modern Times, there was a small group of intellectuals who were capable of expressing much more clearly the idea of Slovenians as a separate national community with a common history, language and culture. However, their standpoints did not meet with general acceptance until well into the following period.



VALVASOR: LJUBLJANA
J. V. Valvasor, 17th century
City Museum of Ljubljana





1800 - 1918

LONG NINETEENTH CENTURY AND WORLD WAR I

- ★ IN THE COURSE OF THE LONG NINETEENTH CENTURY, SLOVENIAN TERRITORY WAS ALSO SUBJECT TO MODERNISATION IMPULSES THAT FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGED ITS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL IMAGE. IMPROVEMENTS IN AGRICULTURE TOGETHER WITH THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH RESULTED IN POPULATION GROWTH. (PROTO)-INDUSTRIALISATION ENCOURAGED THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE TO CHANGE, THEREBY ACCELERATING THE PROCESS OF URBANISATION. CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAILWAY NETWORK RESULTED IN A REVOLUTION IN THE TRANSPORT FIELD, MAKING THE ECONOMY MORE DYNAMIC AND ENHANCING MOBILITY. IT WAS THE REVOLUTION OF 1848 THAT STRUCK A DEATH BLOW TO THE FEUDAL SOCIETY OF ESTATES WHICH HAD BEEN DYING FOR A LONG TIME.

RUDOLF MAISTER
(1874 - 1934)
Mirsad Begić, 2010
City Museum of
Ljubljana



By way of the political democratisation which followed the period of Neo-absolutism, citizens were granted fundamental rights and included in the process of political decision-making. Apart from that, cultural development was outright impressive.

values. Time itself also became more and more valuable. If at the end of the 18th century people still lived to the rhythm of bells from a church bell-tower, the time on the eve of World War One was measured in minutes and seconds.

The victory of reason, manifest in the development of both science and technology, made people believe they lived in a transitional period which moved in one direction only: from scarcity to abundance, from ignorance to knowledge, from barbarism to civilisation. Delving into the depths of the past, which became a lot like an obsession, was in fact focused on the future. "The past lies in ruins, the present is full of misery, the future is the source of all the good!" This immense belief in progress opened up optimistic perspectives. A belief that man can, by employing both his knowledge and diligence, rise above the previously almost unchangeable circumstances, turned into a generally accepted motto. Middle-class values such as hard work, economy, education and perseverance came to be universal

The tendency towards progress was, however, not only limited to individuals but also to nations. The early initiatives demonstrated by a small group of intellectuals who - in line with the objectives of the Absolutist State - devoted themselves to utilitarian enlightenment of the common people, soon gave birth to a tendency towards regenerating the previously neglected vernacular (the Zois Circle). Research work conducted in linguistic, ethnographic, historical and other fields gradually made intellectuals come to realise that there is both a linguistic and historical unity of the Slavic population in Inner Austria (as well as Venetia and Prekmurje). In the second half of the pre-March era, the ethnic term 'Slovenec' ('a Slovenian') increasingly replaced the older names ('Krajinci', 'Wendi'),

1853

THE MAP OF THE
SLOVENIAN LAND AND
REGIONS

Peter Kozler, 1853
City Museum of Ljubljana

whilst in the decade preceding the Revolution the term 'Slovenija' ('Slovenia') also gained ground as a designation for Slovenian ethnic territory regardless of its political borders. In the identity crisis brought about by the processes of supra-regional economic and cultural integration, the communications revolution, disintegration of the traditional forms of legitimating power as well as secularisation processes, the traditional estate-based bonds and sense of affiliation to both local and regional communities progressively made way to a sense of belonging to the Slovenian language and the Slovenian nation. Nation became the greatest value.

The Revolution of 1848 enabled the Slovenian national movement to pass from culture to politics. Already a couple of weeks after the Revolution broke out in Vienna, Slovenian intellectuals clearly formulated the "United Slovenia" programme, requiring that a special Slovenian state be established in Slovenian ethnic territory as an autonomous federal unit of a federalised monarchy. The programme received mass support at what was termed tabor meetings (1868-1871) and remained an ideal of Slovenian politics of the 19th and 20th centuries; however, it was impossible to put it into effect within the framework of the dual monarchy. Slovenians could nevertheless be proud of an outstanding cultural development; they joined the new state as the most developed nation of Yugoslavia in both economic and cultural terms.

Slovenian history concerning World War One is closely connected with the Isonzo Front, which was opened upon Italy entering the war in May 1915. The high-mountain battlefield where

soldiers were dying in large numbers not only in action but also due to the unendurable winter conditions left an indelible impression in the collective memory of Slovenians. The war was nevertheless felt by all Slovenians; they fought on all European fronts, and at home they suffered scarcity, had often to leave their homes and were affected by a generally deteriorated situation. The hinterland of the Isonzo Front extending across nearly one-half of Slovenian territory was where the troops gathered, army hospitals operated and provisional camps for prisoners of war were set up. The end of the war ushered in considerable political changes, facilitating the formation of the first Slovenian statehood.

1869

1803

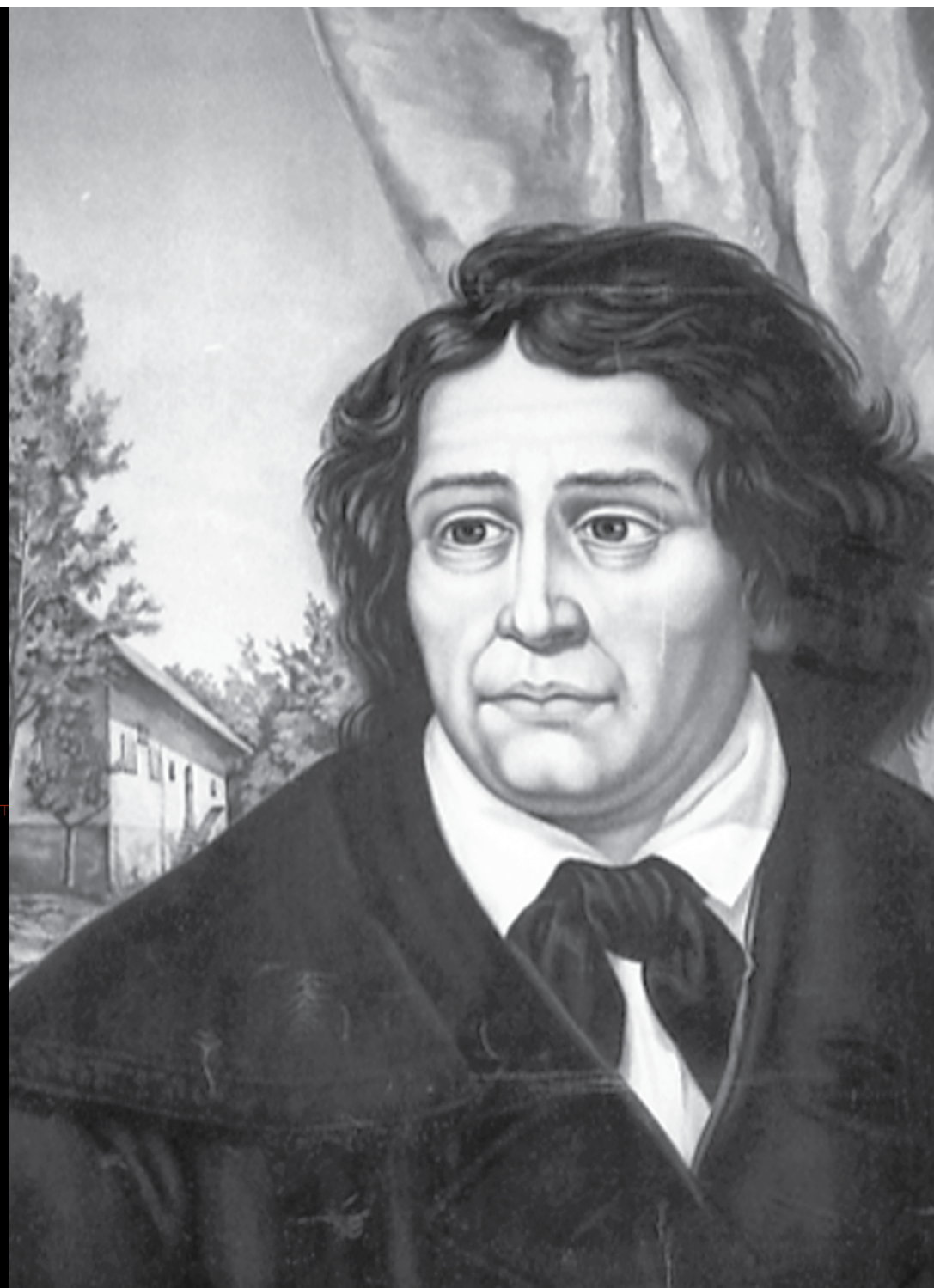


< AN INVITATION
TO THE VIŽMARJE TABOR
MEETING

17 May 1869, Poster
National Museum of
Contemporary History
of Slovenia

> FRANCE PREŠEREN
(1800 - 1849)

Alojzij Šubic, 1903
Reproduction, City
Museum of Ljubljana





1918 - 1945

KINGDOM OF YUGOSLAVIA AND WORLD WAR II

★ AT THE END OF WORLD WAR ONE, SLOVENIANS WERE ADMINISTRATIVELY SPLIT, LIVING IN A CRUMBLING MONARCHY FORCED TO ITS KNEES BY DEFEAT IN THE RECENT WAR AND BY INTERNAL POLITICAL AND NATIONAL ANTAGONISMS. THERE WAS A CONSENSUS AMONG POLITICAL ELITES AS REGARDS THE SLOVENIAN POLITICAL FUTURE WHOSE MAIN ELEMENT INVOLVED POLITICAL INTEGRATION WITH SOUTHERN SLAVIC NATIONS WITHIN A SINGLE STATE.

A DECISION ON INTEGRATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A STATE OUTSIDE AUSTRIA-HUNGARY WAS NOT EASY FOR THE SLOVENIAN POLITICAL ELITE. LOYALTY TO THE MONARCHY HAD BEEN TAKEN FOR GRANTED FOR CENTURIES BY ALL SOCIAL CLASSES, I.E. BY THE COMMON PEOPLE, POLITICIANS AND, IN PARTICULAR, BY THE INFLUENTIAL CLERGY. IN TERMS OF CULTURE AND MENTALITY, SLOVENIANS CONSIDERED THEMSELVES TO BE CLOSEST TO THE CZECHS AND SLOVAKS OF ALL THE SLAVIC NATIONS, BUT THEY HAD DECIDED TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN STATE AND, WHAT IS MORE, THERE WERE AUSTRIANS SITUATED IN-BETWEEN THEM.

MEMBERS OF THE EAGLE SOCIETY
PRACTICING GYMNASTICS
1920
National Museum of Contemporary
History of Slovenia

As regards the south Slavs, particularly the Serbs, Slovenian politicians had an idealised image of them and in fact did not know them well. What gave rise to most concerns were the different religions.

The gap in time which occurred between disintegration of the dual monarchy and the formation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians was filled by the State of Slovenians, Croats and Serbs ("State of SCS") episode. This state, which encompassed the southern Slavic provinces of the then former Austria-Hungary, only existed for 32 days, received no wider international recognition and its jurisdiction did not extend across the entire territory which it deemed belonged to it. Nevertheless, Slovenians had some sort of a confederate status, maintained diplomatic contacts with certain states of the former monarchy and had a government headquartered in Ljubljana. The latter accomplished many important functions associated with the transitional period, mainly as regards supplying the population with basic goods and the transit of the huge Isonzo Army passing through Slovenian territory on its way back to

various parts of the former monarchy. Moreover, it led the initial battles for the northern border.

By merging the State of SCS with the Kingdom of Serbia, a new state was formed which existed in various forms for seven decades. The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians, from 1929 onwards the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, represented a new experience in the political development of Slovenians. As a constitutional parliamentary kingdom, the state had an apparently democratic form. Only three nations were recognised which, in the name of the Yugoslav identity, were referred to as tribes. There was a permanent political conflict between the centralist and autonomist concepts at the level of the nations.

The first disillusionment for Slovenians came in the form of the initial constitution, passed in 1921, which was a centralist piece of legislation, granting the main role to the king. Slovenian politi-

cians, traditionally split into liberal and catholic camps and a workers' social democracy, from which the communists spun off, also retained these internal divisions in the new state, although there were more political parties. The two most important political camps in the new state were similarly distinguished from each other by either supporting or rejecting the centralist concept of the system of government. The new political idea was called "unitary Yugoslavism", according to which the three "tribes" should flow into one nation. This was supposed to be the answer to the question of whether Serbia, as a victorious state in the Great War, had either expanded its territory with Croatian and Slovenian territories or liberated those areas.

The kingdom's political reality was reflected in the fact that no assembly of the Kingdom of SCS lasted until the end of its term of office because they were all dissolved. Thus, up to 38 governments followed each other in the period between the two world wars. The lack of democracy in the Yugoslav state was especially manifested in introduc-

tion of the King's dictatorship in 1929 and the imposition of the Octroyed constitution in 1931. The new name Kingdom of Yugoslavia was intended to exert new unitarist pressure on the non-Serbian population of the state and may be considered as denouncement of the true parliamentary democracy concept. In 1939 a political agreement was reached between Serbs and Croats according to which the latter should be granted autonomy. The Parliament was dissolved, with the senate under the King's control ruling by decree. The first Yugoslav state failed to include the entire Slovenian population within its borders. With the Carinthian Plebiscite of 1920 and under the Treaty of Rapallo of 1921, Carinthian Slovenians and Slovenians living in the Littoral (one-third of the total population!) remained outside the borders of the Yugoslav state. Soon afterwards, pressure started to be exerted by national majorities, in Italy also by fascism and in Austria, after the 1938 Anschluss, by Nazism. The situation was similar for Slovenians living in the Hungarian state.

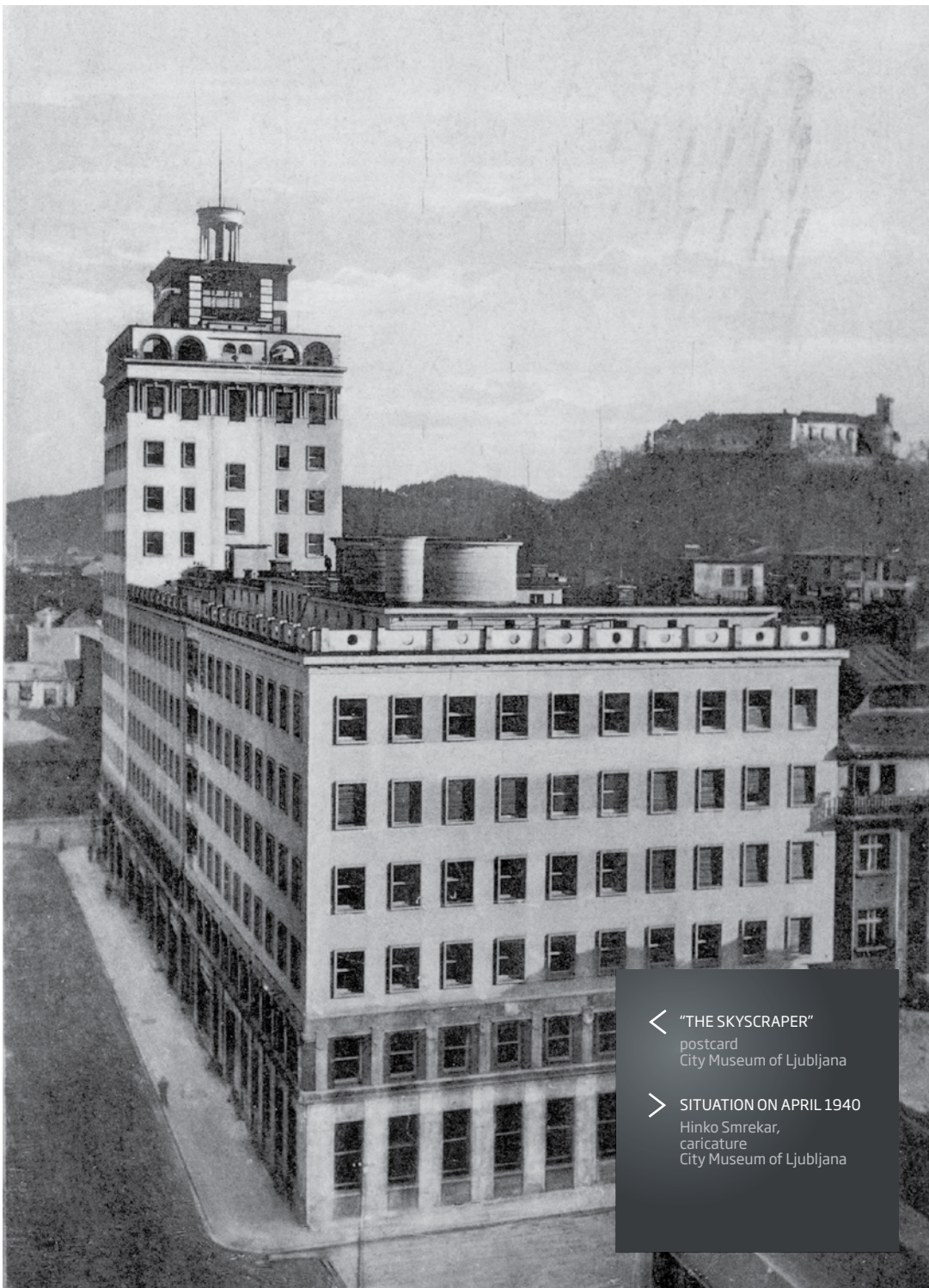
As regards the Slovenian economy, set-

1920

> KING ALEKSANDER
(1888 - 1934)
Lojze Dolinar, 1938
City Museum of Ljubljana

>> THE BUILDING OF THE
SLOVENIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
IN TRIESTE AFTER IT WAS
BURNED DOWN ON 13 JULY
1920 BY ITALIAN FASCISTS.
National Museum of
Contemporary History
of Slovenia





< "THE SKYSCRAPER"
postcard
City Museum of Ljubljana

> SITUATION ON APRIL 1940
Hinko Smrekar,
caricature
City Museum of Ljubljana

ting the Yugoslav state up meant that a new economic area had opened in territories with varying levels of economic development. The gap between the more developed north of the country and its considerably less economically developed southern parts remained unchanged during all the decades of its existence. In Slovenia, this period is characterised by progressive industrialisation, accompanied by deagrarianisation of rural areas and the rapid urbanisation of towns. A young, predominantly Yugoslav-oriented economic elite was established for the first time in history. Despite the centralised state, the entire Slovenian school system was conducted in the Slovenian language for the first time ever. Moreover, this period saw the founding of the first university and several cultural institutions, with culture generally advancing.

Upon the invasion of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia by the Axis powers on 6 April 1941, Slovenia too became part of the maelstrom of World War Two. Slovenians, now split up between Germany, Italy and Hungary, faced the worst atrocities of occupation. The aim of all occu-

pation regimes was the total destruction of the Slovenian population and the settlement of the German or Italian population in its place. To this end, even genocidal methods were used. Armed resistance was initially organised by the Communist Party and was led by the Liberation Front, which embraced numerous organisations. It joined the Yugoslav resistance movement which was recognised as part of the Allied Forces in the fight against fascism and Nazism in Europe under occupation. Already during the war, the Liberation Front started to build the new, people's power and a federal republic within the emerging new Yugoslavia. One group of pre-war politicians and the population did, afraid of the revolutionary intentions of the liberation action, collaborate with the occupiers, organising armed forces against the liberation movement. A fierce conflict between the partisan movement and the collaboration forces, which already took shape during the war, ended in post-war extrajudicial mass killings of members of the collaboration forces.

1933

1940





1945 - 1991

SOCIALIST YUGOSLAVIA

THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THE POST-1945 YUGOSLAV STATE, POPULARLY REFERRED TO AS THE "AVNOJ YUGOSLAVIA" OR THE "SECOND YUGOSLAVIA", WERE ALREADY BUILT DURING THE WAR, IN PARTICULAR AT THE SECOND AVNOJ (ANTI-FASCIST LIBERATION COUNCIL FOR YUGOSLAVIA) MEETING HELD IN NOVEMBER 1943. AFTER THE WAR, POWER WAS TAKEN BY THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT'S POLITICAL BODIES WHICH TOOK THE FIRST REVOLUTIONARY MEASURES, CONDUCTED THE AGRARIAN REFORM AND NATIONALISATION, AND ORGANISED THE FIRST ELECTIONS AS EARLY AS IN NOVEMBER 1945.

THE FIRST FLIGHT ATTENDANTS
AT BRNIK AIRPORT

1962
National Museum of
Contemporary History
of Slovenia

The elections were not democratic and therefore political opponents of the new authorities refused to take part in them, although voters showed strong support for the policy representing the liberation struggle. Backed by the Liberation Front's victory in the elections, the revolutionary authorities could go on transforming the state in the spirit of socialism, which was also manifested in the contents of the first constitution passed in 1946. It was drafted according to the Soviet model, but granted individual republics the right of self-determination, including the right to secede.

Slovenia as a federative unit obtained its first constitution in 1947. Despite ideological pressures exerted on the population by the authorities, the latter generally enjoyed support from the people. This support was certainly manifested in the mass participation in reconstruction of the destroyed and burned country, which in many segments was conducted in the form of voluntary work. In the aftermath of the war, scores were also settled

with the opponents. Members of the armed forces which during the war had collaborated with the occupying regimes and armies were mainly subject to extrajudicial mass killings in various parts of Slovenia, whilst the influence of the political opposition was diminished by the authorities in a series of trials which were Stalinist in terms of both their contents and the aim pursued.

The first post-war period was characterised by administrative socialism, whereby the state was centralised up to the smallest detail. Whilst Yugoslavia obtained the Littoral under the 1947 Paris Peace Treaty, the question of the border with Italy remained unsolved. A major upheaval was the 1948 clash with the Cominform, triggering serious internal conflicts and an economic slowdown. In foreign policy terms, it resulted in Yugoslavia distancing itself from the other socialist countries.

In the early 1950s, the political pressure exerted by the authorities gradu-

ally subsided. Apart from that, the first five-year plan had been implemented which meant that the new state's economy was now provided with bases in terms of both energy and industry. A special, Yugoslav model of socialism, i.e. the Self-Management Socialism, was gradually established. In the economic field, self-management gave rise to workers' councils organised within companies which formally managed them. Following the "Trieste Crisis", the border question with Italy was finally solved. The border started to open up gradually, with the number of those crossing it on an upward trend. By signing the Austrian State Treaty, Yugoslavia had to cede Carinthia and was granted the right of protection for the Slovenian (and Croatian) minorities. In the political sphere, the Slovenian Communist Party reluctantly opposed the Belgrade authorities' centralism. The 1963 constitution defined Yugoslavia as "socialist", stipulating self-management at all levels of social, political and economic life. Centralism started to make way for a federal model only after 1966. Con-

stitutional amendments passed in the late 1960s and in particular the 1974 constitution accounted for the final victory of the federal concept, whereby the republics were granted the status of independent states united within the Yugoslav federation. Accordingly, Yugoslavia held a position somewhere in-between a federation and a confederation. Whilst individual republics had the right to secede, the method of how any of them might actually secede was not prescribed.

Josip Broz Tito as the supreme authority and, in fact, the president of both the state and the Communist Party and the supreme commander of the army for life, succeeded in maintaining the internal peace in the country. This was also made possible by the international community (which granted the country loans worth millions) and the reputation Tito enjoyed as commander of the liberation movement during World War Two, his break with Stalin, and the constituent role he played in the Non-Aligned Movement. Following Tito's death in

1959

1962



< A POSTER FOR THE TITO RALLY
1949
City Museum of Ljubljana

> THE OPENING OF THE FIRST SELF-SERVICE STORE IN LJUBLJANA
November 1959
National Museum of Contemporary History of Slovenia, Marjan Ciglič





ON THE WAY TO A HOLIDAY
DESTINATION

1960s
National Museum of
Contemporary
History of Slovenia,
Edi Selhaus

1980, the accumulated national tensions and the economic crisis openly erupted. The only remaining integrative mechanism were the Yugoslav People's Army ('YPA') and the nationally split League of Communists. Kosovo became one of the core problems. Whilst this was exclusively a conflict between the Serbian and Kosovar political leaderships, it also involved the leaderships of all the other republics since it actually concerned the constitutional system at the state level. When the nationalist and centralist policy in Serbia finally prevailed, relations between the republics started to deteriorate. At the lowest point of this process, Serbia started an economic war against Slovenia. The army leadership, which began intervening in such conflicts, clearly showed that it would not allow the Yugoslav state to be changed too radically. In Slovenia, various different social movements started to build up the opposition and the political climate began to be more democratised. The Slovenian political leadership launched measures

to protect the republic's statehood. After the multi-party elections held in 1990, the new authorities started to take measures aimed at achieving Slovenia's independence.

< TONE PAVČEK READING THE MAY DECLARATION AT THE GATHERING ON CONGRESS SQUARE

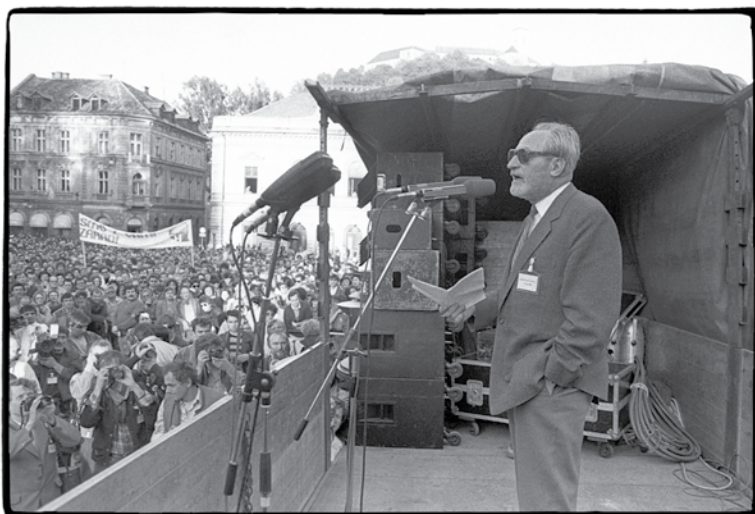
8th May 1989
Museum of Contemporary History of Slovenia, Tone Stojko

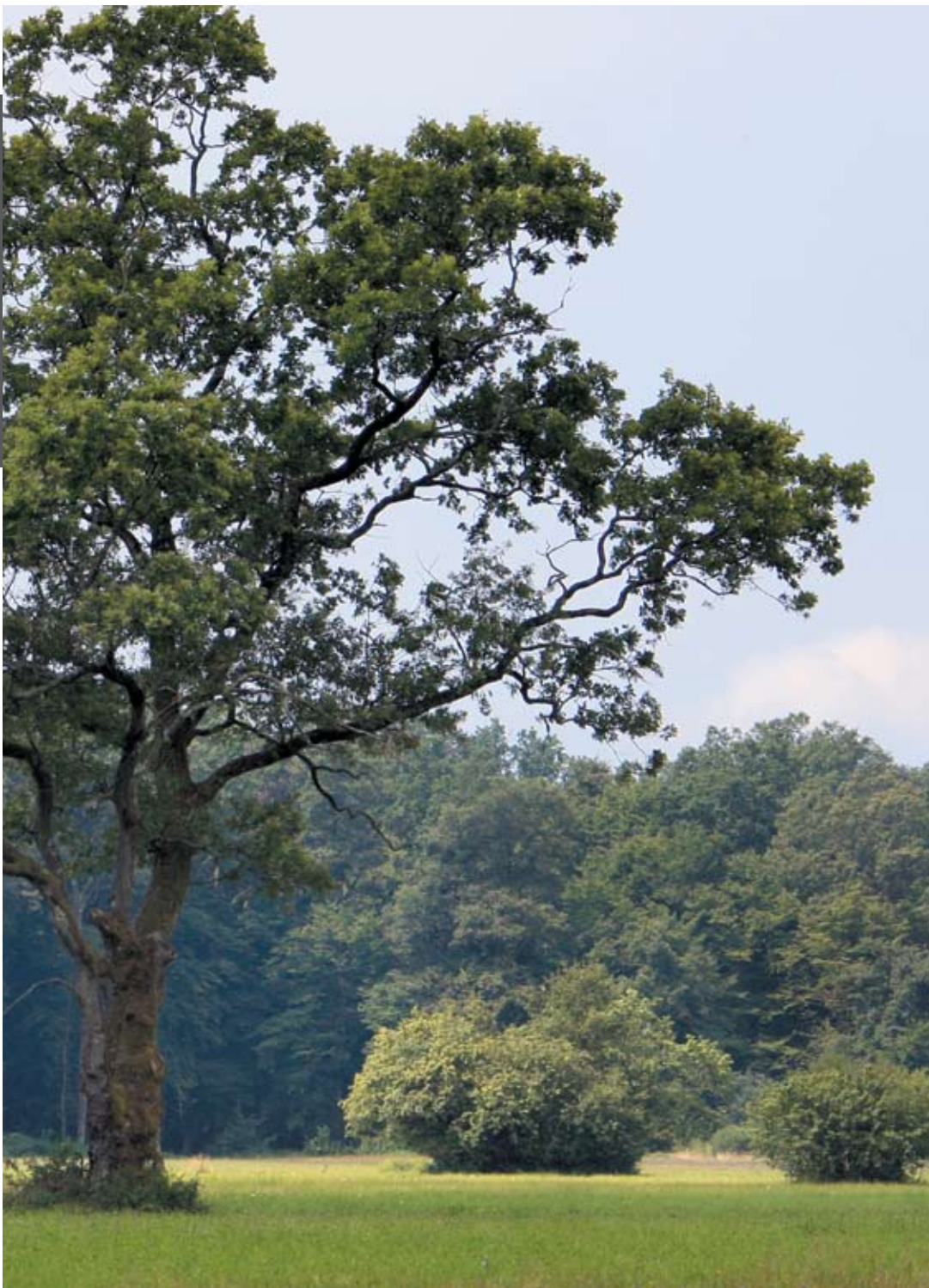
> A POSTER OF THE GROUP NEW COLLECTIVISM FOR THE YOUTH RALLY

1987
City Museum of Ljubljana

1987

1989





Since 1991 **INDEPENDENT SLOVENIA**

THE LATE 1980S IN EASTERN EUROPE WAS A PERIOD OF THE TURBULENT DEMOLITION OF COMMUNIST REGIMES, DISINTEGRATION OF THE SOVIET EMPIRE AND END OF THE COLD WAR. THIS WAS ALSO RELEVANT TO YUGOSLAVIA WHOSE SOCIALIST ORIENTATION, NATIONAL ANTAGONISMS AND ECONOMIC CRISIS, MAINLY CHARACTERISED BY HYPERINFLATION AND A FALL IN THE STANDARD OF LIVING, HERALDED ITS IMMINENT END.

SLOVENIAN FOREST
Darinka Mladenovič

Slovenia's gaining of independence was not a sudden step taken by Slovenian politicians but a process carefully conducted within all the more important institutions of the political system. Since autumn 1989, the Slovenian Assembly had been passing declarations, constitutional amendments and other acts stipulating Slovenia's sovereignty and establishing the bases for Slovenia's new legal order which would be independent from the Yugoslav one. On 23 December 1990, as many as 88.2% of those participating in the plebiscite on the sovereignty and independence of Slovenia voted in favour of an independent state, with the outcome imposing an obligation on the Slovenian authorities to achieve independence within six months. This period then saw an intense process of adopting the respective legislation and solving several conflicts with the federation and the army. The latter, in particular, tried several times to involve Slovenia in an armed conflict so as to justify its intervention. When the YPA attempted to disarm the Slovenian Territorial

Defence Force (TD), the latter succeeded in keeping one part of military equipment out of the hands of the YPA. Moreover, some TD officers laid the groundwork for the organisational conditions of the military aspect of gaining independence.

25 June 1991 saw the declaration of independence of the Republic of Slovenia, which occurred in Ljubljana's Republic Square. On the very same night, the Federal Secretariat of the Interior, which was backed by the YPA, intended to take control of the state borders in Slovenia, an act ordered by the federal government. The Ten-Day War, which followed the declaration of sovereignty and independence, ended with negotiations in Brioni which were also attended by European diplomats. Under the Brioni Declaration, a three-month moratorium was put on the implementation of Slovenia's independence, while the European Community undertook to recognise the independent Slovenia.

The international recognition of Slo-

venia and its inclusion in key international organisations such as the United Nations was a top priority of Slovenian authorities during the first year of the country's independence. Apart from that, other independence measures had to be taken such as the introduction of the country's own currency. After Slovenia had become part of the international community, it was faced with a transitional period characterised by privatisation, denationalisation and the passage from a socialist to a market economy. Under the new market economy conditions, Slovenia's economic development was outstanding, in particular when compared to other post-socialist transition countries in Europe. Both economic and political relations with the former Yugoslav republic were gradually normalised. However, the transition time itself and the enforcement of liberal capitalist economic principles with no adequate social regulation resulted in rapidly growing social disparities and the impoverishment of that part of the population whose survival depended on non-competitive industries.

The latter was, following a series of bankruptcies of once important companies, irretrievably on the wane. Slovenian politicians' inability to ensure an adequate balance between the social state and an economic environment which would give rise to new, development-oriented companies started to be manifested during attempts to keep the former industrial giants like Litostroj, TAM and Mura on the verge of existence. New possibilities offered by the market economy as well as the waiver of some former social rights characteristic of the socialist state caused major changes in Slovenian society.

Despite problems pertaining to the transition period and economists' invariably discouraging forecasts, Slovenia managed in due time to satisfy the criteria for joining the European Union in 2004, when it also joined NATO, and for adopting the euro in 2007. In the first half of 2008, Slovenia presided over the European Union.

1991



THE CEREMONY AT THE
REPUBLIC SQUARE
1991
Marjan Garbajs

SOLDIERS OF THE
YUGOSLAVIAN ARMY
LEAVING SLOVENIA
1991
Marjan Garbajs





> LIPIZZAN HORSES
Darinka Mladenovič



> THE CHURCH OF ST.
MICHAEL IN ČRNA VAS ON
LJUBLJANA MARSH
Architect Jože Plečnik
Darinka Mladenovič



> LAKE CERKNICA
Darinka Mladenovič



G KING ALEKSANDER,
Lojze Dolinar, 1938
City Museum of Ljubljana



H JOSIP BROZ TITO,
Boris Kalin, 1948
City Museum of Ljubljana



**I THE MAP OF THE SLOVENIAN
LAND AND REGIONS,**
Peter Kozler, 1853
City Museum of Ljubljana



D BIBLE,
Jurij Dalmatin, 1584
City Museum of Ljubljana,
facsimile



E THE HOLY TRINITY,
Francesco Robba, 1721
City Museum of Ljubljana



F RUDOLF MAISTER,
Mirsad Begić, 2010
City Museum of Ljubljana



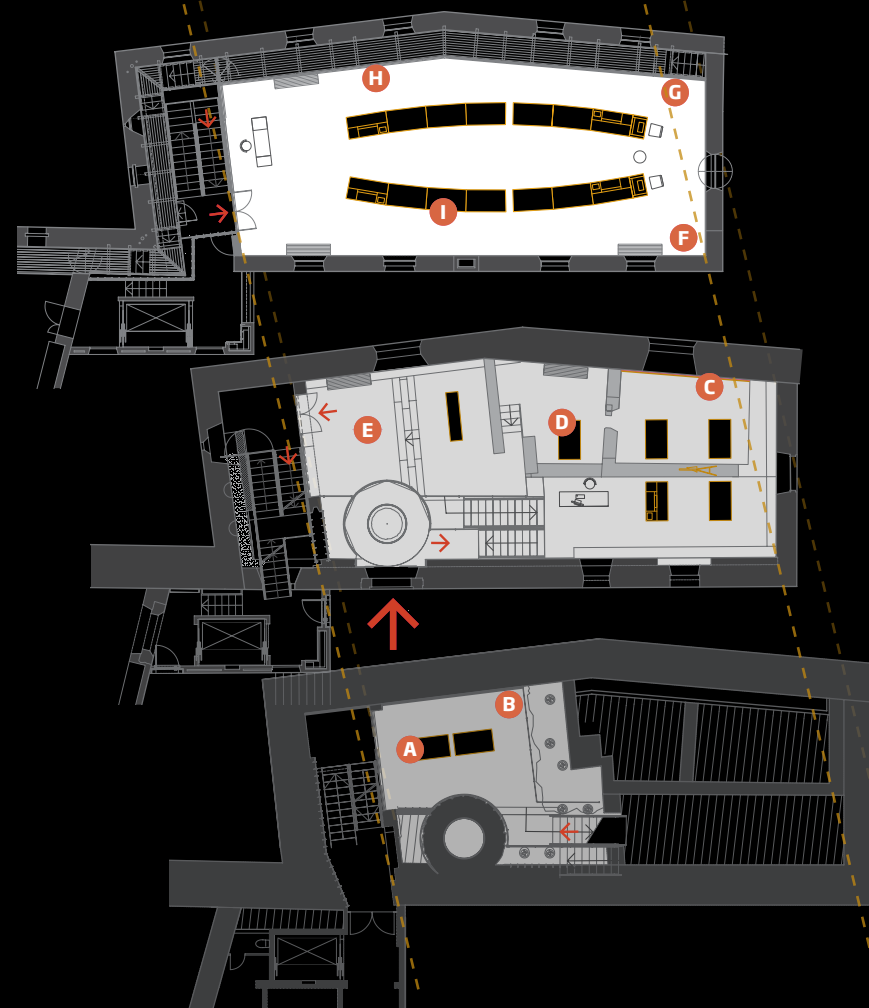
C THE DANCE OF DEATH,
Janez de Kastua, 1490
In the Church of The Holy Trinity in Hrastovlje



A SITULA FROM VAČE,
5th century BC
National Museum of Slovenia



B EMONEC,
2nd century
National Museum of Slovenia



FLOOR

GROUND FLOOR

BASEMENT

HEAD

prof. dr. Božo Repe

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OBJECTS

Muzej in galerije mesta Ljubljane / Mestni muzej
Ljubljana, Narodni muzej Slovenije, Muzej novejšje
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galerija Slovenije, Pokrajinski muzej Celje, Pokrajinski
muzej Maribor, Pokrajinski muzej Ptuj, Pokrajinski muzej
Koper, Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto, Posavski muzej
Brežice, Belokranjski muzej Metlika, Koroški pokrajinski
muzej, Kobariški muzej, Muzej narodne osvoboditve
Maribor, Muzej novejšje zgodovine Celje, Vojaški muzej
slovenske vojske, Vojni muzej Logatec, Zgodovinski arhiv
Ljubljane, Miklova hiša Ribnica, Slovenski verski muzej,
Mirsad Begič, Jakov Brdar, Pipistrel d.o.o.,
Dr. Viljenka Škorjanec, Častivredni vinski konvent
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Civil engineering
Mechanical instalations
Electical instalations



SLOVENSKA ZGODOVINA
SLOVENIAN HISTORY
LJUBLJANSKI GRAD LJUBLJANA CASTLE



Municipality of Ljubljana
Mayor: Zoran Jankovič



Exhibition
Museums and Galleries of Ljubljana
Director: Blaž Peršin



Exhibition location
Ljubljana Castle
Ljubljana Festival

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SLOVENIAN HISTORY
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