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Everybody against everybody

a case study of Slovenia





K

How did the war situation deepen political divisions between Slovenes?



T

The module is about the civil war in Slovenia and could be apply to any other region within former Yugoslavia. We address the pupils / students from the age of 14 to 18. This is the period of second world war. We chose this topic because it is very controversial and sensitive for the whole area of former Yugoslavia, because after more than 60 years there are still divisions among people and politicians regarding to this period and the reconciliation has not been completely achieved yet.



A

The students will acquire knowledge about the civil war in Slovenia.



L

1. The student will compare different responses of Slovenes to the occupation.
2. They will learn why the Labour and Bourgeois factions had different responses to the occupation.
3. They will be able to recognize the facts that triggered the increasing tension and caused conflicts between Slovenes.
4. They will be able to express a critical thinking in a constructive way and to deal with sensitive and controversial history.

T

The teacher will read the introduction to the students and present the theme to the class. The workshop has two phases – first phase (45 minutes) is work in groups, and the second phase (45 minutes) is a presentation of the results of each group and a debate.

Time orientation:

STEP 1: A teacher divides students into 4 groups:

Group 1: OCCUPATION RESPONSE AND POLARISATION, CHURCH BETWEEN TWO FIRES

Group 2: ARMY UNITS: LABOUR FACTION – PARTISANS, BOURGEOIS FACTION - SLOVENE CHETNIKS (BLUE BRIGADE)

Group 3: ARMY UNITS: BOURGEOIS FACTION - VILLAGE GUARDS (MVAC), HOME GUARDS

Group 4: BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER (CIVIL WAR 1942 - 1945)

STEP 2: A teacher gives students the instructions for work in groups (COOPERATIVE LEARNING). Each group also gets these instructions printed.

METHODOLOG COOPERATIVE LEARNING

Each group member gets his / her own working sheet, solves ALL the tasks and writing down the answers. Each group member choose a number between 1 and 4 because he / she could be a rapporteur and will be chosen after finishing all the tasks. In addition to solving tasks each group member will have one more important role. Each group must have: **A GUIDE, A GUARD, A TIME CONTROLLER and AN OBSERVER.**



90
minutes



90
minutes

A :	C):
A GUIDE directs the work of a group, verifies whether everyone understands the instructions. He / she reads the written sources.	Do I read enough understandable? Can we form an even better answer?
A GUARD ensures that all members participate. He / she warns those members who have distanced themselves from the topic or who do not participate.	You must speak quietly. We are too loud. You are also a member of our group, so you have to participate, because we will be evaluated as a group.
A TIME CONTROLLER recalls the time limitation, encourages to hurry up.	Hurry up, only three minutes to go. We are running out of time, we must all make an effort.
AN OBSERVER observes how the group works.	At the end he / she reports about the work of the group and about all three other roles.

STEP 3: A teacher presents the introduction of this module (topic) to the students. Each group also gets this introduction printed.

STEP 4: The students are working in groups. Each group is analyzing historical sources and answering questions at the same time. **E**

STEP 5: A teacher chooses for each group one number between 1 and 4, so that he gets one rapporteur per group. The rapporteurs present the used historical sources to the other students and read the answers to the questions. At the same time students draw a timeline showing political groups with all their army units during occupation on the whiteboard.

STEP 6: A teacher carries out a debate by using critical thinking questions. Those critical thinking questions are:

- *Was the response of civilians, to join the Village guards, Chetniks, and Home Guards, excessive or legitimate?*
- *Which were the most convincing reasons that tossed people in one or the other faction?*
- *What were the consequences of decisions that people made on living in modern Slovenia?*

After answering to these questions we are turning back to the key question and make a final conclusion.

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S ?

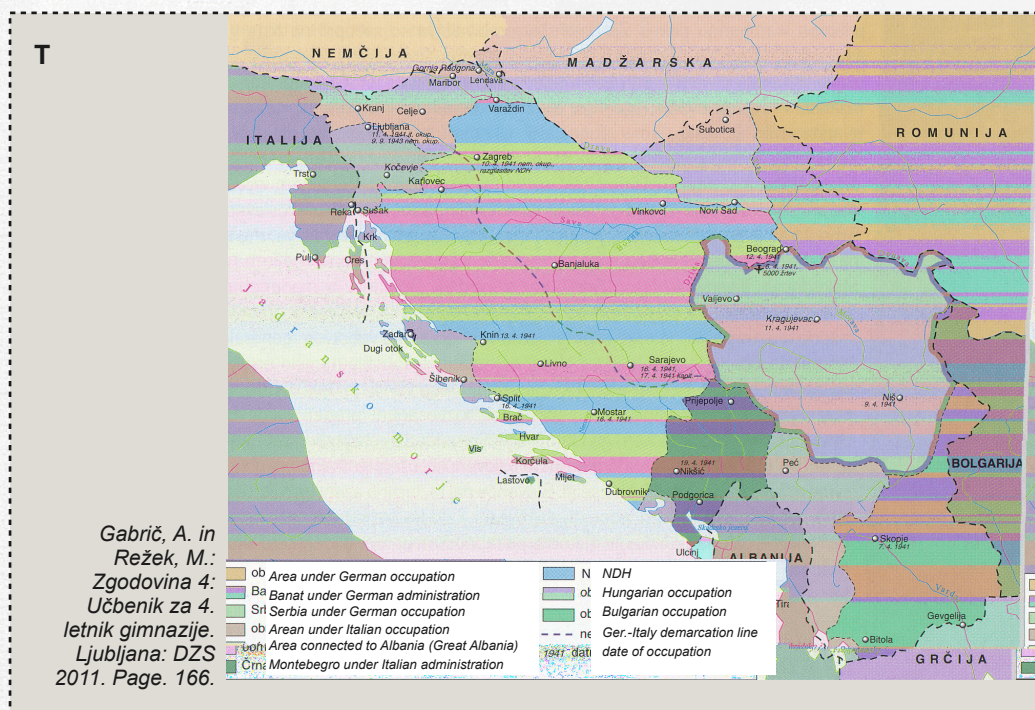
In the fall of 1942 the Italian general Vittorio Ruggero said the following in a conversation with the Bishop of Ljubljana:

»MVAC has helped Italians a great deal, but it created such a hatred among Slovenes, that you will not be able to abolish it for the next fifty years.«

Jan, Ivan: *Korenine zla. Odstirte zavesi I. Samozaložba. Ljubljana 1995. pg. 13.*

On 6 April 1941, the German troops invaded Yugoslavia through Bulgaria and Austria. The attack began by bombing airports and other military facilities as well as cities. The attack in Belgrade was devastating. On 11 April, after the Germans have already penetrated Zagreb and Karlovac and cut off the western Yugoslavia from its centre, the Italians started to invade Slovenia and Croatia. At the time, the offensive was also started by the Hungarian troops. The Yugoslav government and the king left the country which capitulated on 17 April. The majority of the Yugoslav Army was captured, leaving Yugoslavia in pieces.

Repe, B.: *Sodobna zgodovina, učbenik za 4. letnik gimnazij. Ljubljana: Modrijan 2007. pg.. 140*



Yugoslavia was divided into ten units which did not form a whole, but gained different statuses. The division took place for the purposes of encouraging and promoting chauvinism among the nation and national groups which lived in Yugoslavia until then.

Petranović, B.: *Istorija Jugoslavije, knjiga II – Narodnoosvobodilački rat i revolucija. pg.. 26 – 27. www.znaci.net/00001/96.htm*

A part of Slovenia (Upper Carniola, Styria and a part of the Prekmurje region), Banat, the mining region of Bor with the surroundings and Old Serbia came under the German rule.

Petranović, pg. 25 - 26

Hungary took possession of the region of Prekmurje, Baranja, Bačko and Medjimurje, Bulgaria conquered most of Macedonia, a part of Kosovo and SE Serbia, while the Italians conquered a part of Slovenia (the so called Ljubljanska pokrajina), the western part of Croatian Primorje along with the islands, Dalmatia, reaching from Zadar to Split, a part of the Dalmatian islands, Gorski Kotar, Montenegro, most of Kosovo and Metohia, a part of the western Macedonia, and Boka Kotorska. "The great Albany" got a part of Metohia and Kosovo as well as the western part of Macedonia, a part of Sandžak and the eastern part of Montenegro.

Repe, 1995, pg. 135

Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina became a part of the Independent state of Croatia (NDH). The Germans, Italians, Bulgarians and Hungarians started to denationalize the occupied and controlled territories of Serbia, Slovenia, Macedonia and Croatia.

Petranović, pg. 36, 42

The strictest of the regimes towards the Slovenians was the German, which abolished Slovenian newspapers, societies and organizations. People in schools and kindergartens were only allowed to speak German. Slovenian people were forced into a massive migration to other countries, while the Germans populated the area. Similarly violent were also the Hungarians in Prekmurje. The Italians were not as violent at first. They allowed the existence of Slovenian cultural and educational institutions.

The Bulgarians, who substituted the German troops in Macedonia, prohibited the use of Macedonian name, language and marks on the official messages, and appointed their own officials and clergy. The Macedonian youth had to enlist in different Bulgarian fascist paramilitary groups and national youth organizations. [...] The colonists and Serbians, who settled in Macedonia after 1918, were deported and their belongings confiscated. Italian and Albanian were declared as the official languages of the western Macedonia; the theory of the Albanian origins of Macedonians saw the light of day. Albanian Fascist Party (FPA), which consisted of Albanian and Turkish youth, promoted the hatred towards Macedonians. The Bulgarians explained their expansion into the Serbian territory as their natural right, since Morava was claimed to be a Bulgarian river.

Serbian migrated from NDH, Kosovo and Metohia. Until the end of war, Serbia gave shelter to 240,000 Serbian (and Slovenian) refugees or people who formerly migrated from other parts of Yugoslavia. However, recent studies claim the number to be as high as 400,000. [...] The worst form of denationalization took place in NHD, which became known for the holocaust, genocide of Serbs, Jews and Roma people. [...]

Petranović, pg. 42, 43)



LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN UGOSLAVIA

The Yugoslav Liberation Movement (Partisans) was the strongest, apart from the Soviets, in Europe. Due to illegal organizations of Communists, the latter were the only ones who kept the political network on the entire divided Yugoslav territory. They organized resistance and their own operations which attracted the people to join the Mass Movement and initiate a revolution.

The politicians, who did not flee the homeland at the break of war, wanted to at least seemingly maintain their positions by collaborating or passively waiting for the external liberation. Since Yugoslavia faced a severe economic and political crisis before the war, and since individual nations and minorities were suppressed, the people perceived the resistance movement as a possibility for a different post-war regime and as the means of abolishing national and social injustices. Due to different occupational systems and interests of the individual nations, the Yugoslav Liberation Movement was very versatile.

Repe, 1995, pg. 151

In comparison with Chetniks, Ustasha and others, the Partisans were a lot more disciplined, but even they did not lack the need for vengeance, different confrontations, tortures and massacres among the civilians. In contrary to their opponents, the above described actions were not a part of the established "fighting". The reputation of the National Liberation Movement was decreased due to massive illegal altercations with the members of the quisling formations after the war.

Repe, 1995, pg. 157

CIVIL WAR

Mutual conflicts were caused by ethnic and religious disputes, collaboration and communist interests to engage in confrontations with class opponents under the patronage of the National Liberation Movement. The roots of the disputes reached even into pre-war divisions which were only increased during the war.

Repe, 1995, pg. 152

THE CHETNIK MOVEMENT – The name is derived from the word *cheta* (troop), *chetovanje*, and originates from the period of resistance fights in the Ottoman Empire. The movement received a full support of the western allies until the end of 1943. Since they spoke in favour of the defence and collaboration with the invader in the expectation of changes on the world fronts, their fighting tactics were different from the Partisans'.

Later, they were to join the battle, assuming that their collaboration with the invader would be forgotten. Their strategy was directed into the Serbian supremacy over the renewed Yugoslavia, and altercation with the Croats and national minorities since they considered the latter the main culprits for the defeat of the kingdom and the suffering of the Serbs. They spoke in favour of

the ideology of ethnically clean Great Serbia with an exit to the sea, although they allowed a federative connection with the decreased Croatia in Yugoslavia. Their leader, Dragoljub Mihalović, was a war minister in the refugee government and a commandant of the Yugoslav Army in the homeland. In 1941, he negotiated twice with Tito, regarding a joint battle, although both sides have already experienced some occasional altercations (the defeat of Chetniks at Ravna gora). In November 1941, the Chetnik leadership agreed to fight the Germans and declined the request with which the Partisans would become a part of the Chetnik unit, but they failed to stick to the agreement. A part of the Chetniks occasionally fought against Germans and attacked them near the Partisan territory, so the Germans took vengeance on the Partisan families, while a smaller portion of Chetniks joined the Partisans. The altercations grew into a civil war and at



Photo Collection of the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, inventory number 133

certain times, the Partisans considered



E D K, (on the right), the chief of RAVSIGUR (a commissioner for public order and security from 1941 to 1943)

THE USTASHA AND THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF CROATIA (NDH)

The Independent State of Croatia was declared on 10 April 1941. It was declared by an Ustasha colonel Slavko Kvaternik. The leader of the Ustasha was Dr. Ante Pavelić. NDH was entirely dependent on the German leadership and was constantly on the verge of existence due to Partisans and interests of the Italians for their territory, especially Bosnia and Herzegovina. NDH was extremely Catholic. The legislation was nationalistic and racist, hostile to Serbians, Jews, Roma and communists. The Muslims were not recognized as a nation and they considered them as Croats, similarly as Slovenians which were said to be "the Croats from the Alps". Military units in NDH included Home Guard, Ustasha vojnica, Armed Police Forces and the security for peace and order. The Ustasha vojnica was the party's army, led by the ustasha headquarters (stožer) with Pavelić as the leader. Some of the units were especially ferocious, similarly as the security (police), led by Kvaternik's son Gvido. Homeland was a terrestrial army with a small marine and air force. A part of the homeland fought on the eastern front and mostly died fighting in the battle for Stalingrad.

Repe, 1995, pg. 156



Photo Collection of the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, inventory number 129



Photo Collection of the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, inventory number 137

Bourgeois faction

Source 1

T B *, M N č , S L N C
S A 11, 1941, , .

Slovenians! People from Ljubljana!

Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, will be soon occupied. At this point, we need to maintain order and peace that is so typical for us! We must stay composed, focused, disciplined and religious descendants of our ancestry! Let us show our dignity in a peaceful way!

The nation is faced with two of the biggest sins. Now that our army has left, the biggest sin among the nation would be if civilians used weapons against the foreign army or against our national minority or even if you would act against them in any other hostile manner. By doing so, hundreds of our kinsmen would face great danger and misery.

The second sin would be denunciation, which is incompatible with human dignity. Denunciation is such a heavy sin that the nation shall never forgive it. Therefore, do not let the denunciation to rise among us!

State and self-government authorities will maintain their position and will act until ordered otherwise. The same laws are still in place until ordained otherwise. Each change will be published.

The laws must be respected unconditionally!

Public order must not be disturbed at any place! In these hours and days, let our discipline be seen even in such fatal hour!

Do not run, endure, and persist!

*The Ban and National Council of Slovenia *Ban' was the title of local, provincial Governors, appointed by the central government

Slovenski dom, leto VI., št. 83, petek 11. aprila 1941

Labor faction

Source 2

T G S U L F , 22 J 1941,
G S U .

1. A relentlessly armed action must be executed against the invader.
2. The actions serve as a starting point for liberation and unification of all Slovenians.
3. Based on the ground of natural and fateful community of the Slovenian nations, the Liberation Front does not recognize the division of Yugoslavia and fights for unity and equality of all its nations with all forces. At the same time it strives for connection between Slavic nations under the rule of the great Russian nation, based on every nation's right of self-determination.
4. By actions of liberation and activation of the Slovenian masses, the Liberation Movement (OF) redesigns the Slovenian national character. Slovenian masses, fighting for national and human rights, create a new character of active Slovenianism.
5. All groups, cooperating in OF (Osvobodilna fronta), are obliged to maintain loyal mutual relations.
6. After the nation's liberation, the power is in hands of the Slovenian Liberation Front as a whole.
7. After the nation's liberation, OF introduces a consistent democracy. All questions, surpassing the frame of nation's liberation, will be resolved with the help of consistent democracy. /.../
8. In accordance with solemn statements of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin, the Slovenian nation will decide about the matters, affecting the interior regulations and foreign affairs of the United Slovenia. OF will enforce and defend the mentioned elementary right with all means.
9. The National Army on the Slovenian territory is derived from the Partisans and National Protection, which call upon all nationally conscious Slovenes.

Dokumenti ljudske revolucije v Sloveniji, knjiga I. 12 in 13/255-256, v: Slovenski poročevalec, 1. II. št. 24 (8. 11. 1941) in 1. III. št. 1 (6. 1. 1942)

Q :

1. Compare Bourgeois and Labor faction's statements.

2. Try to explain their points of view on the occupation resistance.

Church between two fires

Source 3

A L , G R ž , E. G .

Excellency!

A decree, regarding the annexation of Slovenian territories, occupied by the Italian Army, to Italy was issued today. When taking the fact into consideration, I must express my thanks to Your excellency, since the territory of the diocese enables a great development in cultural and religious regard, so we expect to shape the autonomy of the national life with regards to the decree in favour of the church and morality. I express my complete loyalty and ask God to bless Your and our efforts for the wellbeing of our people.

Griesser – Pečar, Tamara: *Razdvojeni narod*. MK. Ljubljana 2004. pg.. 180.

Source 4

A L , G R ž , O 1941. H

The matter, explained and ordered (Škof. list 1937, pg. 39-59) by Pope Pij XI. in the circular *Divina Redemptoris*, dated 19 March 1937, is relevant to us. In it, he states: "Communism by nature contradicts any religion." (point 22), "communism is something that is bad in its core, so no person, close to Christianity, will cooperate with it" (p.58). Papal principles do not apply to us, so we shall not discuss them but stick to them by our conscience and discoveries. Expecting some cultural development or even national freedom from communism is blank and a fatal mistake which would condemn the nation to the worst slavery and destroy it.

Weber, T., Novak, D.: *20. stoletje v zgodovinskih virih, besedi in slikah. Druga svetovna vojna v Sloveniji in Jugoslaviji*. DZS. Ljubljana 1998. pg.. 49.

Q :

Explain the attitude of the Bishop of Ljubljana, Gregorij Rožman, towards the Italian occupier and the reasons for his actions.

Source 6



Source 7

M

M

In May 1941, 1.300 Slovenes were in the camps all over Slovenia, about 130 of them were priests. Those priests were subjected to the excessive exercise, they were locked up in the bunkers and beaten.



Raziskujem preteklost 9. Delovni zvezek. Rokus. Ljubljana 2005. pg. 96.

Source 8

After the Partisan meeting in front of the Home of Culture in Prezid, on October 14, 1943: religion clerk of 14th division, Jože Lampret accompanied by priest Franjo Poš.



Kržišnik, Zvone: Patulja zvestobe. Kulturniška skupina 14. divizije. Založba Borec in Partizanska knjiga. Ljubljana 1984. – foto: Jože Petek, fotoreporter 14. divizije.

Source 9

From the speech of Božidar Gorjan – Bog at the 65. anniversary of liberation of Upper Savinja valley, published 20. 2. 2011

/.../ I will not talk about brigades or about our brave people, connected to today's reminiscence of the liberation of the Savinja valley 65 years ago. However, I will mention the work and lives of two important priests from Styria: JOŽE LAMPRET was a religious clerk in the XIV. division, while ŠMON FRANC had the same role in XIV. operative zone for the regions of Styria and Koroška. The world was presented with a photograph, featuring Lampret in uncomfortable clerical clothes, carrying a wounded man. He represents an enormous human strain and suffering, dedicated to saving lives of a person, symbolically of the Slovenian nation. Yes, even priests were on the side of the Liberation Front, on the side of Partisans, saving the fate of Slovenian nation. I personally knew both men and feel obliged to speak about their noble lives. By religious actions, they spiritually enriched our fight. /.../ The invader wanted to suppress the Slovenianism in Styria by persecuting Slovenian priests. Fighting for the right of religion in the local language became a constituent part of the Liberation Movement. /.../ Religious people suffered due to the lack of Slovenian worship services. Therefore, the burden of the Partisan priests was even greater. Fighting alone, demanded superhuman sacrifice. Morality and consolation was provided by commissioners, while the Partisan priests took care of the spiritual care. Apart from working in units, the priests gave shelter to villagers in areas, where the Partisans got a roof above our heads. /.../

www.zb-nob-solcava.si/2011/02/govor-bozidarja-gorjana-boga-ob-65-obletnici-osvoboditve-zgornje-savinjske-doline/
(10. 5. 2013)

Q

1. What was the position of the Catholic clergy in the German occupational system?
2. Did all priests act accordingly to Vatican views?
3. Why did some of the clergy cooperate with the National Liberation Movement?

ARMY UNITS: LABOUR FACTION – PARTISANS, BOURGEOIS FACTION - SLOVENE CHETNIKS (BLUE BRIGADE)

LABOUR FACTION – PARTISANS

Source 1

T, Jože Simšič –
Jelen and Dane Matko – Matija
(Gornje jezero in spring 1944)



<http://stareslike.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/120107002.jpg>
(10. 5. 2013)

Source 4

S M B H P

Hey Brigades
Heyj Brigades, hurry up
destroy and burn
nests of white and black devils
Hey machinegun...

Matej Bor, *Hej brigade*. Iz borb in življenja
prvih štirih slovenskih brigad, september
1952

Source 2

A P

P L

Article 1

"Partisan units are composed of volunteers – Partisans who want to loyally and persistently fight with weapons in their arms against the yoke of invading fascistic suppressers for a great liberation cause of the Slovenian people and the rights of working people They are closely connected to Slovenian masses and all nations, fighting against the fascistic bandits, leaning on the operative and military action of the famous working-farming Red Army of the Soviet Union - the Partisans will not stop yarning until the goals for which they gathered weapons will be fulfilled.

Article 2

The Partisan units accept every man, regardless of his political and religious beliefs or national belonging, who accepts the mentioned goals, is unspoiled from the moral view and is confirmed by the partisan draft board. Joining the Partisans means that the Partisan dedicated all of his forces and life to the liberation of the Slovenian nation and working people.

Article 3

Enforcement of the Partisan duty takes place until it reaches the complete victory of the Liberation fight of the Slovenian people. A Partisan can only be freed from his revolutionary partisan duty by the disease or death. When entering the Partisans, the individual should be well-equipped with clothes, shoes, underwear, blankets, food that will take him through the week and possibly with weapons. Preferably, he owns maps, a compass, binoculars, the necessary sanitary material and other essentials.

Zbornik dokumentov in podatkov o narodnoosvobodilni vojni jugoslovanskih narodov, del VI. knjiga 1/5 Ljubljana 1956.

Source 3

P

I, the Partisan of the Liberation Army of the Slovenian people, who fight beside the famous Red Army of the Soviet Union and all other nations that fight for freedom, I strive for the liberation and unification of the Slovenian people, for brotherhood and peace among nations and for a better future of the working people, and swear before my nation and before my warriors: to give everything that is in my power and skill to the liberation of the Slovenian people, working people and to the progressive and freedom-loving humankind in the holy war against the fascist suppressors and bandits, and not to forsake the Partisan lines, which I joined voluntarily and consciously, and not to lay my weapons down until we reach the complete victory over the fascist invaders and entirely fulfil the great liberation goal of the Slovenian people.

When fighting for the great liberation goals, I swear to protect the honour and inviolability of our Partisan flag with my blood and to, if necessary, give my life.

Zbornik dokumentov in podatkov o narodnoosvobodilni vojni jugoslovanskih narodov, del VI. knjiga 1/5 Ljubljana 1956

Q :

1. With the help of different sources try to establish, who was eligible to join the Partisans and what joining them meant to an individual.
2. To whom Partisans swore and what did their oath said?
3. What is the message of the song »Hej brigade«? Explain meaning of the song for that time.

BOURGEOIS FACTION - SLOVENIAN CHETNIKS (BLUE BRIGADE)

Source 5

C S C D , K N ' Ć R
(1941).

Soon after, I travelled to Serbia with colonel Avšič. Belgrade organization under the leadership of major Todorović provided falsified identifications. After some great joint successes against Germans, Serbia experienced a treacherous attack on Chetniks. After the meeting and the report to colonel Mihajlović, the latter gave us a written authorization, allowing us to act; Avšič as a commandant and I as the chief of JVvD headquarters. We left Ravna gora and returned to Slovenia, where communists already started a powerful propaganda against the Chetniks. I broke off with OF, but then Radovan Avšič and three former ministers and bans passed over to the communists who took advantage of Mihajlović's authorization. That was the reason why most of the active officers stood out of their way. For me, the path was finally marked: to act for the king and Yugoslavia, to organize an illegal military force, to fight against the enemy and to take a defensive standpoint against the Partisans.

Tabor, št. 9 - 10, letnik 1982, str. 154 / Odporniško gibanje v Sloveniji 1941 – 1943, Iz arhiva podpolkovnika Karla Novaka, zastopnika Jugoslovanske vojske v domovini

Questions

1. Under whose command the Slovenian Chetniks worked and what were their relations with The Liberation Front?
2. With the help of the sources try to understand what goals did they fight for.

Source 6

S C ,
Jože Sinjur from Dolenja vas



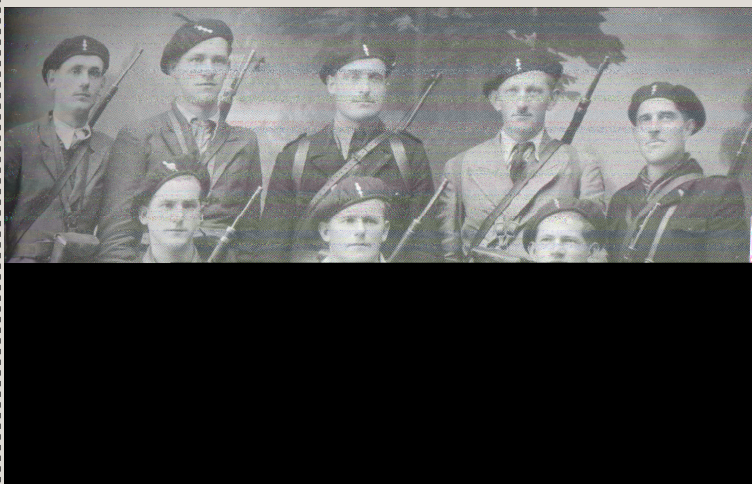
Nose, Aleš: Domobranci zdravo – bog daj. Protikomunistične enote na Slovenskem 1942 – 1945). Modrijan. Ljubljana 2008. pg. 31.

ARMY UNITS: BOURGEOIS FACTION – VILLAGE GUARDS (MVAC) AND HOME GUARDS

BOURGEOIS FACTION VILLAGE GUARDS (MVAC)

Source 1

A **V** . Half of the men are dressed in coloured Italian uniforms and the rest of them are wearing civilian clothing. First man from the left in front has a German skull badge (Totenkopf) on a beret.



Nose, Aleš: Domobranci zdravo – bog daj. Protikomunistične enote na Slovenskem 1942 – 1945). Modrijan. Ljubljana 2008. pg. 75. – Zasebni arhiv

Source 2

F **L** **D** **V**



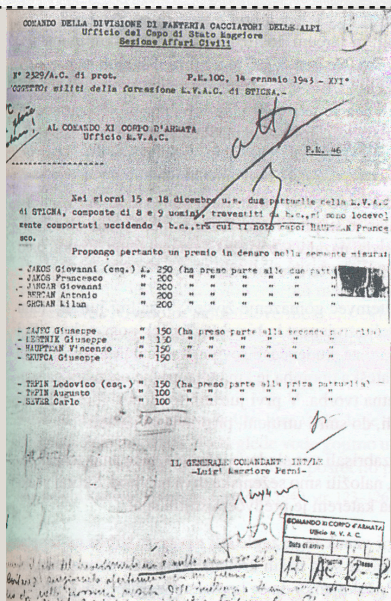
Nose, Aleš: Domobranci zdravo – bog daj. Protikomunistične enote na Slovenskem 1942 – 1945. Modrijan. Ljubljana 2008. pg. 42. – Zasebni arhiv

Source 3

A **I**
C **A**
for Ljubljana community,
15.120

MVAC **I**

Weber, T., Novak, D.:
20. stoletje v zgodovinskih virih,
besedi in slikah.
Druga svetovna vojna v
Sloveniji in Jugoslaviji.
DZS. Ljubljana 1998. pg. 65



Source 4

T **V**

"This is how the Legion, latter renamed to "Militia Volontaria antikomunista" by the Savoys, was established. It was meant as a Slovenian National Army which should protect and guard the people. Farmers asked for weapons in all parts of the Ljubljanska pokrajina. Therefore, no one forced the farmer to take up arms. His drive for self-defence and his will to survive were the reasons for his actions."

V službi domovine (s. n. 1945), pg. 15

Q :

1. What were some tasks of Village guards?
2. Whom did they help?
3. Who financed them?

BOURGEOIS FACTION HOME GUARDS

Source 5

A S H S 1943

Due to betrayal of the Italian king and his back stabbing marshal Badoglio, the Italian Army ceased to exist. After the shameful betrayal of Badoglio's clique, the position is undoubtedly clear: even our beloved Slovenian homeland will be handed over to the Bolsheviks with the help of the Anglo-American plutocracy. The treacherous and Bolshevik's up rooters fought a battle which pushed our hard-working, diligent and religious people into suffering, violence, hunger, robbery and on a path of secular and heartless robots as well as dishonorable helpers in favor of the world's tyranny against Jews.

The Great German Army, sent by the Führer's order, came to our land to protect us. The German soldier and officer fight bravely and boldly. Courage, honor and loyalty are sacred to them. They do not know dishonor and cowardice. With their strong battle force, Germany is the only fortress against bolshevism and capitalism. Young nations of Europe will fight bolshevism and capitalism under the German command.

Let us march into the battle against the communist bandits and robbers and fight for the existence of our homeland! In his proclamation, the president of the provincial management, a division general Leon Rupnik, expressed our goals clearly and outlined our duties. Under the leadership of the Slovenian commanders, we shall destroy the Bolshevik murderers and arsonists in our land. The German Army and the Police will support us with their loyal camaraderie.

Our duty is: every decent Slovenian who is capable of fighting and is aged between 18 and 35 should volunteer to protect his homeland, to maintain order and discipline and to restore the destroyed homes into the Slovenian homeland legion.

Slovenians! You can volunteer at the Command of the Slovenian Home Guard in the town hall, Ambrožev trg 7, in Ljubljana; or at the municipal office in charge of your area if you are living in the countryside.

THE SLOVENIAN HOME GUARD

Weber, T., Novak, D.: 20. stoletje v zgodovinskih virih, besedi in slikah. Druga svetovna vojna v Sloveniji in Jugoslaviji. DZS. Ljubljana 1998. pg. 93

Source 6

A S H

<p>AUSWEIS – IZKAZNICA</p> <p>Der <i>Leutnant</i> - <i>domobranec</i> Dienstgrad Službena stopnja</p> <p><i>Lavrič Anton</i> Vor- u. Zuname Priimek in ime</p> <p><i>21. 10. 1917</i> <i>Rečice</i> geboren Datum in kraj rojstva (Dat. u. Ort)</p> <p><i>Leutnant</i> - <i>domobranec</i> Dienstfunktion Službeno opravilo</p> <p>Angehöriger je član Slovenskega - Slowenij- domobranstva - en Landes- in je uslužben - hr und im v (na) biete</p>	 <p>Unterschrift – Podpis <i>Lavrič Anton</i></p> <p>Höhe <i>165</i> Haare <i>braun</i> višina lasje <i>bravo</i></p> <p>Gestalt <i>normal</i> Augen <i>braun</i></p>	<p>Genehmigt!</p>  <p>LEUTNANT <i>Lavrič Anton</i> Hauptmann der Schutzpolizei</p> <p>Dienststempel der Dienststelle der Slowenischen Landeswehr Anton Lavrič domobranec</p> <p>Unterschrift – Podpis</p>
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Nose, Aleš: Domobranci zdravo – bog daj. Protikomunistične enote na Slovenskem 1942 – 1945. Modrijan. Ljubljana 2008. pg. 189 – Zasebna zbirka avtorja.)

ARMY UNITS: BOURGEOIS FACTION – VILLAGE GUARDS (MVAC) AND HOME GUARDS

Source 7

F 47 C . The fourth man from the right is wearing an anti-partisan badge on his breast pocket.



Nose, Aleš: Domobranci zdravo – bog daj. Protikomunistične enote na Slovenskem 1942 – 1945). Modrijan. Ljubljana 2008. pg. 152. – Zasebni arhiv

Source 8

A -



Nose, Aleš: Domobranci zdravo – bog daj. Protikomunistične enote na Slovenskem 1942 – 1945). Modrijan. Ljubljana 2008. pg. 194. – Zasebna zbirka avtorja

Source 9

T H

"I swear by Almighty God to be loyal, brave and obedient to my superiors, and to meticulously fulfil the duty for my Slovenian homeland, which is as a part of the free Europe, and to take part in the joint fight with armed German forces under the leadership of the great Germany, SS troops and police against bandits and communism and its allies. I am ready to sacrifice my life for such a fight. So help me God."

Slovenec, 21. april 1944

A

H



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V14a2rp5fAM>
(10. 5. 2013)

Q :

1. With the help of the sources try to explain why Slovene Home guards were established and who financed them.
2. Name the founder of Slovene Home guards.
3. Try to discover whom the Slovene Home guards swore their loyalty to and who they fought. For the help use The Home Guard Oath.

FORMATION OF ANTI-REVOLUTIONAR FACTION

Source 1

A
B

D

1942



Nose, Aleš: Domobranci zdravo – bog daj.
Protikomunistične enote na Slovenskem 1942 –
1945. Modrijan. Ljubljana 2008. pg. 92 –
Zasebni arhiv

Source 3

A

S

The command of the Slovenian Partisan troops received reliable information, saying that some of the Mihajlovič-White Guard elements lead to negotiations with Italians with the goal of organizing and arming the gangs with the help of Italians and their weapons. Their intention is to sneak the gangs on the freed Slovenian territory, which is under the democratic authority of the Liberation Front, to attack the Partisan troops and to start the war pitting brother against brother and to act in favour of the invaders. According to all these treacherous preparations and in the interest of maintaining unity of the Slovenian nation and great achievements of the current liberation fight of the Slovenian people who lead to the liberation of half of the so-called "Ljubljanska pokrajina", the Command reminds you in its strictest form and for the last time that:

1. Anyone, performing preparations to form any kind of armed groups outside the Partisans, or subordinate to the Command of the Slovenian partisan troops will be shot at once.
2. Anyone, organizing a war pitting a brother against brother or performing some other actions that would help the invader will be shot.
3. Orders, allowing the execution of anyone, harming the unity of Slovenian National Army in the area that is under the Command of the Slovenian Partisan troops will be sent to all Partisan authorities on the liberated area.

The above measures – based on the IO OF decree – were taken into account by the Command of the Slovenian Partisan troops in full awareness that only the greatest determination and lack of reassurance against elements that provoke a civil war due to their clique interests will prevent the Slovenian people to pay the price for this betrayal – when the elements succeed to execute an even more bloody work of the traitor in a similar way as he did in other parts of Yugoslavia- with hundreds of lives of their best sons and daughters.

Death to fascism – freedom to the people!

On the position, 27.V.1942

Commandant: Peter Strugar, single-handedly

For the Command of the Slovenian Partisan troops:

Politi-comissioner: Jernej Posavec

Source 2

S

-

S

(VOS),

L

F

,

L

Only in Ljubljana, the members of VOS performed 49 attacks on the representatives of the public life.

The communist terror expanded across the entire region of Ljubljana because communists slaughtered priests, mayors, important farm people, members of the Catholic action, farm boys, girls, old people, children and even entire families – in short, everyone who were suspected of collaborating with the "White Guard movement".

V znamenju osvobodilne fronte, Dokazila o
grozodejstvih komunizma v Ljubljanski pokrajini,
Ljubljana 1943 – XXI

Slovenski poročevalec, leto III, štev. 22, 2. 6. 1942

Q

1.Which acts of the Liberation Front fostered distrust and defense of the Bourgeois faction?

Source 4

MOVIES: *Violence by Home Guards and Partisans*

Viewing two passages from the RTV Slovenia documentary »Čas vojne« (Times of War) from 2005

<http://tvslo.si/predvajaj/cas-vojne/ava2.3959778/> (10. 5. 2013)

HOME GUARDS VIOLENCE

Stergar, Tanja: Posodobitve pouka v gimnazijski praksi. Zgodovina. Razvoj slovenskega naroda v 20. stoletju. Zavod RS za šolstvo. Ljubljana 2010. pg. 233

- L A K š T W :
1. Victim of whose violence in the time of WW II. was the narrator and why?
 2. What kind of destiny did she escaped from and how?
 3. Explain whether the attitude of all Home guards was the same.
 4. Whose violence also is Angela telling us about? Give few examples.
 5. Explain whether or not all agreed with those actions.

PARTISAN VIOLENCE

Stergar, Tanja: Posodobitve pouka v gimnazijski praksi. Zgodovina. Razvoj slovenskega naroda v 20. stoletju. Zavod RS za šolstvo. Ljubljana 2010. pg. 233

- V M M , B š , T W :
6. Whose victims were members of Bradeško family and why?
 7. What was their destiny?
 8. Explain whether this was a lonely example or a part of a wider tally.
 9. Explain why did the country inflicted the loss upon victims of partisans violence after the war.

After hearing both of the testimonies, Angela's and Marija's, try to explain and establish the reasons for a civilian conflict in the times of WW II.

Stergar, Tanja: Posodobitve pouka v gimnazijski praksi. Zgodovina. Razvoj slovenskega naroda v 20. stoletju. Zavod RS za šolstvo. Ljubljana 2010. pg. 233

GLOSSAR

LIBERATION FRONT organization which was founded on the 26th of April in 1941 in Ljubljana by the Communist Party of Slovenia, the Christian socialists, left wing of Sokol (gymnastic society) and cultural workers. At first the organization was a coalition of several groups, from 1943 the Communist Party took over the leadership of the organization. The organization organized the resistance against occupier.

VOS – Security intelligence service founded in august 1941 under the command of the Communist Party of Slovenia. Their tasks were intelligence operations, executions of occupier's collaborators and even opponents of communism.

PARTISANS volunteers in the fight against the occupier; army which was organized by the Liberation front and which used the guerrilla way of fighting (attacks on the enemy army units or sabotage).

SLOVENE CHETNIKS (BLUE BRIGADE) – members of the former Yugoslav army who initially cooperated with the partisans. After Chetnik's attack (led by Draža Mihailović) on the Serbian partisans, the Slovenian Chetniks split into two groups. One, led by Jaka Avšič, entered the partisans. The other group, led by Karel Novak, remained true to Mihailović's chetniks and collaborated with the occupier. The Slovenian partisans called them blue brigade. The partisans defeated them in 1943 after the Italian capitulation.

VILLAGE GUARDS (MVAC WHITE GUARDS) – anticommunist army unit founded in 1942 in Ljubljanska pokrajina (a part of Slovenia occupied by Italian occupier). Their establishment was encouraged by a rough attitude of Liberation front towards people and by ineligible executions carried out by Liberation front. Village guards were supplied, paid and armed by Italian occupier and the Italians called them Milizia volontaria anticomunista (MVAC). They used the same methods as VOS. The partisans called them white guards (after the Russians example) and they defeated them in 1943 after the Italian capitulation.

HOME GUARDS – anticommunist army unit founded in 1943 after the Italian capitulation led by former Yugoslav army general Leon Rupnik. They were auxiliary police units under German command. Their tasks were to protect the transport facilities, to prosecute and to catch partisans and their collaborators.