

The Austrian “Anschluss”: Annexation of Austria by Nazi Germany

With the Austrian Anschluss by Nazi Germany in 1938 the German Yugoslav policy protected the Slovenian minority in Carinthia from the worst. After the attack on Yugoslavia in 1941, however, the Slovenian region was divided and the Karawanken border was no longer regarded as a natural one. Carinola [German: Krain] and the Lower Styria [German: Untersteiermark] became part of the German nation and its Kulturboden. As a result, those who were deemed impossible to be Germanized or who were of a dissimilar political orientation were deported from the region and their property was confiscated.

A segment of the Slovenian population complied with the rules of the National Socialists. The other went underground to join the political and military resistance, which continued to grow stronger.

Deportations

According to the German-nationalist ideology [die nationalsozialistische Politik] Jews and non-Germans were regarded as inferior. This was also the case with Slovenians, provided that they were seen as impossible to Germanize. Those who failed to fit the National Socialist race categories were either, like members of the national intelligence, relocated outside the country or condemned to an enslaved life as a “Schutzangehöriger.”

With the dismantling of Yugoslavia and the disbanding of German occupation in many parts of Slovenia, the last barriers fell in the handling of Slovenians in Carinthia. Preparations for their deportation from Carinthia were supposed to have begun in 1940, but it was not until 1941 that Heinrich Himmler—who served as the SS Reichsführer, the Chief of the German Police, and the Reich Commissioner for the consolidation of German Nationhood—put the mission into action. The deportations were carried out on the 14th and 15th of April in 1942. Around a thousand of Carinthia's

Slovenians were brought to a holding camp in the Ebenthalerstraße in Klagenfurt–917 would be deported to Germany and detained in camps.

In the years between 1941 and 1945, a total of 63,000 Slovenians were deported from the Slovenian regions. Approximately 17,000 escaped forced expulsion. This corresponds to about 10 percent of the total population and represents the highest percentage of all the lands occupied by National Socialist Germany.