

ISTRIAN EXODUS

“The Istrian exodus” was the forced expulsion of ethnic Italian natives of Istria, Dalmatia and the Julian territory that had to leave their land and flee to various countries in the world but particularly to the United States, Canada, South America, Australia. and Italy. because of an ethnic cleansing program in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a state created after the World War II.

A Giulianian emigration had begun during the First World War but in far lesser numbers and under less dramatic circumstances. Between 1943 and 1960, almost 400.000 people escaped from the area due to ethnic hatred and the International politics triggered by World War II. The border areas of Istria, Dalmatia, and the Quarnero islands, now part of Croatia, and the cities of Trieste and Gorizia, disputed between Italy and Yugoslavia and at present Italian, contained both Slavs and ethnic Italians in the 1940's. Italians, who had been settled in these parts for centuries, refer to themselves as Giulianians from the influence of the northeastern Venezia-Giulia region.



ISTRIAN EXODUS

In 1943 and in the immediate aftermath of the war, the Yugoslavian partisans of Josip Tito's Communist government engaged in a politically and ethnically motivated campaign to rid Italians from Dalmatia and Istria. Open hostility broke out against Italians, seen as belonging to the nearby Fascist regime, and from 10, 000 and 15, 000 of them (numbers are disputed) were killed. Civilians, regardless of age or gender, were gunned down and thrown into mass graves, known as "foibe".

Italy officially commemorates the Istrian and Dalmatian exiles together with the victims of the Foibe massacres on February 10 the *Giorno del ricordo* (Remembrance Day) designated as the National Memorial Day of the Exiles and the Foibe.

