

The Italian occupation

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Abstract

Albania was occupied from fascist Italy on April 7, 1939. Strategic plans for the establishment of fascist regimes in the Balkans led to the invasion of Albania. According to the division made by the powers of the Fascist Bloc, Italy was recognized as having the right to extend the rule in the Western Balkans. Ciano came to Albania after the occupation and personally took care of this matter. An Interim Administrative Committee was formed by Xhafer Ypi, a former Zog minister, who in a radio broadcast statement justified the Italian invasion by emphasizing that Albania under King Zog regime was near a disaster and that Italy prevented this.

On April 12 1939, the Assembly was established, consisting mostly of large landowners, landlords, merchants, clergymen, clerks, and former Zog Officers. Of the 150 participants, 40 had been in Zog Parliament. On April 13 1939, the Italian Upper Fascist Council convened in Rome and approved the request of the Constitutional Assembly for joining Albania with Italy. On April 16, Prime Minister Shefqet Vërlaci appeared in Rome and handed King Victor Emmanuel to the Crown III of Albania.

Major military and police forces, which reached 100,000 troops, landed in the country in order to maintain order and to suppress the anti-fascist resistance that revived since the early days of the invasion.

Keywords: Albania, Italy, occupation, Balkan, military.

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