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History as Identity: The Adriatic Sea

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Abstract: The Adriatic is a homogeneous sea as far as its form is concerned, and at the same time a complex one when its cultural stratifications are considered, stratifications particularly evident along the eastern littoral, a border zone between civilization models, between Western and Eastern Europe, Central Europe and the Mediterranean. The Adriatic as a region does not have a common historiography, there is not a single version of its past accepted by all the nations that make part of it. Recent trans-frontier policies impose a new political vision of the Adriatic, a regionalization of this sea. This tendency will have, sooner or later, a cultural implication, involving the way we look at the Adriatic past.

Keywords: The Adriatic Sea; History and Historiography; Transnational History.

The Adriatic shares a central position in the Mediterranean with Italy and it is one of the characteristic faces of Mediterranean Europe. It was the South for anyone crossing the Alps and the Latin West.