



CEU DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF HISTORY

**The Public Defense of the
Doctoral Thesis in Comparative History**

by

Izidor Janžekovič

on

“The Balance of Sea Power in the Early Modern Era (1648–1713)”

will be held on

Tuesday, 2 April 2024, at 17:00-19:00

online

Central European University (CEU)

Examination Committee

Katalin Szende – Chair (Medieval Studies, CEU)

László Kontler – supervisor (Department of History, CEU)

Jan Hennings – CEU internal member (Department of History, CEU)

Andrew Lambert – external member (Department of War Studies, King's College)

Samuel Garrett Zeitlin – external reader (University College London)

The doctoral dissertation is available for inspection.

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ABSTRACT

The balance of power was one of the founding ideas of the emerging inter-state system in the early modern era. This idea, however, has been analysed exclusively in relation to land powers on the European continent, while the historiography has failed to recognize its naval aspect so far. This omission seems strange, considering that the contemporaries conceptualized and measured absolute and relative sea power. This study focuses on how the practice and theory of the balance-of-power idea were applied on the high seas and specifically among sea powers in the early modern era. Moreover, since state and sea powers were intertwined, it also shows how states reacted to other states' decreasing or increasing sea power.

Warships or ships of the line were the most important instruments of naval warfare and key to any assessment of sea power. The contemporaries focused on the number of warships and their size based on the number of guns per ship. Detailed tables of fleets with the number of warships and guns for the major engagements show the equality or balance of sea power. As warships were costly to build and maintain at sea, all the states always had limited capacity. The author argues that attaining and maintaining the balance of sea power in the seventeenth century was not just an abstract idea, but also an interactive process.

The study concentrates on the period between the Peace of Westphalia (1648) and the Peace of Utrecht (1713). During this period, the focus is on the three major European conflicts, which also had their global dimensions. The Anglo-Dutch Wars (1652–1674) were one of the key naval and economic confrontations in the early modern era. In the early stages, the War of the Grand Alliance (1688–1697) was a serious naval challenge to the 'maritime powers' of England and the Dutch Republic by France. The War of the Spanish Succession (1702–1713) dealt a blow to French naval ambitions, weakened the relative Dutch sea power and cemented the English naval supremacy in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

The author used a three-level methodology, drawing on different types of sources, to assess the balance of sea power in the early modern era. He sought to identify the ‘actual’ sea power (ship lists), the practical and political strategies for achieving or maintaining the balance (international treaties and diplomatic correspondence), and the development of the idea of the balance of sea power in the legal and theoretical realm (texts by jurists and philosophers). The contemporaries were aware of the potentials and limits of sea power, so that the relative and actual naval strength of states was often discussed. The author argues that there was a real or naval balance of sea power between the different fleets, that the balance of sea power was acknowledged in the international alliance treaties, and that the balance of sea power became an element of early modern political discourse.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Izidor Janžekovič

EDUCATION

- 2019–2024 **DPhil in Comparative History**, Central European University, Budapest.
- 2018 **MSt in British and European History, from 1500 to Present**, University of Oxford, St Antony's College.
- 2017 **MPhil in History**, Department of History, University of Ljubljana.
- 2016 **MPhil in Archaeology**, Department of Archaeology, University of Ljubljana.
- 2013 **BA in History**, Department of History, University of Ljubljana.
- 2012 **BA in Archaeology**, Department of Archaeology, University of Ljubljana.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2021–23: **Teaching Fellow**, Princeton Global History Lab and History Dialogues (La Sapienza, Professor Mara Matta, Professor Jeremy Adelman).
- 2021: **Teaching Assistant**, Historical Regions in Comparison: Problems and Debates (CEU, Professor Aziz Al-Azmeh).
- 2020: **Teaching Assistant**, The History of Madness (CEU, Professor Emese Lafferton).
- 2019: **Archaeologist, Custodian** at Centre for Preventive Archaeology, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Ljubljana, Most na Soči, Kobarid.

- 2018–2019: **Key Account Manager**, TAIA – Translation Artificial Intelligence Assistant, Ljubljana.
- 2013–2017: **Administrative Assistant**, Student Hall of Residence Ljubljana.

CONFERENCES

- **Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, 1750-1850** (Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, 22 – 24 February 2024). Paper: **The Balance of Sea Power in the Early Modern Era.**
- **McMullen Naval History Symposium** (Naval Academy, Annapolis, 21–22 September 2023). Paper: **The Balance of Sea Power in the Early Modern Era: the Anglo-Dutch Wars.**
- **ISECS Rome: Antiquity and the Shaping of the Future in the Age of Enlightenment** (La Sapienza Rome, 3–7 July 2023). Paper: **Benjamin Franklin and the British Atlantic Hegemonic Masculinity.**
- **Early Career Seminar / Séminaire des jeunes dix-huitièmistes: War Times in the 18th Century** (University of Graz, 18–22 Sept. 2022). Paper: **War of the Spanish Succession and the Balance of Power.**
- **Maritime Conflicts and Promises in History and Present** (TU Darmstadt, 19–20 November 2021). Paper: **The Balance of Sea Power in the Early Modern Era.**
- **Enemies in the Early Modern World 1453-1789: Conflict, Culture and Control** (University of Edinburgh, 26–29 March 2021). Paper: **The Quarrel over the Sovereignty of the Seas: the Anglo-Dutch Wars.**
- **26th European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting** (24–30 August 2020). Paper: **Tobacco Pipes in the British Atlantic World.**
- **The Development of Collective (Ethnic) Identities in Slovenia through the Prism of *longue durée*.** Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana (23–24 May 2019). Paper: **Material Heritage and Collective Identity.**

- **WW1 Memorial Seminar** (ISHA Ghent) Fall Seminar, Ghent, Belgium (24–27 October 2018). Paper: **War Memorial Redipuglia and the Fascist Instrumentalization of Memory**.
- **Environmental History and Geography of Fresh Water Ecosystems**, CEEPUS network, University of Ljubljana (17–19 September 2018).
- **Bled Strategic Forum** (10–11 September 2018).
- **British and European History Panel**. Oxford (8 May 2018).
- **St Antony’s Graduate Research Conference: Societies in Transition – Changing Structures, Changing Lives**. Oxford (30 April 2018).
- **The Roundtable at the 70th Anniversary of the Archaeological Excavations at Ptuj Castle** (11 October 2017). – Keynote speaker.
- **(De)Constructing Europe**, International Seminar of ISHA Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland (27–30 June 2017). Paper: **Pro et Contra EU**.
- **Historical Ecology of Aquatic Systems and Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research**, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management (IHG), Vienna (6–9 June 2017).
- **8th Grošelj Symposium**, Ljubljana (6–9 March 2017). Paper: The First Public Libraries in Great Britain and her North American Colonies.
- **Technology and Society**, 2nd Rijeka Interdisciplinary Congress, Rijeka (19–22 November 2014). Paper: **International Arms Trade**.
- **Crisis and Development in History** (ISHA Ljubljana) Summer Seminar, Ljubljana (24–30 July 2014). Workshop leader: Crisis and the Pre-Modern Era. Paper: **The General Crisis of the 17th Century**.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- September 2023–April 2024: **Fulbright Scholarship, Harvard University**. Supervisor: Prof. David Armitage.

- January–April 2023: **Research Fellowship. Department of War Studies, King's College London.** CEU Doctoral Research Support Grant.
Supervisor: Prof. Andrew Lambert.
- September–October 2022: **Research Fellowship. Institute for History, Leiden University.**
Supervisor: Prof. Michiel van Groesen, Prof. Jeroen Duindam.
- August–September 2021: **CEU Field and Archival Research Grant:** London.
- 2019–2024: **CEU Doctoral Scholarship.**
- 2017–2018: **Scholarship** of the Municipality of Ptuj.
- 2017: **Prešeren Prize for Students** for the best Master's Thesis.
- 2017: **Award** for the best Master's Student and Thesis of the Municipality of Ptuj.
- June 2017: **CEEPUS Scholarship:** Long-term developments of riverine landscapes (6–9 June 2017), Vienna, Austria; funded by OeAD Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research.
- April–June 2017: **Research Fellowship. University of Sheffield.** Funded by the Public Scholarship Fund of the Republic of Slovenia. Supervisor: Prof. Peter Verovšek.
- 2009–2015: **Zois Scholarship** for talented students; funded by Slovene Public Fund for Human Resources Development and Scholarship.

LANGUAGES

- **Slovenian** – mother tongue

- **English** – C2 (**Cambridge English Proficiency – Grade: A**; Oxford Pre-Sessional Course in Academic English; English Paleography)
- **German** – C2 (**Goethe-Zertifikat C2: Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom**; German Paleography (Gothic, Blackletter, Kurrent script from 15th to 19th centuries); German Epigraphy)
- **Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian** – C1 (also reading Cyrillic alphabet)
- **French** – B2 (reading, basic writing and speaking)
- **Italian** – B2 (reading, basic writing and speaking)
- **Spanish** – B1 (reading)
- **Dutch** – B1 (reading; currently learning)
- **Russian** – (currently learning)
- **Latin** – C1 (reading; Latin Palaeography; Latin Epigraphy)
- **Ancient Greek** – (basic reading comprehension)

LIST OF SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

ORIGINAL ACADEMIC MONOGRAPH:

Slovansko svetišče ali srednjeveški stolp: ozadje najspornejših arheoloških izkopavanj v povojni Jugoslaviji in interpretacija odkritega objekta (Slavic Sanctuary or Medieval Tower: The Background of the Most Controversial Archaeological Excavations in Post-War Yugoslavia and the Interpretation of the Discovered Remains) (Ljubljana: **University of Ljubljana Press**, 2023). The book won funds from the public tender of the Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS).

ORIGINAL PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES:

- “Nacionalistične okoliščine odkritja “staroslovanskega svetišča” na ptujskem gradu” (Nationalist Background of the Discovery of an “Old Slavic Sanctuary” at Ptuj Castle), in: Matic Batič (ur.), *Fluidna krajina: prostor, identiteta in evropske obmejne pokrajine* (Fluid landscape: space, identity and European borderlands) (Ljubljana: Študijski center za narodno spravo, 2024), pp. 88–127.
- “The Balance of Power from the Thirty Years’ War and the Peace of Westphalia (1648) to the War of the Spanish Succession and the Peace of Utrecht (1713),” *History of European Ideas* 49 (2023): 561–579.
- “Ethnic ‘stereotypes’ in early modern Europe: Russian and Ottoman national costumes,” *History and Anthropology* (2022).
- “Zgodnjenovoveški etnični »stereotipi« v Evropi na primeru oblačil za Ruse in Turke” (Early modern ethnic stereotypes in Europe about Russian and Turkish clothing), in: *Kolektivne identitete skozi prizmo zgodovine dolgega trajanja: slovenski pogledi*, ed. Vanja Kočevar (Ljubljana: Založba ZRC, 2022), pp. 233–277.
- ““To hell with everything”: Post-war nationalism and the “Old Slavic Sanctuary” at Ptuj Castle, Slovenia,” *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 63 (2021): 1–14.
- “Ravnotežje moči od vestfalskega miru (1648) do utrechtskega miru (1713)” (The balance of power from the Treaty of Westphalia (1648) to the Treaty of Utrecht (1713)), *Annales, Series historia et sociologia* 31 (2021): 271–294.
- “Etnični »stereotipi« v zgodnjenovoveški Evropi : ruska in turška narodna noša” (Ethnic “stereotypes” in early modern Europe), *Zgodovinski časopis* 75 (2021): 390–421.
- “The Elgin Marbles: Legitimate Expatriation or Urgent Repatriation?,” *Law and History Review*, Docket 4 (2021).
- “Prve »javne« knjižnice v Veliki Britaniji” (The First “Public” Libraries in Great Britain), *Primerjalna književnost* 44 (2021): 147–171.

- “The Rise of State Navies in the Early Seventeenth Century: A Historiographical Study,” *Journal for Maritime Research* 22 (2020): 183–208.
- “The History of Masculinity in the British Atlantic World,” *Acta Histriae* 28 (2020): 99–126.
- “The Balance of Power in the Renaissance,” *History of Political Thought* XL (2019): 607–630.
- “Izvor in prenos ideje ravnotežja moči iz Italije v Evropo” (The Origin and Transfer of the Balance-of-Power Idea from Italy to Europe), *Annales, Series historia et sociologia* 29 (2019): 345–362.
- “Zakonodaja na področju arheologije v Združenem kraljestvu Velike Britanije in Severne Irske” (The Legislation on the Archaeological Cultural Heritage in the United Kingdom), *Pravnik: revija za pravno teorijo in prakso* 74 (2019): 355–380.
- “Mnogo hrupa za mnogo (3rd part): Od antične Petovione do srednjeveškega Ptuja” (Much Ado About Much (3rd part): From Ancient Poetovio to Medieval Ptuj), *Zgodovinski časopis* 72 (2018): 22–61.
- “Mnogo hrupa za nič (2. del): Staroslovansko svetišče ali srednjeveški stolp na ptujskem gradu (Much Ado About Nothing (2nd part): Slavic Sanctuary or Medieval Tower on Ptuj Castle), *Zgodovinski časopis* (Historic Review) 71/3–4 (2017): 310–348.
- “Mnogo hrupa za nič (1. del): Potek in ozadje odkritja “staroslovanskega svetišča” na ptujskem gradu (Much Ado About Nothing (1st part): The Course and Background of the Discovery of the “Slavic Sanctuary” on Ptuj Castle), *Zgodovinski časopis* (Historic Review) 71/1–2 (2017): 208–245.
- “A Series of (Un)Fortunate Events: The Elgin Marbles,” *The Journal of Art Crime* 16 (2016): 55–76.
- “Elginova zbirka: Repatriacija in univerzalni muzeji (The Elgin Marbles: Repatriation and Universal Museums), *Argo – časopis slovenskih muzejev* (Argo – the Journal of the Slovene Museums) 58/2 (Fall 2015): 36–57.