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Social & Behavioral Sciences \ History, Geography & Area Studies \ Central & Eastern Europe

Reill, Dominique Kirchner. **Nationalists who feared the nation: Adriatic multi-nationalism in Habsburg Dalmatia, Trieste, and Venice.** Stanford, 2012. 313p index afp; ISBN 9780804774468, \$65.00. Reviewed in 2012aug CHOICE.

Set against the backdrop of 19th-century nationalism, this insightful and deeply researched study examines the careers and programs of six largely forgotten individuals who sought multinational solutions for the areas of Venice, Trieste, and Habsburg Dalmatia. Reill (Univ. of Miami) looks at the lands around the Adriatic, which, in the eyes of those she focuses on, constituted a single region whose future ought to be different from emerging nation-states. Her protagonists--Niccolò Tommaseo, Francesco Dall'Ongaro, Pacifico Valussi, Medo Pucić, Ivan August Kaznačić, and Stipan Ivičević--were cultural leaders, writers, and activists who sought to create a united community that was multiethnic, multireligious, multilingual. Reill argues convincingly that their dreams and visions were thwarted by the revolutions of 1848. Her important conclusions suggest that one should be "wary of histories that offer a vision of the present as the realization of past wisdom or past projects"; that mediating nationalism with pluralism is inherently difficult; and that the outcome of today's EU multinational and multicultural plans are by no means predetermined. Numerous illustrations and a helpful map complement this volume; regrettably, there is no bibliography. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All levels/libraries. -- *P. W. Knoll, emeritus, University of Southern California*

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