Intermarium: the Baltic and the Black seas on the Polish mental maps in the interwar period

Author(s): Marta Grzechnik
Subject(s): History
Published by: Asociatia Romana pentru Studii Baltice si Nordice
Keywords: Poland; interwar; Baltic Sea region; Black Sea region; Intermarium; mental maps; Baltic Institute

Summary/Abstract: The aim of the paper is to examine and compare how the Baltic Sea on the one hand and the Black and Aegean Seas on the other were conceptualized in the Polish scholarly and political discourse in the interwar period, and how mental maps of Poland's connection to both sea regions were constructed. Because of the direct access to Baltic Sea, the link to it was more straightforward, although it was constantly questioned by German revisionist scholarship. In the south there was no territorial connection to the seas – it was to be established on the political and economic level, for example through so-called Intermarium idea. An interesting question is also to what extent the discourses connected with the Baltic and the southern European seas fell within the same discourse of the ideology of the sea, and to what extent they were contradictory or mutually exclusive.
Baltic and Nordic Cultures and Civilizations; Economics of Baltic and Nordic Europe; Relations between Romania and the Baltic and Nordic Europe; Relations and links between the Black and Baltic sea. The journal has been established with the aim of fostering research and dialogue among scholars working in Romania and abroad in fields of research related to the interests of the Association. 

maritime community: the Muscovy Company and nautical cartography, 1553-1665

Year: 2012, Issue No. 2

Intermarium: the Baltic and the Black seas on the Polish mental maps in the interwar period

Intermarium: the Baltic and the Black seas on the Polish mental maps in the interwar period

Year: 2014, Issue No. 1

About Pan-Scandinavianism. At its most extreme, Intermarium maps amount to an alliance of countries that find themselves sandwiched between Russia, Germany, Baltic, and Black Seas. Under Polish hegemony, naturally. The more realistic variants confine themselves to Ukraine, possibly Belarus, and of course at least some of the Baltic States. One has to remember here that Intermarium, at least in the Polish version (which is the most advanced and has the greatest official support), is as much an anti-German as an anti-Russian project. The point is not just to separate Russia from Europe, but to create a belt of hostile countries between Russia and Germany to prevent the two from ever forming an alliance. Your Intermarium maps are all funny! Hey! Crimea is not Ukrainian anymore ...