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*The Consular and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1919–1941)*

Summary

The study follows the history of the Consular and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia since its foundation in 1919 until the entering of Yugoslavia into World War II in 1941. The competencies of this institution included a variety of consular matters, economic issues and traffic, as, for instance, the development of the consular network of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, issuing passport visas, the emigration issue, the workers issue, social welfare issues and repatriation and international economic cooperation, i.e. signing international agreements, tourism, congresses of economic character, fairs and exhibitions, international traffic, and, especially, cooperation with the Economic Council of the Little Entente and the Balkan Agreement.

The archival material of the Consular and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia holds great significance as a historical source, both independently and as a supplement to the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, fonds of the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and the Ministry of Transport of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The fonds contain files on Yugoslav consular offices throughout the world, émigrés from southern Slavic countries, their economic problems in relation to the new, common state; on Yugoslavs temporarily employed abroad; on Jewish refugees seeking refuge...The material of the fonds record various forms of economic cooperation of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia with other countries, the economic breakthrough of the Third Reich into the Balkans at the dawn of World War II, numerous political, border and other disputes of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia with Italy and Hungary, but also the close economic cooperation with them, the cooperation with the Allies, for instance with Romania and Czechoslovakia, but also on numerous unresolved issues with them. The material related to the transport department, essential for studying the transport issue in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the position of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in international transport and the influence of political developments on this field is less voluminous, but very rich in content. Special significance is placed on the material about the Danube, the river that connects (and divides) numerous European nations.

The documents kept in the fonds of the Consular and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia hold special value because they fill in many gaps in fonds which, due to numerous unfortunate historical circumstances, have nowadays remained preserved only in fragments.