

Abstract

This text presents progression of Slovenia-Croatia border dispute in the Bay of Piran and narrates the question of Slovenian junction to high seas. The dispute which escalated with the breakup of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s is one of many similar disputes that has the war in the Balkans caused. Therefore, the text presents the historical progression of the dispute and its solutions. However, none of those attempts of solution were successful and the dispute remained unsolved for more than twenty years until the parties finally agreed to international arbitration.

The international arbitration of Permanent Court of Arbitration in Haag between 2012 - 2017 was the last attempt of solution by third party. This text reconstructs the arbitration and analysis reaction of both sides to the Final Award of the Tribunal and its process. Important part of the whole conflict as well as for this thesis is unilateral termination of Croatia from the arbitration due to the presence of wire-tapes which delivered the conversation between Slovenia's government representatives and Slovenian member of the Tribunal. The thesis presents the circumstances of those wire-tapes and reactions of both parties.

The thesis contrasts the political arguments and the international law. It also answers the question why Croatia has decided to such a strict step of leaving the arbitration, while other options like repealing the Slovenian judge were on the table. The text inspects the dispute which has officially ended with optics of the reality where the dispute still exists.

Text then answers the question of winner and loser of the arbitration evaluates how the final award has affected both of the states. It also reflects the system of the European Union and mentions the fact that Croatia has joined the EU which was also one of the conditions of whole arbitrations. On the other hand, Slovenia which was the EU member earlier, could use its membership as a tool of power. The thesis shows that even though that the dispute is officially solved it is still present in the context of geopolitics and international relations. Therefore, the text suggests other possible fields of research of this topic