

## PHILATELY OF THE FREE TERRITORY OF TRIESTE

The Free Territory of Trieste (Italian: Territorio libero di Trieste, Slovene: Svobodno tržaško ozemlje; Croatian: Slobodni Teritorij Trsta) was an independent territory situated in Central Europe between northern Italy and Yugoslavia, under direct responsibility of the United Nations Security Council in the aftermath of World War II.

It was established as an independent country on 10 February 1947 through the signing of a Peace Treaty with Italy. It was created principally to accommodate an ethnically and culturally diverse population and dampen down territorial claims between Italy and Yugoslavia. Sensitive to its strategic importance for trade with Central Europe, this protocol was formalised on 15 September 1947.

Its administration was divided into two areas: the port city of Trieste with a narrow coastal strip to the north west (Zone A); and the larger (Zone B) formed by a small portion of the north-western part of the Istrian peninsula.



Zone A of the Free Territory of Trieste, a product from the military government of occupied Italy, was administered by the United States and the United Kingdom, the so-called Allied Military Government. Zone B was administered by Yugoslavia. Later, The Free Territory was handed to its two neighbours in terms of the London Memorandum, a memorandum of understanding among the United States, United Kingdom, Italy and Yugoslavia., and formalized much later by the bilateral Treaty of Osimo of 1975, ratified in 1977.

The Free Territory of Trieste Zone A managed by the Allied Military Government is represented in this healthcare collection by five sets of stamps issued between 1949 and 1953. These are made up of surcharged Italian stamps variously overprinted with **A.M.G.F.T.T.** or **AMG-FTT** reflecting Allied Military Government-Free Territory of Trieste.

Postage and Postage Due stamp issues in the Zone B managed by the Yugoslav Military Government are stamps of Yugoslavia, sometimes printed in distinctively different colours to the original, and variously overprinted **STT VUJA**, **VUJA-STT** (1948-1952) and **STT VUJNA** (1952-1953).

R M Pelteret      Wednesday, 17 October 2018