A circular wreath of various botanical specimens, including ferns, red leaves, green leaves, and small flowers, surrounds a central white circle. The background is a light blue-grey color.

The Venetian Empire's influence on its overseas states

Paul and James

McElwee Application Form 2025

NAMES, HOUSES AND NUMBER

Paul Ostroverhy – Chandos (458)



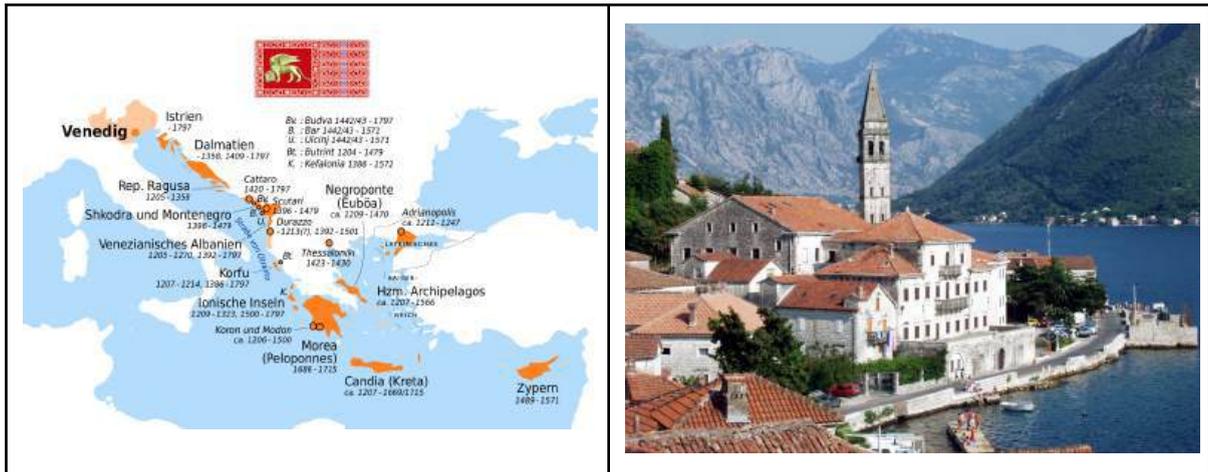
PROPOSAL – THE VENETIAN EMPIRE AND HER SATELLITE STATES IN THE ADRIATIC

Italy-Croatia-Montenegro. We want to explore the rich history of the Venetian Empire, specifically her overseas colonies and city states in the Adriatic. There are four cities which we plan to visit: Venice, Dubrovnik, Perast and Kotor, all once part of the Venetian Empire. Our mutual interest in history, politics and history of art will hopefully intersect as we explore palaces, churches, museums and fortified cities in an attempt to learn more about the unique history of Venice.

The aim of our trip is threefold: see for ourselves how much of an impact Venice had on the architectural landscape of Dalmatia and the Bay of Kotor, investigate the nature of governance and legitimacy of Venetian rule in this region, and assess the extent to which these territories served as strategic, geopolitical outposts against the Ottomans; this will involve a deep dive into early modern naval warfare and the maritime history of the aforementioned cities.



Venetian Architecture in the Adriatic



PROPOSED TIME TRAVELS

2 - 10 July 2025

REASONS AND INSPIRATIONS FOR THE TRIP

We are both keen (A-Level) historians interested in the growth and preservation of empires, the political structures that undermine them, and naval warfare; hence our desire to explore Venice and her colonies. For a whole millenia, Venice was an aristocratic, naval republic that grew incredibly rich thanks to its extensive maritime trade, protecting her interests by means of her powerful navy.

Of particular historical interest is Venice's self-image. The Venetian state viewed itself as the successor of the [civic republics of classical antiquity](#), a bastion of stability amidst an age of political instability. Critics accused the Venetian state of being a despotic, hypocritical, financial oligarchy that exploited her overseas territories to enrich itself. By visiting three ex-Venetian cities on the Adriatic coast – Dubrovnik, Kotor and Perast – we hope to see for ourselves to what extent such accusations holds true, and where we draw the line between [myth and reality](#).

From the perspective of an art historian, this trip would provide ample opportunity to explore the influence Venice had on Dalmatian architecture. We plan to investigate the process by which the ambitions and vanities of past men were translated into great feats of architecture, showcasing power and status, as seen in the region's countless palaces, churches and fortified cities.

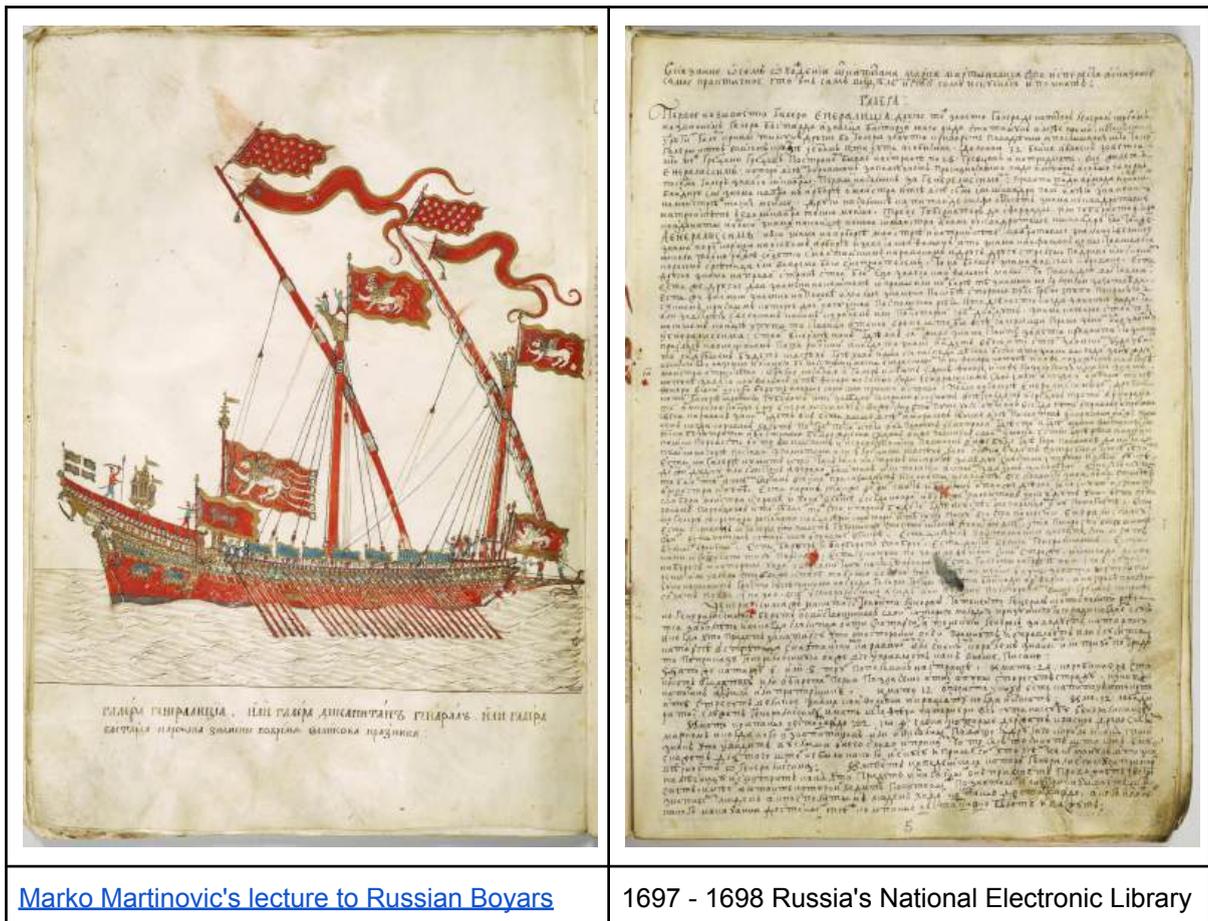




St Mark's Basilica, Venice

In the case of Kotor and Perast, situated in the Bay of Kotor, they willingly submitted themselves to Venetian rule in the 15th century to better counter piracy. Under Venice, they had tax-free access to the Venetian market, enjoyed economic prosperity and political autonomy. The area held huge geopolitical importance, and acted as a [strategic Venetian outpost](#) in the eastern Adriatic, countering Ottoman incursions. The most famous example remains by far the [Battle of Perast](#) in 1654.

Perast was ruled by twelve noble families called [casadas](#). So developed was their naval expertise that [Tsar Peter of Russia](#) sent seventeen boyars to be trained at the maritime school in Perast, of which Matija Zmajević, who later helped build the Russian fleet.



[Marko Martinovic's lecture to Russian Boyars](#)

1697 - 1698 Russia's National Electronic Library

BUDGET & DAY-BY-DAY PROGRAMME

Day 1: Fly from London Heathrow to Venice Marco Polo Airport - British Airways €115 x2. Bus to central Venice - €12 x 2. Hostel Accommodation - €70. Dinner - €30. **Total Cost: €354**

Day 2: Breakfast - €12. Lunch - €30. Naval History Museum - €10 x2. Palazzo Ducale - €15 x2. Visit St Mark's Basilica - free. Dinner - €30. Hostel Accommodation - €70. **Total Cost: €92**

Day 3: Breakfast €10. Lunch - €20. Bus to central Venice - €12 x2. Fly from Venice to Dubrovnik Airport via Munich/Vienna - €150 x2. Dinner - €20. Accommodation - €60. **Total Cost: €402**

Day 4: Breakfast - €10. Visit Sponza Palace; explore the fortified city. Lunch - €18. Take a dip in the sea. Visit the Rector's Palace - €8 x2. - Dinner - €25. Accommodation - €60. **Total Cost: €94**

Day 5: Breakfast - €10. Morning Hike. Lunch €18. Maritime Museum - €7 x2. Dinner - €30. Accommodation - €60. **Total Cost: €92**



Fortified Dubrovnik, Dalmatia

Day 6: Breakfast - €10. Bus to Kotor - €24 x 2. Lunch - €25. Explore the old town. St Tryphon's Cathedral - €3,50. Hike the Ladder of Kotor - free - and take in the panoramic view of the bay. Dinner - €25. Evening swim. Budget Accommodation - €70. **Total Cost: €160**

Day 7: Breakfast - €10. Bus to Perast - €4. Our Lady of the Rocks - boat €7 x 2 (boat + museum). Perast Maritime Museum - €3 x2. Lunch - €25. Visit the various Baroque palaces and churches of Perast. Dinner - €25. Budget Accommodation - €70. **Total Cost: €154**

Day 8: Breakfast - €10. Bus to Dubrovnik Airport - €12 x2. Flight - €115 x2. **Total Cost: €264**

Cost of the whole trip - €1622 → £1356

There is some reserve money. Much needed considering some of the budget accommodation, hostels, buses, flights and food is rounded up as it may differ on the actual date.



WHAT WE HOPE TO LEARN AND GAIN FROM THIS PROJECT

We are both keen Historians with Paul looking to study BA History at university and later hoping his relation with history and history of art will continue and flourish into a career and James hoping to combine his History A-level with politics to help him study politics and economics at University and looking to become a political advisor or civil servant in the future. Both of us passionately believe this experience will act as a beautiful way to learn something that isn't offered on the curriculum but still has heavy influence today on art (helping Paul with history of art) as well as on the dynamics of power in early modern Adriatic. We hope to gain, not just a deeper understanding of Venetian influence but life skills surrounding budgeting, understanding other cultures, enjoying nature and helping us stay curious. The Bay of Kotor is a beautiful area steeped in ancient tradition and glazed with culture, just the ability to witness this area will help us understand what you read about in books- whether its historic messages which would have passed through on the way to Constantinople or bravely fending off the all-powerful Ottoman empire. In addition to this we hope to gain a better understanding of Venetian influences on local art (very rich Baroque architecture) as well as a political understanding of how Venice's empire operated regarding satellite cities.





Reflections

POTENTIAL RISKS AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Heatstroke- With average temperatures in July around 31 degrees we will ensure we are readily equipped with suncream, summer clothes and lots of water. We also recognise we are next to the sea and shouldn't be fooled by cool Seabreases.

Potential mugging- The bay of Kotor has a relatively low crime index which is only pushed up by a moderately high corruption crime rate. We will stay vigilant and by each other as much as possible, reducing chances of pickpocketing or simply losing things.

Accommodation- we will sleep in certified hostels and budget accommodation.

Money- the three countries all use the euro, which minimises the risk of exchange currency scams.

General safety- When hiking we will wear proper footwear and clothes. We also both know the emergency number for Italy, Croatia and Montenegro- 112



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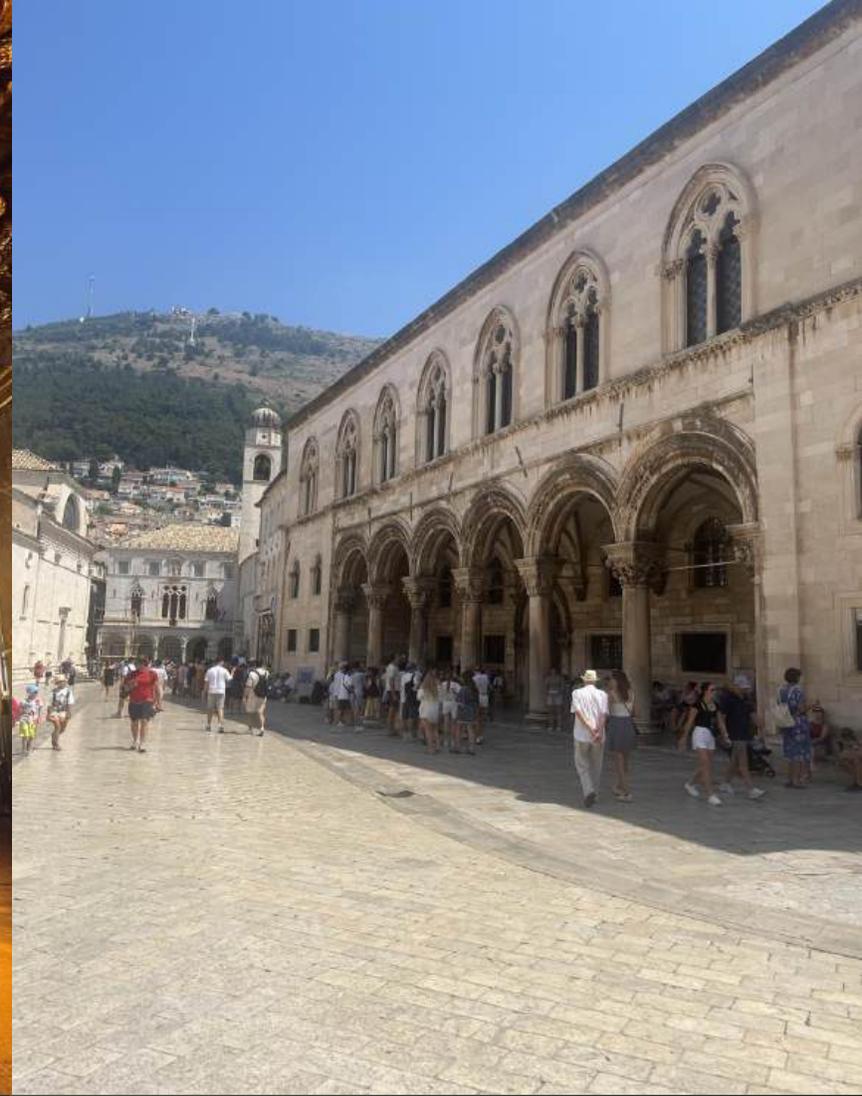
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Architectural Similarities in the Palaces

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McElwee Award



Dominic Green



← Reply

↶ Reply all



→ Forward



To: Paul Ostroyerhy - 458; James Wilson - 468

Thu 13/03/2025 14:13

Flag for follow up. Completed on 14/03/2025.

Dear Paul and James,

Thank you for coming to present your 'travel with a purpose' plans to the **McElwee** Committee on Wednesday afternoon.

It was a pleasure to meet you both, and we enjoyed both your presentation of the proposals and the way you responded to our questions and ideas. As you know, we heard plans from 9 pairs of Stoics and the level and quality of the ideas put to us was the strongest I can recall, which makes selection difficult.

However, I am delighted to say that we have decided not only to award your plans one of the **McElwee** scholarships to travel, but have expanded the scheme to offer 5, not 4 pairs of Stoics this year's awards. So that means that the **McElwee** scheme will fund £1500 of your trip costs – Mr Green will hand over to the Finance Department to explain to you and your family how this works, well before you travel. You will also benefit from important advice on safety while abroad and be provided with helpful information on how to manage the planning and logistics.

Also, please remember that we will expect to hear your full story, in front of a packed Roxburgh Theatre, in the Autumn Term, so make plenty of notes, take pictures, and think about how you will tell us your tales. As part of the preparation to do that, we provide professional training from a well known TV presenter on how to talk to a large audience – and there is a cash prize for the best one on the night!

Many **congratulations**! You are going on the trip you have been planning – now the real work begins on making it safe and successful.

With best wishes,
Christopher Tate and the **McElwee** Committee.



3 AGOSTO

