This study deals with toponyms that often have multiple variants. When using a name, I have generally used the common English form—for example, Mogadishu—where appropriate. At other times, I give both the Italian version commonly used during the period of the Oltremare d’Italia and the name in official use today. I put the prevalent contemporary name first; for example, Pula/Pola to refer to the city in the southern Istrian peninsula under Italian control from 1920 to 1947, Yugoslav sovereignty from 1947 to 1991, and part of Croatia since 1991. This usage does not imply any political commentary about the “rightful” belonging of such a territory.

For the period under study, one also encounters multiple spellings for the same place. Both Italian and English language speakers alike in the 1940s and 1950s, for example, commonly spelled Ethiopia’s capital city as either Addis Ababa or Addis Abeba. Unless the spelling “Addis Abeba” is specifically used in a document, however, I employ the prevalent spelling today of “Ababa.” Likewise, Italian documents from the twentieth century alternatively refer to the Aegean Islands as the Dodecanneso or Dodecaneso. When citing documents, I use the variant they employ. Otherwise, I use the English spelling of Dodecanese, as well as “Aegean Islands” or the Italian alternative of Isole Egeo. When referring in English to individuals coming from the lost territories of Venezia Giulia (in English, the Julian March), I use “Julian.” When employing the Italian place name in reference to the region’s inhabitants, I instead write of Venezia Giulians.

In the variety of documents consulted, personal names also exhibit multiple spellings and misspellings. Spurgeon Milton Keeny of UNRRA sometimes makes appearances as “Keeney.” Similarly, Myer Cohen of UNRRA sometimes figures as Mayer Cohen. Likewise, the UNRRA representative Wankowicz in Rhodes appears in certain documents as “Wancowica.” When referring to such figures myself, I use the correct version. Nonetheless, I have left the spelling in the documents as is. Testifying to the transnational work of assisting refugees, such alternative namings highlight the diverse actors interacting in the postwar humanitarian arena.
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