

English abstracts

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Legacy of an Empire. The Transnational Conceptual History of Czech(-Slovak) Political Representation in the First World War (1917–1918)

The aim of this study is to examine the history of the Czech(-Slovak) national movement and the Habsburg Monarchy in the First World War with the tools of conceptual history. The paper mainly explores the intercultural dimension of Czech(-Slovak) political languages of the First World War through the theme of “imperial heritage”. Accordingly, it analyzes in parallel Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk’s English-language work, *The New Europe* and the German-language speeches of the representatives of the Austrian Czech Union in the Austrian Imperial Council’s Chamber of Deputies during the years 1917–1918; it maps the system, intentionality, and transnational political contexts of the concepts contained therein; and it shows the political contexts of the long nineteenth century. The analysis of the political discourses of the long nineteenth century, the turn of the century and the First World War in Austria and the Czech Republic is realized through a combination of *Begriffsgeschichte* and the methodologies of the Cambridge School. In doing so, the paper demonstrates the continuity between the conceptual frameworks used by the Czech(-Slovak) national movement in relation to the Habsburg Monarchy and Czechoslovak nation-statehood as normative frameworks.

Egry, Gábor

Hungarian Empire? Regional Elites, Nationalist Politics, Local Accommodations. Center-Periphery Struggles in Late Dualist Hungary

In this paper, I propose an alternative approach to Hungary’s perception as a nation-state, also as a means of bringing together the analyzes of the two halves of the Empire. I will argue that Hungary alone was more of an imperial structure than it is customarily acknowledged to have been. Especially the handling of center-periphery relations was analogous with the practice of empires and taken together with some crucial characteristics of the Hungarian state – most significantly with its multi-ethnic nature – these characteristics enable us to speak here of an empire. Such an interpretation would be all the more legitimate since New Imperial History regards even the more homogeneous successor states as mini- or quasi-empires. The existence of such an “informal” or “hidden” imperialism was on the one hand the result of a historical legacy. But, on the other hand, it was also the result

of the challenges Austria-Hungary in general, and its Hungarian component state in particular, faced around the turn of the twentieth century. They emerged in the context of modernization, national mobilization, mass politics, and the reconfiguration of the relationship between state and citizen. Here, I will use the examples of center-periphery relations to show the significance of imperial practices and their interrelatedness with the new challenges. The three models I intend to present are (1) self-colonizing based on feudal traditions, a method that reconciled centralization with practical regional autonomy, while making ethnic boundaries insignificant within local society; (2) a regionalist movement that has grown out of a desire for modernization and the intention to face the challenge of strengthening minority national movements; and (3) the reorganization of the titular nation at the local level as an ethnic minority. While some of the aspects of these models were common or at least similar, they were still distinct varieties and offered different solutions for the same question: how to promote and represent local and regional interests in an increasingly unitarianist and nationalizing multi-ethnic state against the backdrop of uneven development and national mobilization?

Juhász, Balázs

A Love-Hate Relationship: Italy and the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the Twentieth Century

Italy was born mainly against the Habsburg will. However, it would be an exaggeration to consider the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy as the archenemy of the Italian state; indeed, many Italian politicians considered it necessary against the danger of Pan-Slavism. The article examines the visions Italian foreign policy pursued towards the Habsburg Empire and how effective it was in obtaining its goals.