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ABSTRACTS

Arndt Macheledt

Divided Rhön. Structural Effects of the Internal German Border in the Countryside from 1945 to 1961

The Rhön Mountains are located in the German states of Hesse, Thuringia and Bavaria. For centuries, the northern part of this mountainous region was a territorial possession of the Bishopric of Fulda (Hesse). Hence, it developed a specific form of culture and regional identity that was strongly influenced by Roman Catholicism. After the Second World War, the eastern municipalities around the town of Geisa became part of the Soviet zone of occupation, while the neighbouring communities on the western side were now situated in the American zone. The demarcation line, which later formed the state border between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic, thus divided a region that had traditionally been closely connected in terms of its economy and culture. The article analyses the influence of the new border regime on the people living in the frontier districts and its impact on old networks and orientations. It also evaluates the effects of forced migration in post-war rural Germany

Sarah Knoll

Escape through the “Iron Curtain”. Burgenland’s Role in the Initial Intake of Refugees during the Cold War

The influx of refugees was a constant phenomenon during the Cold War, although the “Iron Curtain” primarily served to prevent this happening. The Austrian Republic was one of the first destinations escapees headed for, including the federal state of Burgenland, which lies on the border with Hungary. The article analyses comparatively the ramifications for Burgenland of the varying refugee movements from Hungary in 1956, the German Democratic Republic in 1989, and Romania in 1990. Placing this frontier region within a wider Austrian context, the author investigates if and how political responses and public reactions changed over time, as well as considering how the respective events are remembered.

Petra Mayrhofer/Karlo Ruzicic-Kessler

The Alps-Adriatic Region during the Cold War: A special case in a divided Europe

This article examines the history of a frontier region during the Cold War that has long been neglected by historical research. The Alps-Adriatic region covers the border areas of Austria, Italy and Yugoslavia. It provides a unique example of how interregional cooperation was shaped in an area where differing economic, social, and international attitudes and world views collided. The article focuses mainly on cross-border relations from a bottom-up perspective. Therefore, the authors consider questions such as how representatives from the border regions communicated with one another, and what were the driving factors in the creation of closer cooperation during the 1960s and 1970s. Lastly, they also discuss bilateral (national) and international factors that were paramount for the development of this region.

Joachim Gatterer

The Cold War in South Tyrol. Good for Autonomy, bad for Democracy?

The article investigates the ways in which the logic of the Cold War has influenced regional politics in South Tyrol. In this regard, the author distinguishes between the international negotiations about appurtenance to a particular state and about South Tyrolean autonomy on the one hand, and the development of party competition within the region on the other hand. With respect to the solution of the border and autonomy question, the Cold War created a favourable environment, because the immovability of Europe's post-war boundaries rendered a military escalation of the dispute impossible. At the same time, Italy's and Austria's common ties to the West helped promote diplomatic agreement in favour of compromise. Nevertheless, western European reasons of state based on anti-communism hindered the internal development of a democratic political culture. The early Cold War political climate restricted political competition because it informally legitimized the categorical marginalisation of leftist parties and excluded communist parties a priori from governmental coalitions. Viewed in the long term, Cold War anti-communism constituted a phenomenon arising from a period of transition. It absorbed the shock of the systemic break accompanying the passage from fascist and national socialist dictatorship towards multiparty democracy, because it tied in – albeit in alleviated form – with ideological traditions from the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century, as well as with the experiences of the Second World War. However, its effectiveness continuously diminished from the 1960s onwards, owing to generational and social changes and ideological transformations within the political spectrum of leftist parties.

Walter Landi

Agents, Stewards and Dealers. Local Aristocracies and the Mining Industry in the Territory of Trento during the Thirteenth Century

During the thirteenth Century, the management of mining activity in the territory of Trento was characterized by the monopoly exercised by the ruling prince-bishops, thanks to the so-called Frederician privileges granted in 1161 and 1189. As a result of this situation, it is impossible to identify any mines owned by the local aristocracy, apart from the cases of the Counts of Eppan and of Tyrol respectively, for both of whom the 1189 privilege explicitly made an exception. Nevertheless, the mechanisms of tendering contracts, enfeoffment and the granting of concessions allowed some members of the ruling urban elite and the encastled regional nobility to involve themselves in profitable fashion in the production of metallurgies and iron and steel. The historical sources provide a vivid picture of this activity and show how involvement in the bishopric's mining industry constituted an extraordinary means of social advancement for various mining entrepreneurs in the region.

Michael Wedekind

Politicisations of “Popular Culture” (*Volkskultur*) in twentieth-century Tyrol. On the Innocence of Traditional Costumes

Taking the example of Tyrol, the article traces the new semantic attributions, ideological weightings and sociopolitical instrumentalizations undergone by manifestations of popular culture in the first half of the twentieth century in particular. The author investigates the motivations and social actors behind these processes by focusing the analysis on the role of traditional costume (*Volkstracht*). Traditional costumes are embedded in processes of constructing identities and communities; they are functionalised for the disclosure and propagation of group values and norms. Following German national and racial ascriptions, traditional costumes manifested an ethno-political sense of group belonging in the first half of the twentieth century and they came to be a badge of identification for a national socialist ideological orientation. By way of conclusion, the contribution explores the continuities and shifts associated with these signifiers after the Second World War, as well as the more or less seamless continuing involvement of particular social actors in this process. Only recently have the problematic aspects surrounding traditional costumes become the subject of scholarly and public debate

Giada Noto

The Fault of Others. An Analysis of Protocols from the Provincial Council of Bolzano/Bozen about the “Victory Monument” (1948–2013)

The presence of the fascist “Victory Monument” (1928) in Bolzano/Bozen has often served as a catalyst for debates on the South Tyrolean past. Given that it evokes contrasting historical memories, the monument has led to numerous discussions within the Provincial Council of Bolzano/Bozen. The article investigates the altercations between social groups, mostly constituted according to cultural-linguistic belonging, in relation to the memory discourse about the monument. The study is based on the protocols and complete reports of the meetings of the Provincial Council of Bolzano/Bozen and aims to trace the course and changing dynamics of the debates over the political mid- to long term (1948–2013). In particular, it shows that a progressive rise in awareness took place over this period in time in relation to local history and memory issues. Furthermore, it argues that the cultural-linguistic conflict, which in the last thirty years has been closed linked to party political interests, remains an obstacle to achieving a mature, inclusive, and multi-faceted historical awareness.