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Erika Kustatscher

Topography and Political Integration under the Alliance between Throne and Altar.

Opportunities for an Ecclesiastical Historiography of Tyrol in the Nineteenth Century

A project launched by the provincial government for Tyrol and Vorarlberg in 1832 with the aim of compiling a historical topography of the area's dioceses met with a fruitful response, particularly in the diocese of Brixen, the boundaries of which had been considerably extended after 1818. Following a plan designed by Franz Anton Sinnacher, Georg Tinkhauser and Ludwig Rapp drew on archival sources to provide portraits of every pastor in the Tyrolean parts of the diocese. Appearing in five volumes between 1855 and 1889, the work is even today an invaluable starting point for work on many aspects of Tyrolean Church history. A work based on similar principles was then published in the years 1903–1910, covering the Germanspeaking deaneries of the diocese of Trento. In both cases, the concept employed left the protagonists sufficient room for maneuver that the respective projects became milestones in regional Church history, with genuinely scholarly aspirations.

Andrea Leonardi

Research on Historical and Economic Spaces: Comparisons between Innsbruck and Trento, and Reflections on a Half-Century of Collaboration

The article traces the course of a long-standing collaboration between historians working primarily at the universities of Innsbruck and Trento. Soon to reach the landmark of fifty years of scientific cooperation, the author has himself been a leading protagonist in several projects. As such, the article also contains a series of personal reflections, which range from methodological questions to topics for research and teaching collaboration. What emerges is a portrait of the relationship created and consolidated over time between numerous scholars and the academic institutions in which they have played – and continue to play – a part.

Andrea Bonoldi

The History of the Alps and Economic History: Notes on Trends and Protagonists over the last Fifty Years

From the 1970s onwards, works on Alpine history in general, but especially those on Alpine economic history, have undergone a significant evolution. Thanks to the greater volume of research and the refinement of interpretative tools, it has been possible, on the one hand, to question the stereotypical image of mountain societies in the past, characterized by notions of marginality and resistance to change. On the other hand, a scholarly network has been consolidated, consisting of university research centres, scientific associations and specialist journals, which have promoted intellectual argument and enabled the integration of new generations of historians into the academic community. As a result, Alpine historiography today offers a decidedly richer panorama with regard to research topics and methodology, one that is now in a position to offer important historical overviews and to contribute in full measure to international scholarly discussion.

Michael Gehler

A Background Survey of Concepts and Developments in the History of Provinces and Regions in Europe

The article takes as its starting point a concept originally developed by the author thirty years ago, namely that of a “contemporary history of manageable spaces”, for the investigation of the history of provinces (Landesgeschichte) and regions (Regionalgeschichte). Turning to regional history within the changed contexts and altered circumstances affecting regions, nation-states, Europeanization and globalization in the twenty-first century, the author seeks to integrate several spatial dimensions into the analysis. This requires the development of a multi-step model that includes sub-national (local and regional), national (state) and supranational (European and global) levels. In this way, historical scholars can orient themselves around a combination and variety of concepts, empirical findings and technical descriptions pertaining to spatial and socio-cultural concepts (region, regionality, nation, nation-state, global society, globality) and processes (regionalization, renationalization, Europeanization, globalization). At the same time, historians can pay closer attention to these phenomena and the sometimes converging, sometimes diverging directions in which they develop.

Wolfgang Meixner

Prefatory Remarks for an Economic, Social and Environmental History of the Federal State of Tyrol in the Twentieth Century

To date, there is no complete general history of economic development in the Austrian federal state of Tyrol during the twentieth century. In considering what issues an overview of this kind would have to contend with, a number of questions occur, such as those relating to changing territorial boundaries and political systems. A further key question relates to whether we are dealing with a “long” or “short” twentieth century. This in turn depends on the identification of caesuras and continuities, as well as the classification of Tyrol’s “special path” within the wider Austrian context. With the exception of the neighbouring state of Salzburg, Tyrol followed a specific form of economic development, characterized by the transition from a traditional agrarian economy to a modern service economy, which to a great extent was determined by the expansion of tourism. As well as analyzing the accompanying ecological consequences and problems with regard to the exploitation of energy and natural resources, it would also be necessary to ask whether the oft invoked narrative of an economic “success story” with high living standards actually pertains to the majority of the population.