ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ
SCOSAAR

Anexa nr.6

ABSTRACT OF THE HABILITATION THESIS

TITLE

Order and Chaos in the Transformation of the Habsburg Empire. Reforms, Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements at the Center and Periphery: The Polish Uprising in January 1863 and Transylvania

Domain of the Habilitation thesis:

History

Author:

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The present habilitation thesis represents an important contribution by the author both to the development of the scientific topic dealt with and to the presentation and further development of his scientific career. As it is further explained, the achievement of the habilitation is an important career step that is based on the previous efforts and achievements of the author. The choice of the scholarly topic, on the other hand, opens up a new perspective in research, which is important both for the author and for Romanian historiography, because it is a lesser-known topic of the modern history.

The purpose of this document is to set out the achievements and goals of the undersigned to date; it is a review of a long period of activity in the field of research, but more recently also in the field of teaching at the university. During this activity, the undersigned has always tried to include new sources in research and to open up new subject areas, although over time some important directions have emerged. The starting point for this presentation is the author's doctoral thesis, which was defended in 2008. The topic of this thesis is the relationship between the Transylvanian Saxons and the Austrian Habsburg authorities during neo-absolutism. The Neo-absolutism itself as a historical epoch is one of the most important fields of research for the author, and it is also a topic that has been dealt with very little in Romanian historiography and in general, although it is a well-defined period of 10 years, during which many changes have taken place and new forms have been sought. With the presentation of neo-absolutism as one of the most important research topics, other research directions of the author are also presented here, which have been pursued over the years during a scientific work from which several publications have emerged. This is about the relationships between center and periphery, which is also one of the scientific directions pursued in the field of doctoral thesis, and other topics. Based on unpublished archive material, the doctoral thesis itself traces the complex development of the collective political rights of the Transylvanian Saxons during the neo-absolutist reforms. Here, special attention is paid to the efforts to maintain the old privileges in the context of a broad modernizing policy, although they were based on feudal law, as well as on the role of the institutions that were important for the exercise of these rights, such as the National University or the Evangelical Church.

In the natural development of the scientific fields pursued, the other topics that were addressed in the years after the doctorate are presented chapter by chapter.

In the course of the process, various aspects of neo-absolutism were pursued as a basic theme, such as the development of the specific institutions, aspects of constitutional history, the reform of the administrative and legal reorganization of the crown land of Transylvania, which is considered in the interaction between center and periphery.

In chronological order, the author's scientific efforts were devoted to the transitional period between the absolutist system, which eventually failed, and the time of the liberal experiments under Schmerling. This major topic continues to be pursued today and research in this area is divided into several chapters. On the one hand, it is the central event of these years in Transylvania, namely the convocation of the provincial Diet and the appointment of the Reichsrat. Aspects of the national movements, the functioning of the institutions are examined here. Now efforts are beginning in the direction of the study of law history, which in turn represents a very little researched chapter especially for Transylvania as a Habsburg province. The role of the Diet, the introduction of new institutions and the disputes over the retention of the Austrian law books, but also the shortcomings and inadequacies in the effect of a changing system are aspects that are dealt with in a recently published book. Another topic that is directly related to this present work is the uprising in Poland in January 1863 and the role of the authorities, especially the secret police.

In the description of the activity of the undersigned, several components of it are also described, such as the role of research projects and research stays, especially in foreign archives. A new field of activity is teaching at the university, where the author has been organizing lectures and seminars in German for several years in the field of meny subjects, such as the history of European integration or world economic history. In addition, the author's implication in the field of doctoral studies is presented here, as a member of various monitoring commissions at the level of the Institute of Historical Research and, more importantly, as a member of several defense commissions, mainly at Babeș-Bolyai University; these are most often dissertations written in German and Hungarian.

In addition, the undersigned has participated in several radio and television broadcasts, has cocreated numerous radio broadcasts for several years and has been a guest at various media events. His participation in several dozen conferences, both at home and abroad, is also highlighted, which have provided the opportunity to communicate the state of research in the above-mentioned areas. The author's work has always been positively appreciated and in recent years he has also been awarded academic prizes.

Among the newly pursued areas of research, a very interesting and complex topic is highlighted and dealt with in detail here. It is the reception of the Polish uprising of January 1863 in Transylvania. Viewed from this peripheral province, even if they were events that took place far away, these and their effects were strongly perceived here. In the introduction, the most important characteristics of the transformations in the 1860s are presented. Even now, as in the previous neo-absolutism, it was a series of reforms in all areas that brought about several changes. The interest of historians in this period, in the most diverse aspects from the activities of the Reichsrat to the role of the secret police and, of course, the perception of events in Poland are also examined here based on older and more recent literature. The change in Transylvania is presented in a broad context, whereby the situation is described through the Polish partitions that have taken place; Galicia played an important role here, where conditions slowly became apparent that were reminiscent of a revolutionary movement, just as it was already taking place on the other side of the border in the Russian Empire. The foreign policy positioning of the Austrian state was very delicate in this context, which is why the appearance of foreign policy was also hesitant and was always caught between Western European support for the Polish Revolution and the restraint of a great power that incorporated territories of Poland after the partition. This was even more complicated, as the Empire was in a complex situation both financially and politically at the time. These elements are also dealt with on the basis of archival material and relevant sources. An important chapter examines the phenomenon of refugees and possible agents of the revolution, who were monitored by the authorities and also appeared in

Transylvania. Here, too, but of course not to the same extent as in Galicia, some mainly young Hungarian-speaking people have tried to move to Poland and fight in the uprising there; there were even mobilization campaigns in the underground, in many cases tied to the Italian revolutionary movement of Garibaldi, which had strong ties to both the Hungarian and Polish national or revolutionary parties. These movements are very interesting and are also based on the political movement in Hungary and they have proven to be much more harmless than the authorities have assessed at that time.

Furthermore, the thread of research is presented by presenting the press landscape of the time, which constitutes the centerpiece of the scientific work. However, there was still press censorship and the editorial offices could not express themselves completely freely; the severity of censorship was mainly evident in the area of domestic political contributions, and a few cases

are presented here. This created a certain amount of freedom for foreign policy issues, which was then actually exploited by some newspapers. Here the genesis and development of the most important newspapers from Transylvania is described; these appeared in Romanian, German and Hungarian and represented several directions, which were usually characterized by the attitude of the editors-in-chief. These personalities are honored accordingly here, as many of them were also active in politics, culture or as entrepreneurs. As usual, the "Gazeta Transylvaniei" describes the beginning of the uprising and provides a lot of information about the battles, as well as about the Russian repression. Above all, the depiction of these repressions has revealed a picture of the brutal actions of the Russian armed forces for the whole of Europe, which was far from an expected European action. Furthermore, the comprehensive diplomatic efforts are also described; these were to avoid a European war and regulate the rights of the Poles through a European Congress. The presentation in the "Kronstädter Zeitung" is just as factual, where we find complex descriptions but also some analyses of the situation in Poland and the European perception. Above all, the editors of this newspaper show a strong interest in the diplomatic negotiations, but here too we find numerous descriptions of the battles and destruction. The description of the events in Poland in a smaller and short-lived newspaper such as the "Erdélyi Posta", which tried to report on both the fighting and diplomacy, is also analysed here. The "Hermannstädter Zeitung vereinigt mit dem Siebenbürger Boten" was one of the most important press organs of the time in Transylvania and here you can find more complex descriptions, starting from the outbreak and the actual course of the uprising to diplomacy and the role of Napoleon III. Special attention is paid to the internal Russian conditions and also to the brutal actions of the military, which was criticized everywhere in Europe, although the newspaper represented a more legalistic direction.

The portrayals in the Hungarian-language press are quite different, which of course took over several articles from Hungary, where there was a lively sympathy for the Polish movement. We can also find this sympathy in the Transylvanian Hungarian-language newspapers, and here several editorials have also been published, which often emphasize the similarity of the Polish cause with the Hungarian Revolution of 1848-49 and the later political movement, or pay tribute to personalities of the Polish Revolution. Here, too, the already classic depictions of the battles, the repression, but also the historical background and the diplomatic initiatives play an important role. Both "Korunk" and "Kolozsvári Közlöny" represent a similar line and were led by important figures from the press and public life. Elements of international law are included several times,

analyses of society in Poland are often presented with comparisons to the Hungarian conditions, or the role of Napoleon and other important personalities are presented in editorials. The "Telegraful Român" from Sibiu was another important Romanian-language newspaper, which also provides quite interesting and complex insights, sometimes in a way that is reminiscent of the Hungarian-language press. Here, too, the problems of refugees, fighting, diplomacy play an important role, and a lot of emphasis is placed on a fine analysis of the European balance between states. The picture of the reception of the Polish uprising in Transylvania, created by the investigation of the press, shows us complex connections and ideas that were part of the public sphere at the time.

For the completeness of this presentation revolving around the scientific achievements of the undersigned, a career plan is also inserted, which is linked to the objectives pursued by the habilitation; this is based primarily on the continuation of the research directions pursued so far and on the priority inclusion of unpublished archive material. It is planned to continue the previous comprehensive topics such as the developments of the liberal period and law history, as well as the study of national movements. Some more comprehensive publications, such as on the phenomenon of counterfeiting in the 1860s, are also in this planning. In the field of teaching, the activity at the Faculty of Economics and European Studies will continue and also expand the range of organized courses, beyond the subjects pursued so far, such as world economic history, the history of European integration or the history of Southeastern Europe in the global structure. The planned and expected more intensive activities in the field of doctoral studies are also mentioned accordingly, in addition to the personal skills and perspectives of leading comprehensive research projects that require a habilitation degree.