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Review of the dissertation by Mag. Piotr Andrzejewski:

„The creation of the postwar Austrian nation“

Modern research on nationalism has lost a lot of its speed during the last decade and seems to have been abandoned in the history of historiography. There are several reasons for this: First of all, it is part of everyday life in science that research fields are subject to a dynamic which is just as dependent on external influences as it corresponds to the constitution of the respective scientific system or the scientific milieu. This also applies to such profound subjects of research, which at times were preparing to become their own sub-discipline. This is precisely the next reason for the diminishing interest in nationalism. With the increasing interdisciplinarity of nationalism research, the contours of the subject were lost and made it difficult to formulate innovative issues that allowed a communication-capable approach across the boundaries of the sub-disciplines. Among other things, this process is marked by the tendency to relativize its constructivist approach among the protagonists of modern nationalism research such as Hobsbawm, Anderson and Gellner. This development is understandable but regrettable. For it is precisely in times of globalization, internationalization and transnational networking that the question of the positioning and the right to existence of the modern social organization form – namely the nation is evident. In the times when the “nation” has been declared dead or “demonized” it is the more interesting that old issues reappear and raise new questions.

It is therefore all the more gratifying that the author of the dissertation turns to the subject again and chooses an example with the "casus Austria" that does not show the "classical way" of nation building. He rather shows the whole breadth and depth of the “nation problem”. The author is aware of this, as he has recognized the basic problems of modern nationalism research. In his introductory remarks he makes this clear by naming the fundamental problems for Austria with the development of the empire to the nation and the two fractions as starting points for nation building in 1918 and 1945. Methodically, the author is well aware of the complexity of the interdisciplinary approach as an indispensable necessity of knowledge. On the specificity of Austria, he identifies historical science and political science as guiding disciplines that make the most of analysis. So he builds his work consistently and confidently on the paradigms of historiography, history policy and political system. For this methodical-disciplinary orientation he formulates questions that correspond to the special case of Austria as well as they are given as basic problems of modern nationalism research. This is particularly emphasized because the author almost consistently reveals the commendable effort not to lose sight of the theories of nationalism research. He is able to present the theories or methodical insights directly in spite of all the empirical treatment of the subject matter to be used as tools of knowledge, or to describe the historical course more clearly. Thus, the author escapes the reproach that has to be made for many scientific qualification works, to deal with the theory of the object in an introductory chapter, to dispose of it as it were, and then deal with the topic without further consideration of these presuppositions.

On page 6 and 8, the author makes the problem of identity the essential question of nation-building in its elements of a unique position of Austro-German as well as a territorial classification and treats it as a key question in the main chapters of history and politics. The early uniqueness of the

methodological orientation is extremely helpful in the representation value of the entire work. In this awareness, the author dedicates the necessary space to the theoretical explanation of identity and its significance in nationalism research, and deals with the terminological variants and their meaningfulness. Here the author shows his erudition and theoretical certainty. Noteworthy is his attempt not only to remain with the protagonists of modern nationalism research, but also to include Polish research, which is too often neglected, and to illustrate its added value for research. The author also examines the Polish historiography of Austria and positions its contribution in international comparison.

In the relatively broad discussion of the identity (Chap. 1.3), the author does not stand by the overly flat and predominantly practiced method of establishing a "collective identity" that is intended to describe the nation, but starts from an individual identity that is in one historical-political process of social influence or shaping expresses a national identity. And it is precisely this process on which the author focuses on in the main chapters. Whether in these theoretical discussions, the recourse to the term nation (1.4.) was necessary, I admit to doubt. However, this section gains contours in its concretization on the history of Austria and has its place (1.5 and 1.6) as the reference to nationalism theory and thus makes sense. This is exemplified with the of the description of the medieval nation in the Austrian historiography (a preliminary remark in the 2nd chapter in which the role of the traditional dynastic empire for the modern nation in Austria is emphasized). In chapters from 1.6.1. til 1.6.3 the nation is described as a social forming process and the author refrains from a stringent definition and creates space for different manifestations of a historical-social phenomenon and thus in the sense of an interdisciplinary approach, as the sociological aspect appears in his discussions.

It remains to be noted that in the first chapter, solid foundations are created for turning historiography and political discourse as constitutive elements of nation building in the empirical part of the dissertation. Again, the author does not lose sight of the leitmotifs of the theoretical guidelines, and uses and applies them. In the introduction (2.1.) about the historiography the author is trying to contrast history and its presentation and thus ask the fundamental questions of modern history (Ranke) and facts and fictions (Evens). The author is not concerned with answering or solving this question, but with the positioning of the meaning of the representation of one's own history as a fundamental legitimacy element of the nation. This approach is practiced in the following subchapter, which deals with the construction of an Austrian history after 1945. In 2.2. events that form the metahistory of Austria are presented. The analysis follows the methodological basic patterns of identity and the question of German-Austria. The focus is on the "cultural nation" as a long-term process and the concentration of territorial and political power that becomes the Republic of Austria in 1918/1945. The author works here extensively with historical comparisons and can finally makes it clear that the attempt to derive the Austrians as a nation as a result of an almost logical or necessary development of modern Europe is based on a rather arbitrary basis of historical argumentation, as well as the most important views about the nation are confirmed to be a construct.

The chapter 2.3. seems a little lost in this context. The expert does not doubt the importance of the transition of the legal system in dealing with the German Reich and as the basis for the reform of a national republic, but raises the question of whether this part of the dissertation would not be better off in chapter 3 (politics).

In chapter 2, a fundamental problem of the work becomes clear, namely the question of the role of the caesura in the year 1918. It is taken for granted and made too insignificant and disproportionate to 1945. Even the title of the dissertation is misleading. This then also connects a very important legitimation problem. Is the Republic of Austria the product of collapse and peace agreements that were carried out without its participation? This would be the worst case for a national legitimation,

namely the foreign determination, or a nation as a product of decay, a quasi-waste product of a chaotic situation. The author does not formulate it so clearly, but prepares the field for the discourse on the nation in politics in Chapter 3.

The focus on the main political parties ÖVP and SPÖ was initially somewhat irritating. It replaces a necessary general essay on elite behavior. This can be accepted because in the actions of the parties and in the various sub-chapters, the behavior of the elites outside of the parties becomes clear and an overall picture emerges which corresponds to the significance accorded to them by the research on nationalism. Corresponding to Chapter 2, the history of policies is described here, which clearly and selectively takes up and propagates the arguments of a unique position of the Austrian nation, especially to Germany. The mantra of legitimation goes along the line of a common cultural tradition with different political developments. The Anschluss and victimhood are regarded as the basis of neutrality and one's own worldview. The tools of nation-formation are national celebration and national relics. At least here, the "casus Austria" is again noticeable. In chapters 3.2.2. and 3.2.3. an analysis of school education and textbooks shows a relatively closed concept of national education.

In chapter 3.3. the author returns to the party level and sets the breaking of the party coalition as a benchmark. For the political constitution of the republic, this is certainly correct and important, yet the importance for the issue of nation building remains unclear. It is also sets a turning point, this begs the question whether the author regards the nation-building process in Austria after 1945 as ongoing or completed. What comes after the "radical period" (1945-1955)? If the author addresses Haider's new image of history, does he mean a reediting of the historical construct or does he go as far as to speak of a new nation or national consciousness?

In his submitted work the summary highlights the general dilemma of categorizing scientific nationalism theories. The author has practically demonstrated that a stringent division into, primordial theories and constructivist make little sense. A strict separation of the theoretical positions is irrelevant solely because of the chosen interdisciplinary approach, and yet the development in the thinking of the protagonists is not yet taken into account. The author has used use of the various theories for the breakdown of the course of history. His interpretation and the addition to knowledge are valuable. All schematic classifications, as shown in a graphic on p. 223, therefore seem to make little sense.

The author impressively demonstrated his aptitude for scientific work with his dissertation. With his analysis he has made an important contribution to the description of the genesis of the modern Austrian nation and its classification in the process of the formation of European nation-states and the formation of theories on modern nationalism research. Unfortunately, the reviewer must note that the execution of all German-language passages are flawed and in view of the language skills of the author completely unacceptable.

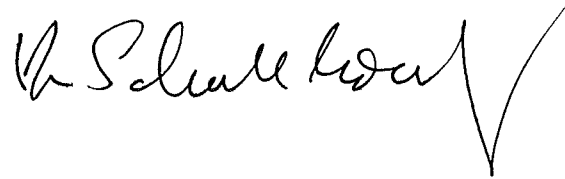
I commend the work to the Institute for Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Rostock.

The author should comment in public defense on the critical remarks in the review and also comment on the following problem areas:

1. The phenomenon of twofold nation formation in 1918 and in 1945 remains poorly explained. How does the interwar period affect the political process of shaping the nation and above all the social consciousness after 1945?
2. Postcolonial studies had a special connection to Austria. How does the transition from dynastic empire to territorially minimized republic affect the case? Is the nation as a product of "imperial contraction?" particularly problematic?

3. How does the author understand the relationship between nation and nationalism? Apart from a few references (Dieter Langewiesche - unfortunately not considered by the author), the research leaves the question relatively open and offers the possibilities of interpretation of nationalism as a generic term, manifestation, necessary stage or extreme expression.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Schulte-Krumpal', with a large, stylized checkmark or flourish at the end.