

Pietro Massarecchi, who was born in Prizren. Albanian students studying in Rome fought against Dalmatian Catholics over the jurisdiction of the eastern Adriatic coast. The efforts of these prelates were welcome to the Congregation as a promotion of the Catholic faith. However, this process of confessionalization ended with the Great Turkish War, and the Albanian Catholic community never became a key factor in the creation of an Albanian national identity.

Another emphatic statement is expressed in Chapter 7, *The Serbian Orthodox Church and the Attempts at Union with Rome in the 17th Century*, pp. 157–169, which places the ambitions for a Catholic union with the Serbs within the context of Balkan missions. As the author says, efforts to proselytize to the Serbs were always a peripheral objective for Balkan Catholic confession-building in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. According to the author, the only and most significant attempt at creating this union was the Marča church union. According to reports from the seventeenth century, it seems that not even the Catholic prelates believed in the success of a union between the Serbs and the Catholic Church. The sources provided in this book also confirm this, as the local Catholic prelates took the matter of these missions with reservations because the establishments of new episcopal sees would have weakened their positions.

The penultimate chapter, *The Balkan Missions under the Pontificate of Innocent XI (1676–1689)*, pp. 169–183, is devoted to centralizing missionary work during the time of Pope Innocent XI. This was a highly ambitious project that was meant to resolve the missions' issues that were mentioned in previous chapters. The main aim was to promote confessionalization through national sentiment. However, establishing the Holy League (1684) and driving the Ottomans out of Central Europe during the Great Turkish War only made the situation worse for Catholic institutions in the Ottoman Empire in the eighteenth century.

The tenth and final chapter, *La Schiavona. A Bosnian Girl between Catholic Hagiography and Balkan Female Transvestism*, pp. 169–205, is a study conducted through the special lens of male-female transformation with elements that also

appear in Catholic female mysticism and Balkan folk tradition. The biography of Magdalena Pereš-Vuksanović is a truly unique source for seventeenth century Balkan history. It offers a glimpse into the closed and unknown world of early modern Bosnian women and draws attention to aspects of Balkan Catholicism that combine European and Balkan elements.

One hopes that this collection of studies and research conclusions will help shed some light on the unknown history of the Catholic missions and relations between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches in the Balkans in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This work was based on extensive scholarly research and resources from the Vatican Archives. This glimpse into archival and primary resources helps the reader better understand the bonds between the early modern Catholic institutes in Rome and the Catholic population in the Balkans and Ottoman Hungary, as reflected in the activities of Catholic missions.

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Karl-Peter Krauss, *Mord an der Donau. Leopold von Márffy und die deutschen Untertanen in Tscheb (1802–1812). Eine Mikrogeschichte der Gewalt*. Südosteuropäische Arbeiten 160. Berlin: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2018. 306 pp.

On a Sunday evening, September 20, 1812, fourteen men equipped with axes, clubs, and a rifle hid near Lipót Márffy's mansion in Čelarevo. Their hair was combed into their faces, their facial skin was darkened with soot, and their heads were covered with a long black cap. They were waiting for their landlord, the fifty-four-year-old Lipót Márffy, the former chief notary of Bács-Bodrog county. When the approaching of the carriage was reported, they came out of their hiding place, stopped the horses, and fired five times at the landowner. The victim was pulled out of his car, thrown to the ground and then inflicted further injuries. The perpetrators threw the gun into the Danube. An investigation and official proceedings

were initiated to investigate the case. The perpetrators were arrested and all were sentenced to death. This was later alleviated, or, in case of the five main culprits, approved, while the others were sentenced to three years in prison, which they had to serve handcuffed, on bread and water, doing physical labour, aggravated by twenty-five sticks three times a year.

Karl-Peter Krauss, a research fellow at the *Institut für donauschwäbische Geschichte und Landeskunde* in Tübingen, has been researching the history of the German population in southern Hungary for decades. In his remarkable oeuvre, he examines the history of the Germans in a complex way, from leaving their homeland to their settlement and integration, with a particular emphasis on aspects of social history and that of mentalities. His primary goal is to present the environment of activity and the lifestyle (*Lebenswelt*), taking into account the dynamics of change and the connections between internal development and external influences. His consistent methodology and his micro-level analyses following the approach of historical anthropology make it possible to interpret the decision-making mechanisms and strategies of the Germans in the new environment, together with their responses in critical situations.

The present volume is a logical consequence of Krauss's research career to date. Changes in demographic and family relations, as well as the logical system of marriages and divorces have been decisive aspects in his works. In the context of specific communities and individuals, he examined the legal framework in which they lived, how the various norms prevailed, and the reasons for which they were violated. He examined these mechanisms of influence together with the formation and management of the various conflicts primarily within the framework of the manor, through the relationship between the landlord, the manorial officials and the serfs, and through the relations between the peasantry itself. Against this background, the case of the assassination of Lipót Márffy in 1812 provided an excellent opportunity for Krauss to present the everyday problems of the settled German population in a specific case study, building on his

previous research and methodological skills.

While the volume thematizes violence, the author shows the context of the two-hundred-year-old events in its complexity. The conceptual basis and focal points of the text are related to the first volume of the most famous and influential work of the French Jesuit historian Michel Certeau (*L'invention du quotidien*. Paris, 1980), which aimed to explore the social aspects of the everyday life (*Arts de faire*). Krauss embraced Certeau's recommendation, who dedicated his book to the "average man," the "heroes of everyday life," whom he examined in their network of relationships, in the context of their structures and systems. The author also dynamizes and presents the series of events at Čelarevo according to a definite dramaturgy, in which the growing indignation of the community became more and more powerful, and in which the unheard average people were finally made prominent by their radical action.

With his systematic work, Krauss drew a system of concentric circles around the murder, by which he was able to present the macro, meso and micro levels of the actors and the events, and the structure of relations between each actor. Through the concentric circles, the author plastically marks the framework of action (*Handlungsrahmen*) of the assassination of Márffy, and he is able to answer two central questions: what opportunities remain for the perpetrators; and what actions could have resulted from the complex fabric of political, legal, social, economic and cultural "system network"? Through this multi-perspective illustration, the events at Čelarevo provide further contributions to everyday history, agricultural, social and legal history, and shed light on the relationships between the various actors and institutions. With this method, he can also answer whether this horrific and unfortunate act was a purely individual case or a logical consequence of the legal, economic and social conditions and of an established and prolonged conflict.

The author records the events systematically. He presents in detail the 18th century history of the Germans in the Bácska, showing both the advantages of the settlement and the acculturation

and adaptation processes, which (due to different socialization, different interpretations of norms) inevitably resulted in conflicts. An important role is given to the presentation of the economic changes in the Bácska region, and to the outline of the effects of the agricultural boom of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. In the third chapter, he briefly describes the story and causes of the assassination. The chapter reviews the history of the settlement of the Germans in the Bácska, together with its general social and economic conditions. It devotes a separate subchapter (4. 2.) to the operation of the county, which may seem sketchy to Central European historians, but is essential for the German readership to understand the subject, as is the description of the legal regulations.

In order to grasp the historical context and the environment of activity more accurately, Krauss examines the role of norms: how German residents related to the expectations expressed in their new environment, how they responded to challenges, how they tried to enforce their own customs (*Normentransfer, Normenadaptation*). The plastic presentation of the scene also serves to outline the context. The author sketches for us the structure of the settlement (including the effects of Maria Theresa's socage tenure regulation), as well as the ethnic and confessional aspects of the local society.

As a result of investigations and appeals, the socage lawsuit initiated by the inhabitants of Čelarevo has become a lengthy legal procedure. Without the disputes on the socage, neither the dissatisfaction with Lipót Márffy nor its extent can be understood. Krauss devotes a separate chapter (6.) to the disputes on socage, but before that he summarizes in a separate subchapter (5.2) the practice of Márffy as a county chief notary. The latter is necessary because, during his term in office, the series of documents related to socage lawsuits appear to be incomplete. It was not until 1815, years after the lawsuit was over, that the Locumtenential Council was able to properly reconstruct the processes. At the enumeration of the *processus urbarialis*, Krauss therefore clarifies the procedure of the submissions and the complaints, and makes an attempt to explain the reasons for the lack of resources in the archives of the Locumtenential

Council and the counties. However, even the detailed investigation into the history of the sources does not provide a precise explanation of what happened to the Čelarevo residents' submissions, although the results of the research offer interesting contributions to the understanding of the operating mechanisms of the public administration. The author tries to decode and evaluate the peasants' complaints properly.

The peasants of Čelarevo repeatedly complained about the excessive use of socage and the related coercion, violence and corporal punishment. One of the assassins, Joseph Ferger, mentioned the excessive ninth and the illegally imposed socage as the main causes of the murder and the dissatisfaction. The services of long transports and guards were also unpopular among the peasants, and regular corporal punishment was also mentioned. Complaints included that Márffy forced widows to change their house and that peasants were harmed when they sold property to the manor.

Through a thorough examination of his notarial activity, we can see Márffy's temperament and problem-solving methods. During his tenure, he repeatedly imposed severe penalties, against which many complained. Between 1791 and 1806 he held the office of chief notary of the county. From 1806, his career began to decline, which is related to his relationship with a married woman named Anna Kliegl.

Krauss explores the state's aspirations in socage matters in the correlation between peasantry and landlords. In connection with the conduct of the county in this matter, the ineffective enforcement power of the state is revealed to us. We observe a significant distance between the bodies of the lower level (local community) and the upper level administration, which is amplified by the specific attitude of the middle level (county) supporting the interests of the manors. Village society, therefore, considered itself deprived of the spheres capable of providing satisfaction, and, as a consequence, left alone in its struggle. As a result, non-compliance with the rules ("*die nicht Anwendung der Regel*") started to be seen as a norm by the peasantry. Due to the accumulation of conflicts, the *forum dominale* was summoned in

1808. The processes that took place at that time can be reconstructed from indirect sources, as the case did not reach the Locumtenential Council (there are no documents from this year). Yet this lawsuit would have been the last attempt and opportunity for local German residents to seek legal redress for their problems. The local peasantry lost its confidence in the legal and administrative forums, considering these institutions neither credible nor cooperative. This process provided a fertile ground for violence: the people of Čelarevo perceived that what followed was “*so it had to happen*” (“*und so sollte es kommen*”).

Of particular interest is Chapter 7 of the volume, which is an important part of Krauss’s logical system. Through texts introducing some of the characters in the case (*Akteure*), Krauss further condenses the description, by which we learn more and more about the various links in the murder. The depth of the characters is of course influenced by the available sources, but the author tried to map the careers and temperaments of as many characters as possible. The biography of Joseph Ferger, named as the main culprit, is also needed to model the assassination. In addition to Ferger’s starting a family and his farming practices, Krauss takes into consideration the logic of the conflicts against the landlord. The question also arises as to whether the mayors of the village (judges, jurors) may have manipulated Ferger’s hatred of Márffy, playing on his sense of justice and dissatisfaction. At his interrogation, Ferger admitted that the conspiracy had taken place in his house, he had planned the murder, he had made the black material that the perpetrators had put on their faces, he had persuaded the others on taking a vow of silence (*juramentum taciturnitatis*), he had thrown the weapon into the Danube. He indicated that he felt a special hatred against the landlord.

As each of the perpetrators had a family, the question arises: what were the consequences of the actions of the heads of families on their environment? Krauss tried to carefully map the further fate and struggle of the family members, providing excellent contributions for studying the formation of patchwork or stepfamilies, for example. Ferger and his wife, Maria Anna Wunderlich, had three children. Unable to

cultivate her estate alone after her husband’s execution, she remarried to Johann Eisemann, nine years younger than her. They had two children (1817, 1820), but her second husband died in 1821 at the age of twenty-five. Her difficult situation forced the woman to remarry, and in 1825 she married the forty-three-year-old Peter Milbli, who had eleven children from his first marriage (seven of whom were still alive in 1825). They had two children of their own, but Milbli died in 1829. In 1832 he married for the fourth time, Christian Matheis (1785–1855), who at that time still had four children from his first marriage. The woman eventually survived her last husband for five years.

The volume is founded on a very wide source base. The author conducted most of his research in the Archives of the Chancellery and in the Archives of the Locumtenential Council (both kept by the Hungarian National Archives) as well as in the Archive of Vojvodina. Further research was carried out in Austria (Finanz- und Hofkammerarchiv), Croatia (Drzavni Arhiv u Osijeku), Germany (Staatsarchiv Sigmaringen and Archiv des IdGL), Serbia (Istorijski Arhiv Sombor) and other Hungarian collections (MNL Baranya County Archives, Kalocsa Archdiocesan Archives). The publication is decorated with a number of maps designed by the author.

The present volume is therefore a microhistory of violence. The thematization of violence, the methods applied, as well as the approaches and perspectives make the work of Karl-Peter Krauss outstanding. The author shed light on this seemingly simple yet very complex sequence of events through the interaction of institutions and individuals. Several such micro-level, but at the same time contextualized analyses of the history of the immigrant Germans, moreover, of the ethnic and social relations of the 18–19th century would be needed in order to see the social contexts of the era in a more nuanced way.

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