English summaries

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Histoire des Alpes = Storia delle Alpi = Geschichte der Alpen**

Band (Jahr): **23 (2018)**

PDF erstellt am: **13.07.2024**

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Katharina Winckler, Borders in a borderless era? Early-mediaeval Seigniories in the Alps

Since Augustus, the Alps were under the rule of one empire: the Roman one. Nevertheless, the mountains were separated by provincial borders. These borders were important mainly for the Roman administration, which collected internal tariffs there. In the early Middle Ages these boundaries between the provinces turned into different types of boundaries. Some Roman borders and customs offices had an afterlife up until the early Carolingian times and later. The early medieval Alps feature three kinds of borders: Border points that were rigorously fortified and controlled, border lines that were mainly used for the order of space and rule, and finally border areas, which sometimes were quite independent of the larger realms and, even after the conquest, had a special administration and rule.

Oliver Landolt, Border disputes in Alpine and pre-Alpine regions in the Longue Durée. The example of Canton Schwyz

The paper examines the border disputes affecting the Alpine and pre-Alpine Canton of Schwyz in the so-called "longue durée" (late Middle Ages to the present day). Known as Marchenstreit, this territorial conflict between the Benedictine Abbey of Einsiedeln and the valley community of Schwyz lasted, to a greater or lesser degree, hundreds of years, until the mid-14th century. One reason for making Schwyz a communal organised country ("Land") can be seen in these border clashes. During the subsequent territorial expansion, Schwyz engaged in different disputes with the cantons of Lucerne, Zug, Zurich, Glarus, and Uri; as well as in domestic disagreements with private owners, corporations and other economic actors over land ownership. Alpine communities continue to be beset by the geological problem of permanent ground shifts, unlikely to disappear any time soon.

Thomas Horst, Alpine Borders in early-modern Manuscript Maps

Early-modern knowledge of territorial boundaries in the Alpine border area between Old Bavaria, Salzburg and Tyrol, but also in South Tyrol, is recorded not only in written form, but also in a new medium: the so-called Legal or Border Maps. These special administrative maps were often created as visualisations to accompany court and administrative records preserved in local archives. They were drawn in various formats, and are of mixed artistic quality, ranging from rough sketch-maps to attractive coloured landscape paintings. Early-modern manuscript maps give impressive representations of the spatial environment of the Alpine region and were used as functional political instruments and as a means of reinforcing claims to overlordship. Without any doubt they are expressions of the changing spatial awareness of a bygone era.

Anne Montenach, In the shadow of the State. Mountains, borders and smuggling in the Western Alps in the 18ᵗʰ century

This article examines the theme of Alpine borders through a review of the practice of smuggling in the Dauphiné Alps in the 18ᵗʰ century. In a cross-border area centred on the Dauphiné, but at the heart of European trade, smuggling is endemic: ascribable as much to a survival strategy as to accepted merchant practices, or to wars between States. A paradoxical place, the frontier is as much a barrier as it is a passage, depending on the different scenarios enacted along its length: a resource, a porous fence, a key place for affirming state power, and an opportunity to circumvent state authority. At a time when nation-states were seeking to affirm their presence, the frontier between Dauphiné and Piedmont is an ideal observatory for studying and capturing the territorial, economic, and social dynamics generated by the very presence of frontiers.

Benjamin Duinat, Transgressions, permeability, and construction of the border. Bandits, deserters, and priests across the Basque Pyrenees (1789–1802)

In the context of the revolutionary decade, Pyrenean Basque-speaking border areas located between France and Spain are the theatre of many upheavals: it is a decisive time for the formation of a border area in the immediate neighbourhood. With bandits taking advantage of separate jurisdictions to perpetrate their crimes with impunity; with soldiers seeking to avoid their military obligations

or, again, reluctant priests in exile seeking to circumvent the Civil Constitution of the Clergy: transgressing the border paradoxically amounts to reinforcing the powerful hold and influence of the State over the contiguous territories that it separates and unites at the same time.

Elie-Benjamin Loyer, The advent of a modern border plan between France and Italy (1860–1939)

Borders, a spatial object, are also a social construct and an institution, which make sense within a whole network of agents, from States to local users. From the 1860s to immediately after World War I, the legal function of the French-Italian Alpine border (strategically less important to France) prevailed over that of partitioning local people's living space. Hence, at least until the late 1920s, when borders gradually closed under growing diplomatic tensions between France and Fascist Italy, there was really no 'borderscape' (C. Brambilla). A clearer boundary demarcation was introduced; then border areas became gradually militarised and under increasingly stringent police surveillance. Toward the end of the 1930s, the concept of border changed again. Characterized by a primarily legal definition, it implied an expansion of the scope of the border, becoming the "non- Euclidean" reality described by Gribaudi.

Gérald Sawicki, The French intelligence services on the Franco-German border of the Vosges (1871–1914)

In 1871, the Treaty of Frankfurt established a new Franco-German border, most of which followed the ridges of the Vosges mountain range from the summit of Donon to the Ballon d'Alsace. Learning lessons from the war of 1870 and its defeat, France organized major military and police intelligence services against the German Empire. Each frontier army corps was equipped with a military intelligence service, as in Epinal, Remiremont or Belfort; and each major railway station was provided with special police stations specialized in espionage and counterintelligence. In this respect, the border of the Vosges played a significant role and even inspired some ground-breaking aspects. It was also the scene of a real secret war between the two countries during this period of armed peace.

Stefano Morosini, The borders necessary to Italy.
The debate between democratic and nationalist geography
in World War I Italy

This paper analyses the debate that developed in Italy during the First World War period, over changes to the northern border. Two contrasting views were put forward and discussed – sometimes harshly. The first view recommended that the Italian Northern territory be enlarged to include only the Trentino region, defining the boundary at the Salorno defile based on linguistic criteria. The second point of view argued for establishing the new border at the Brenner Pass, including the Southern Tyrol region with its German- and Ladin-speaking populations. Moreover, it claimed, Italy was entitled to include South Tyrol for historical reasons, the Alpine area having been colonised by the Romans; and for military motives, too, because the border along the Brenner Pass would make it easier to ward off any future incursions by Austria and Germany; and, finally, for geographical reasons, based on the doctrine of the natural border, whereby the border would be set along the Adriatic / Danube watershed.

Matija Zorn, Peter Mikša, The Rapallo Border after the First World
War between Italy and Yugoslavia

On 12 November 1920, in Rapallo (Italy) the Kingdom of Italy and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes signed a Treaty, defining the border between the two countries after World War I (Italy obtaining a third of Slovenian ethnic territory). The newly settled border was officially marked with over 5000 boundary stones (few remain). Despite the treaty, both sides began fortifying the border should any disputes arise in future. After 1931, Italy built a larger number of forts and barracks linking into the so-called Alpine Wall. On the Yugoslav side, major fortification started in 1935, its remnants still visible today. After World War II, this border moved to the west, much closer to the western Slovenian ethnic border. Besides material remains, the border was engraved in Slovenian regional identity, showing that a short-lived border can be impressed in the memory of the local community much longer than it actually stood.

Bianca Hoenig, The dispute over the Javorina. The Polish-Czechoslovak border in the Tatras: definition or blurring?

This paper deals with the Polish-Czechoslovak dispute over a section of their common border in the Tatra Mountains, the highest mountain range in the Carpathians. The conflict between the two new neighbouring states in the years after the First World War reveals a remarkable spectrum of border concepts. These ranged from the neat separation of two nation-state territories by a clear-cut demarcation line to the idea of a zone of mutual understanding by means of a joint national park. All these perceptions of a boundary in the Javorina region were related to the fact that it is an alpine area. Hence, the paper discusses the different border concepts and examines the role of mountains in the territorial organization of this border region.

Jon Mathieu, 'Pass States' versus 'natural frontiers'. Haushofer's political geography of the Alps (1928)

Albrecht Haushofer's *Pass-Staaten in den Alpen* (Berlin, 1928) is the most elaborate study of 'Pass States', an idea discussed by German geographers and historians since the late 19th century. The idea can be considered a counter model to the older Enlightenment idea of 'natural frontiers'. What is decisive for national frontiers in the Alps? Should they depend on watersheds and mountain ranges, or on transalpine territories and their traffic functions? The article looks at the ways in which the political geographer deconstructs the idea of 'natural frontiers' and develops the alternative model of the 'Pass States'. Of particular interest is the application of the model to newly divided Tyrol, the survey's ideological focus. The article then presents aspects of Albrecht's personal life: first in the footsteps of his father (the famous geopolitician, Karl Haushofer); later engaged with Nazi foreign policy; finally, discredited by the regime and murdered by an SS-commando at the very end of World War II.

Christof Aichner, Borders and border demarcation in Anton Kerner von Marilaun's botanical work (1831–1898)

The paper addresses the question of botanical demarcations and natural borders of the Austrian Alps in the work of Anton Kerner von Marilaun. The main sources for this paper are Kerner's scientific studies and popular writings on the flora of Austria-Hungary and the Alpine flora. Particular attention is paid to

Kerner's overview of the flora in what is known as Kronprinzenwerk, i. e. the Crown Prince's Work. While the first part of the paper shows different botanical demarcations and discusses their different defining criteria, the second part examines the representation of botanical demarcations and the interaction between scientific/botanical concepts and socio-political ideas in the Habsburg monarchy. The final part investigates the impact of those boundaries at various levels.

Alexandre Elsig, When the border is polluted: protecting the waters of Lake Geneva between France and Switzerland (1950s–1980s)

Pollutants are apt to cross national frontiers and consequently push several nation states to redefine the sovereignty of their health policy in the post-war period. This study questions the transboundary management of the pollution of Lake Geneva, situated between France and Switzerland. In 1962, the International Commission for the Protection of the Water Lake Geneva (CIPEL in French) was created. CIPEL is an example of a new, technocratic environmentalism designed to tackle the damage caused by "progress". This article shows how the official discourse on the need to go beyond borders in order to manage the pollution of the Lake contrasted with nation-oriented practices, which remained confined to the expert sphere, as shown by the disputes over the management of phosphates and mercury.

Romed Aschwanden, "Making a stand in the Alps".
Transnational dimensions in the resistance against the traffic transit across the Alps in the 1990s

The liberalisation of the transport sector within the European Single Market project prompted a rapid surge in transalpine transport traffic. Against this backdrop, local Alpine Conservation Movements joined forces during the 1990s and formed a transnational movement to protect the Alps from the negative effects of traffic. This paper analyses the 'Initiative Transport Europe' as a case study of that transnational movement-organisation. It argues that the 'ecologisation' and 'Europeanisation' of the Alps significantly promoted a transnational Alpine Conservation Movement by emphasising the unity of natural landscape and structural conditions across the Alps – despite national borders. In this process, the European Union became the container in and towards which the self-proclaimed representatives of the 'European Region Alps' had to move.