

Zitierhinweis

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lytische Tiefenschärfe und Quellendichte – Kennzeichen der Behandlung der 1950er und 1960er – nehmen in dem Maße ab, in dem die Studie an die Gegenwart heranführt.

Die weitreichenden Veränderungen des gesamteuropäischen Integrationssystems und eine zwischen Vertiefung und Erweiterung, zwischen Krisen und Fortschritten sich permanent wandelnde EU, spiegeln sich auch in den nationalen und transnationalen Handlungsbedingungen der Gewerkschaften wider. Für eine zeitgeschichtliche Forschung zum Thema „Gewerkschaften und europäische Integration“, die auch die je nationalen Gewerkschaftsentwicklungen und die zwischengewerkschaftlichen und überstaatlichen Beziehungen detailliert einfängt (wie dies der Studie für die Anfangsdekaden der europäischen Integration gelingt), öffnen sich weite Felder, die einer Bearbeitung harren – dann auch unter verstärkter Hinzuziehung von theoretischen Erkenntnissen der politikwissenschaftlichen EU-Integrationsforschung.

Fulda

HANS-WOLFGANG PLATZER

KAI-HENRIK GÜNTHER: *Sizilianer, Flamen, Eidgenossen. Regionale Kommunen und das soziale Wissen um kommunale Conjuratio im Spätmittelalter* (Quellen und Forschungen zur Agrargeschichte 57). Lucius & Lucius, Stuttgart 2013, 339 S., 54,00 €.

In his dissertation Kai-Henrik Günther compares the evolution of three communal movements in Sicily, in the county of Flanders and in what was to become – as a result of the communal movement – the Swiss confederacy, stretching in a time span from ca. 1282 to the second half of the 14th century. Although Max Weber and his vision on the medieval urban *conjuratio* as a ‘herrschaftsfremde Charisma’ is clearly a source of inspiration for this work, still active scholars as Otto-Gerhard Oexle and Peter Blöckle and their ideas on the medieval *conjuratio* and on ‘Kommunalismus’ as a characteristic element of medieval society are clearly very present in this book. Two elements do make it a very useful complement to Oexle’s and Blöckle’s work. Firstly, the regional approach, overcoming the traditional opposition between urban and agrarian history, allow Günther to present the regional commune as the highest evolutionary stadium of the medieval communal *conjuratio*. Secondly, the emphasis put on the participants and stake-holders of the communal movements under scrutiny. Not the system as such, nor its origins and functioning, but the motivation and the collective identities the participants in these movements experienced are central to Günther’s approach. That the regional commune lasted only some months (as in Sicily), some years (as in the Flemish case) or almost a century (as in the Swiss case) is in this respect of minor importance: what counts is the development of a new set of political representations and of societal norms that in their turn become an element of a growing political ‘modernity’.

In several chapters Günther develops his thesis. After having told the factual stories of the rebellions and uprisings that were the ground on which the communes developed, he analyses the social composition of each of the movements, the goals the participants were aiming at, the organisation of the communes and finally the collective identities the actors have derived from their engagement in their respective communes. In each chapter Sicily, Flanders and the Swiss case are treated in this same order, before a comparative conclusion focusing on each element draws arguments from the three movements that are finally combined in a global synthetic conclusion. In that conclusion he refers of course to the more theoretical outlines, in the footsteps of Oexle and Blöckle that were prominent in the introduction. Essential is the finding that in all three cases a situation of social disorganisation and a feeling that the traditional powers that were had lost their legitimacy, was to give birth to a regional communal action. The communal exercise of power that resulted from these movements was not a medieval Republic but rather a form of political organisation, based on the daily praxis of the exercise of power and on a system of representative institutions that in its turn was based on corporative solidarities. The result was a new collective identity organised as an anti-

dote to traditional princely power, based on a social knowledge that became part of a bigger tradition of political movements and organisations focusing on essential values such as freedom and equality. Günther however, does not consider these regional communal movements as mere forerunners of the kind of liberal movements that became prominent in the course of the (late) 18th and 19th centuries. The social knowledge the communal movement accumulated figures in the long run though as an element in the coming about of a certain kind of political modernity and the gradual building of a canon of norms and values and above all political practices leading up to modern society.

The thesis sounds promising and may be accepted as such based on these three examples. Its convincing power lays to a large extent with the resolute comparative approach and is grounded in the meticulous deep analysis of both original sources and of a most impressive amount of secondary literature, and that in an equally impressive number of languages. For the case I can judge in detail (the county of Flanders) almost nothing seems to have escaped the author's eyes and what is even more, he arrives to deconstruct the narratives history and politics have woven during the 19th and 20th centuries from a Flemish nationalist point of view. Concerning Sicily the monograph by Fabrizio Titone on the *Governments of the Universitates. Urban communities of Sicily in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries* (Turnhout 2009) may have reinforced the argument, offering a vision on the communal movements seen from the period following the one under scrutiny. If I have one global remark it may be the following: the study should have invested more in the geographic basis of the movements. In that respect, the absence of any map is very revealing! Questions such as: on what surface did the movements deploy their action, what were the effects on the possible communication, how was the collective memory organised and distributed over such diverse landscapes such as the whole of Sicily, the in comparison tiny county of Flanders and the not so easily accessible Swiss mountains? What was the nature and density of the urban network in these three very different parts of Europe? These questions may sound basic, but they come to mind as the book is most appealing and rich in its questions and in the possible answers it points at.

Ghent

MARC BOONE

WOLFGANG HESSE: *Körper und Zeichen. Arbeiterfotografien aus Dohna, Heidenau und Johanngeorgenstadt 1932/33* (Bausteine aus dem Institut für Sächsische Geschichte und Volkskunde 24). Thelem, Dresden 2012, 269 S. (zahlr. sw-Abb.), 29,80 €.

Ausgangspunkt der vorliegenden Untersuchung sind Fotografien des Amateurs Kurt Burghardt (1910–1990) aus Dohna bei Dresden, die dieser 1933 auf dem Dachboden seines Wohnhauses verborgen hatte und die Ende 2010 bei Renovierungsarbeiten entdeckt wurden. Sie zeigen Ereignisse (Demonstrationen, Aufmärsche und Aufnahmen aus dem familiären Umfeld) in Dohna, Heidenau und Pirna kurz vor der Machtergreifung der NSDAP. Die Analyse stellt diese Dokumente der Selbsteifer der Arbeiterbewegung den Totenbildern kommunistischer Märtyrer in Johanngeorgenstadt gegenüber und dechiffriert den ihnen eingeschriebenen Zeichencode. In ihrem Aussagegehalt lesbar geworden, werden sie zu mentalitäts- und zeitgeschichtlichen Dokumenten.

Die Arbeit entstand im Rahmen intensiver Forschungen des Autors zur Geschichte der Arbeiterfotografie in der Weimarer Zeit – „Das Auge des Arbeiters. Untersuchungen zur Arbeiterfotografie der Weimarer Republik am Beispiel Sachsen“ –, seit 2009 gefördert durch die Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft und angesiedelt am Institut für Sächsische Geschichte und Volkskunde Dresden. Diese volkskundlich ausgerichtete fotohistorische Rekonstruktion des Blicks von unten auf den proletarischen Alltag leistet einen wichtigen Beitrag zu einer Kulturgeschichte der Körper und der Bilder, des Sehens und Zeigens im Zeitalter der Medienmoderne im ersten Drittel des 20. Jh.s. Im Ergebnis dieser Forschungen wurden über 5.000 Aufnahmen proletarischer Amateurfotografen in sächsischen Archiven und Museen gesichtet und erschlossen (vgl. www.arbeiterfotografie-sachsen.de).