

Sašo Jerše, Faith, hope and the question of government. The „imaginaires politiques“ in Inner Austria in the age of religious and political conflicts (p. 352–378)

In the second half of the 16th and at the beginning of the 17th century, the Inner-Austrian territories of Styria, Carinthia and Carniola were experiencing the severe hardship of a conflict between the Habsburg lords and the territorial nobility. The starting point of the conflict was of a confessional character, since the Habsburg lords archduke Karl II (1564–1590) and archduke Ferdinand II (1595/96–1637) were closely attached to Catholicism, whereas the estates opted for the most part for the *Confessio Augustana*. Yet the confessional issue was only one dimension of the conflict. Out of it arose a fundamental question about the responsibility of political actors and indeed individuals in the field of religion and politics. Who is accountable to whom in political and religious terms, and on what grounds? In contrast to the common stance of the historiography that seeks the answer to this question in the allegedly legal competences of the lords and the supposedly legal accountability of the estates, this study puts forward the thesis that at the very core of the conflict were the antagonistic „imaginaires politiques“, i. e. the sacralised patriarchal concept of politics on the one hand, by which the Habsburg princes were driven, and the *foedus duplex* concept produced by the protestant nobility and regarded as the concept of the estates, on the other. Even though the two concepts were based in large part upon the same premises – the Bible, the history of the lands, their traditions and their laws – they eventually became fundamentally different and were irreconcilably opposed to each other in what they were trying to accomplish: legitimate and righteous government and indeed a world, agreeable to God.

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