

Dissertation project of Julia Schwarz, M. A. (University of Berne):

State-building and Foreign Relations: Networks, Perceptions and Communicative Practices. France and the Bavarian Court in the Second Half of the 17th Century

The Bavarian court under elector Ferdinand Maria (1651–1679) provides a very interesting example for the analysis of transnational networks between France and the Holy Roman Empire. After intensified contact with France during the negotiations for the Peace of Westphalia, a faction in favor of Habsburg achieved predominance after the death of elector Maximilian of Bavaria in 1651. In the 1650s the most important member of this faction surrounding electoral princess Maria Anna from the Habsburg dynasty was *Hofmarschall* Graf Maximilian Kurtz. He came from an Austrian dynasty and his brother Ferdinand was vice chancellor of the Holy Roman Empire at the same time. Therefore, a policy favoring Habsburg was pursued to a great extent through blood relations, but also through the permanent diplomatic mission of the Court of Vienna established in 1656. After *Hofmarschall* Kurtz's death, a French-Savoyan faction gained dominant influence. Through Hermann Egon von Fürstenberg, the successor of Kurtz as *Hofmarschall*, Bavaria was then integrated in the power structure of the brothers Franz und Wilhelm von Fürstenberg (see sub-project A). One very important part of the French network was electoral princess Henriette Adelaïde from Savoy, who tried to use her French connections to pursue the dynastic interests of her family in Northern Italy against the pro-Habsburg Gonzaga family. The cooperation culminated in the conclusion of a contract in 1670 which provided for a Bavarian-French alliance for the next election of the emperor. This cooperation was strengthened in 1679 by a marriage alliance. The special position of Bavaria was also reflected in the appointment of the Duc de Vitry as ambassador to the Court of Munich because with him, Bavaria was the only court in the entire Holy Roman Empire to have a high nobility envoy.

Recent research concerning Bavaria's foreign relations have concentrated on the 18th century and therefore neglected the political system under Ferdinand Maria, which was largely characterized by transnational networks. Former research emphasizes that in the case of Bavaria there are different levels of interdependence which interfere with each other. Particularly important in this context are electoral princess Henriette Adelaïde's dynastic ties with Savoy-Piedmont and therefore indirectly with the French Court. In her intensive correspondence with French and Savoyan diplomats, Henriette Adelaïde vehemently supported Savoyan interests and even encouraged the service of Savoyan noblemen at the court in Munich. This "Piemontese" faction seems to have had enormous influence on young elector Max Emanuel even after the deaths of Henriette Adelaïde and Ferdinand Maria. The marriage between a daughter of Turennes and the elector's illustrates a noble family's network of relations in addition to the French network.

The project will analyze the relations between France and the Bavarian Court with regard to the development of intergovernmental structures and practices and will examine the functionality and relevance of personal networks in the foreign relations of the Holy Roman Empire. In this context, the actors' perceptions of possible interactions play a decisive role. The French missions offer interesting information from the perspective of symbolic communication because of the unsettled position of the French King in the Holy Roman Empire. On the one hand, Louis XIV. claimed the position of a

protector of the estates of the Empire and guarantor of the Peace of Westphalia and sent permanent envoys to the Reichstag, the imperial assembly and the election day of Frankfurt in 1657/58. On the other hand, his attempts to gain the membership of the estates of the empire failed. The special but not absolutely clear role of the crown forced the French missions to a special degree to communicate rank and status of their king in symbolic ways.

The French interdependent relations will be analyzed as the expression of a specific (foreign) political culture, and the works of diplomatic brokers will be compared to internal French patronage networks and the specific general conditions of the Holy Roman Empire. Furthermore, the project will examine the repercussions of numerous actors' multifaceted external networks on the practice of the Bavarian diplomacy. Moreover, the question concerning the development of standards regarding networks with foreign sovereigns is central. To what extent were such ties discussed or even criminalized as form of betrayal and corruption? In this context, particular focus will be placed on the use of codes, conceptions of the Holy Roman Empire and political stereotypes of the enemy. Moreover, the project will examine existing similarities, differences and interdependencies between the normative discourses used in the journalism of the Empire and the rhetorics used by the political actors at the level of the Empire. Raising the question concerning the significance of "patriotic" discourses, the project contributes to the debates about statehood and self-identification of the Holy Roman Empire.

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