

Abstracts and keywords

Pier Paolo Alfei, *La Royal Canadian Mounted Police e il consolidamento della sovranità canadese nell'Artico durante gli anni Venti*

The research examines the role played by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in consolidating Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic, with a focus on the north-eastern region between 1920 and 1926. Firstly, the article provides a historical overview of the Mounted Police, from its establishment in 1873 to the support it provided during the first two decades of the 20th century to the expeditions of Albert Peter Low, Joseph-Elzéar Bernier and Vilhjalmur Stefansson, which aimed to formally claim the entire Canadian Arctic Archipelago. Secondly, starting from an analysis of the reports written by two Mounted Police commissioners, Aylesworth Bowen Perry (1900-1922) and Cortlandt Starnes (1922-1931), the article analyses how, in an anti-Danish perspective, the RCMP consolidated its control of the eastern Arctic district between 1920 and 1926: in particular, through land and sea patrols and the creation of six RCMP detachments between Hudson Strait and Ellesmere Island (Port Burwell, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Dundas Harbour, Craig Harbour, Bache Peninsula). Thirdly, the article focuses on the role played by the Mounted Police in consolidating Canadian sovereignty in the eastern Arctic district through the enforcement of Canadian laws and the administration of justice among the Inuit, with a focus on Pond Inlet trial (1923).

Keywords: Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Artico; sovranità; Inuit; isola di Baffin; isola di Ellesmere

Stefano Tosoni, *Il federalismo di Vienna: concessioni autonomistiche e progetti di riforma nella Cisleitania tardo-asburgica*

The Austro-Hungarian Empire has long been interpreted by historiography as a state incapable of providing a lasting response to the *Nationalitätenfrage*, in an approach that has often emphasized its dynamics of crisis and dissolution. Over the past decades, however, scholarship has increasingly highlighted the complexity of the political and institutional strategies through which the Monarchy sought to govern its ethnic and linguistic plurality. Against this background, this article proposes to interpret these strategies through the heuristic category of “federalism through concessions,” understood as a mode of governance based on the selective granting of administrative, linguistic, educational, electoral, and representative autonomies to specific territories or national groups, without any corresponding comprehensive reform of the constitutional structure. The analysis examines the development of this practice in Cisleithania between 1871 and 1914, focusing first on the main measures of autonomy adopted in the aftermath

of the 1867 *Ausgleich*, and subsequently on the most significant cases of the final period of the Monarchy: the Moravian Compromise, the electoral reform of 1907, and the projects for institutional reorganization developed in circles close to Archduke Franz Ferdinand. The article argues that federalism through concessions constituted a stable mode of managing national plurality, capable, in certain contexts, of fostering forms of political integration and institutional stabilization, while at the same time generating new asymmetries among the various nationalities of the Monarchy. It was precisely this tension between the system's capacity for adaptation and the absence of a comprehensive state reform that constituted one of the principal structural limitations of the Cisleithanian political system. From this perspective, the reform projects of the Monarchy's final decade are not interpreted as a break with the preceding practice of concessions, but rather as an attempt to overcome its limitations through a broader reorganization of the imperial order—an effort whose implementation was brought to an end by the events of 1914.

Keywords: Austro-Hungarian Empire; Cisleithania; autonomist concessions and federal reforms; national question; Taaffe Ministry; Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Este.

Eva Christina Müller-Praefcke, *Hans-Gert Pöttering, the EPP Group and the European Parliament's Role in Eastern Enlargement*

This article examines how the European Parliament, despite its limited formal competences, emerged as an increasingly influential political actor during the Eastern enlargement of the European Union in the 1990s and early 2000s. It argues that this development cannot be explained by institutional change alone but resulted from the interaction between institutional opportunities created by the end of the Cold War, the transnational organisation of the European People's Party (EPP), and the leadership of key parliamentary actors. The analysis distinguishes between three interconnected levels: the European Parliament as an institution, the EPP Group as a leading force behind parliamentary initiatives on enlargement, and Hans-Gert Pöttering as a political actor whose career illustrates the relationship between parliamentary politics, party organisation and individual leadership. Drawing on parliamentary debates and resolutions, archival sources and EPP documentation, the article shows how coalition-building, parliamentary diplomacy and transnational party cooperation enabled the Parliament to strengthen its political role throughout the accession process. It also argues that the Parliament's normative commitment to enlargement was closely intertwined with strategic political, security and economic considerations. By reassessing the relationship between parliamentary politics, transnational party organisation and individual leadership, the article contributes to a more nuanced understanding of the European Parliament's growing political influence during one of the most significant phases of European integration.

Keywords: European Parliament, Eastern Enlargement, European People's Party (EPP), Hans-Gert Pöttering, Parliamentary Diplomacy, Transnational Party Cooperation

Christian Rossi, *Gli Stati Uniti e la Santa Sede, l'apertura delle relazioni diplomatiche nel 1984*

In 1984, after more than a century, the United States and the Holy See decided to re-establish diplomatic relations, an event that represents a relatively recent development in the history of international relations. After nearly two centuries of informal and often ambiguous relations, the United States and the Holy See achieved full normalization of their relations at a crucial moment, marked by the persistence of the Cold War and the bipolar confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union. The establishment of diplomatic relations thus took place within a global context characterized by profound ideological and strategic tensions, in which the international role of the Holy See, particularly under the pontificate of John Paul II, was becoming increasingly significant. The establishment of formal diplomatic relations was arguably facilitated by the earlier resumption of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the United Kingdom in 1982, although the latter was based on different historical and political premises. This development confirms that, from the early 1980s onward, the Vatican became an increasingly central interlocutor in the diplomatic dynamics of the Western world, contributing to the redefinition of political balances and strategies within the context of the Cold War.

Keywords: Holy See; diplomatic relations; United States.