

of imperial territories. The chapter on Nassau-Siegen (chapter 6) shows how intervening in even relatively small territories could create difficulties. While essentially all parties agreed that intervention was necessary to stop a violent and tyrannical ruler, jurisdictional jealousies and competing goals among the interested parties complicated the process. Finally, the chapter on Mecklenburg-Schwerin (chapter 7) displays how difficult intervention could be when the subject was a larger, strategically located territory. The Habsburgs negotiated continuously with the Elector of Hanover, the king of Brandenburg-Prussia, and others in order to intervene against a disastrous duke.

A thread running throughout *Intervention and State Sovereignty* is the book's participation in the ongoing deconstruction of the Westphalian myth. Scholars traditionally argued that the peace originated modern conceptions of state sovereignty and noninterference, yet, as Milton notes, "Westphalia had little to do with sovereignty" (6) and imperial estates already conceived of noninterference as a right. Far from making intervention more difficult, the Peace of Westphalia opened new opportunities for it through its protection of subjects' confessional rights and the creation of guarantor powers.

There are some issues here. The case studies are generally written in chronological fashion, and with each having so many moving parts in the already-complicated Holy Roman Empire, main points sometimes get lost in the details. This difficulty may be unavoidable given the book's nuanced arguments. There are also quite a few prose errors, mostly missing words and minor misspellings. That said, *Intervention and State Sovereignty* is a well-researched book offering an important addition to scholarship on the Holy Roman Empire's institutions, sovereignty, political history, and diplomatic history.

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Combating the Hydra: Violence and Resistance in the Habsburg Empire, 1500-1900

By Stephan Steiner. West Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University Press, 2023. Pp. xxiv + 252. Paperback \$49.99. ISBN: 978-1612498058.

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Stephan Steiner begins his book with a lament, "Violence has turned out to be a hydra that seems less tamable the more complex the society" (xiv). Earlier in his career, Steiner verified this sad truth via studies of genocide in modern Europe and Africa. Now, he has focused his highly trained lens on the early modern period, resulting in a series of vivid, thought-provoking, and theoretically sophisticated studies of violence in the Habsburg Empire. *Combating the Hydra* includes ten such studies – seven previously published articles, one previously presented paper, and two new pieces – that all revolve around the concept of state violence in the Habsburg Empire from the sixteenth through the eighteenth century. The book ends with a published conversation between Steiner and Carlo Ginzburg about methodology, a conversation that does not seem misplaced considering Steiner's extensive use of microhistory. Overall, the eleven chapters of *Combating the Hydra* hold together well and present a fascinating, dark image of an emerging empire brutalizing its population.

The book begins with three chapters that consider the use of deportation in the Habsburg Empire. In chapter 1, Steiner situates the empire's use of deportation within the broader context of European forced migration schemes, demonstrating that even without overseas colonies, the Habsburgs still participated in Europe's "deportation frenzy" (9). Chapter 2 investigates the *Temesvarer Wasserschub*, a biannual deportation of unwanted people from Vienna via riverboat to the Banat of Timișoara in the mid-eighteenth century. Steiner captures the cruelty of the *Wasserschub* via statistical and anecdotal evidence. Chapter 3 offers an intellectual history of deportation and deportation schemes from the *Wasserschub* to World War I. Steiner proves that deportation was an early modern phenomenon, and in so doing, he corrects a stubborn misconception amongst historians and social theorists that forced relocation in the early modern era was fundamentally dissimilar from forced relocation in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries (Seyla Benhabib, "Disaggregation of Citizenship Rights," 2005) (Peter Gatrell, *The Making of the Modern Refugee*, 2013). Historians have begun to attack this epochal division (Philipp Ther, *The Outsiders*, 2019) (Maximilian Scholz, *Strange Brethren*, 2022), and Steiner provides an especially powerful reappraisal by investigating eighteenth-century deportation and tracing its influence on twentieth-century deportation.

In the second portion of the book, Steiner studies the limits of state violence in the early modern Habsburg Empire. Steiner demonstrates both methodological depth and mastery of extensive archival materials. In chapter 4, he illuminates the nuances of Protestant resistance to Habsburg confessional conformity while paying close attention to the "variety of religious regimes" (48) at work in the many Habsburg lands. In chapter 5, Steiner uses letters from Protestant farmers who were forcibly deported to Transylvania to investigate the emotional impact of such displacement, paying special attention to the experience of women. Chapter 6 studies the coexistence of Protestants and Catholics in Vienna, demonstrating that several avenues for exchange and cooperation existed, though mostly for the learned.

Steiner uses the third portion of his book to examine the "lived experiences of Gypsies in the Habsburg empire" (xviii). Historians prone to feelings of inadequacy should avoid this section as Steiner dazzles the reader with his mastery of the archives, languages, and literatures of eastern European countries that once composed the Habsburg Empire. In chapter 7, he follows Ginzburg's lead and constructs a microhistory of a "Gypsy trial" to learn about the life and culture of the victims via the "many tiny items that frame, decorate, and detail" the trial (97). This is microhistory at its best and should be assigned to graduate students in history courses on methodology. Chapter 8 examines "Gypsy warning signs" (111) and finds that "Gypsies were seen and treated as internal enemies . . . as spies" (106). Steiner's ninth chapter takes four letters authored by people accused of being "Gypsies" and uses these letters to depict such people "not as passive prey but as participants in power games with quite undetermined endings" (118). Such people manipulated, exploited, and avoided legal structures. Chapter 10 is a previously unpublished study of the "process of Gypsy emancipation" in Bukovina after at the end of the eighteenth and the start of the nineteenth century. Steiner explains that emancipation in Bukovina was "remarkable because of both its early date and its effectiveness" yet "not a single standard history of the Habsburg empire remembers it" (133). Steiner uses archival sources from Ukraine and Poland to reconstruct the subtleties of slavery in Bukovina, distinguishing among "princely slaves, monastery slaves . . . and boyars' slaves" and showing how Habsburg officials had to respect these subtle distinctions in order to effectively abolish slavery (137).

Combating the Hydra ends with a cordial interview with Ginzburg, the famous advocate of microhistory. Steiner and Ginzburg discuss several fascinating dichotomies that define the historical profession: archival sources v. printed sources; historical questions v. historical answers; essays v. books; and microhistory vs. macrohistory. The conversation between the two is inspiring and reinforced this reader's assessment of *Combating the Hydra* as an ideal text for courses on historical methodology.

The great strength of Stephan Steiner's book is its deft blending of rigorous archival research and sophisticated social science theory. In addition to being an essential read for those interested in the Habsburg Empire, *Combating the Hydra* deserves a place on the bookshelves of students and scholars of migration history, European history, religious history, and historical theory, in addition to social scientists studying violence, migration, and diversity. There is much to like about this stimulating book.

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Iron and Blood: A Military History of the German-Speaking Peoples since 1500

**By Peter H. Wilson. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2022.
Pp. xlix + 913. Cloth \$39.95. ISBN: 978-0674987623.**

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No-one could ever accuse Peter Wilson of taking on only small projects. His impressive record of scholarship compiled over the last decade includes massive works on subjects such as the Holy Roman Empire and the Thirty Years' War. This one is no different in size, and the scope is equally ambitious. Wilson starts off by helpfully explaining how the work is organized and how the term "German-speaking peoples" is defined. With regards to the latter issue, Wilson carefully defines German-speaking peoples as being those populations indigenous to the various states that would later comprise the *Kaiserreich*, Austria, and Switzerland. The book is then divided into five broad sections on the basis of chronology. The first section goes from about 1500 to the end of the Thirty Years' War; the next section covers the age of absolute monarchs, revolving around Frederick the Great; then the French Revolution and Napoleon, followed by the contest between Austria and Prussia; the end of the Wars of Unification and the imperial period to the eve of war in 1914; the final section covers the World Wars and the Cold War, concluding with the aftermath of the Cold War and the early twenty-first century.

Each section is then subdivided into three subsections each. The first subsection is a narrative history of the wars of the period concerned. The second subsection deals with the manner in which war was conducted, including developments in tactics, technology, and organization. The final subsection covers the social and economic impacts on the populations in the various German states.

Given the character of Wilson's earlier works, the best part of the book is clearly the first couple of sections. Wilson expertly covers the Renaissance and the Wars of Religion with clarity and finesse. He is able to make a period marked by often bewildering complexity fairly understandable. Wilson is well-acquainted with the evolving technology and tactics of the early modern period. He also examines the manner in which the various German states paid – or failed to pay – for their military endeavors, and the impact of these developments on society more broadly.

For Wilson, the most aggressive German power in the early modern period was Austria, which willingly used force to attain its territorial objectives, often dragging the other states of the Holy Roman Empire into these conflicts. One critical aspect to Austria's success was its diplomacy, being able to secure military and, more importantly, financial aid, especially