

1.01 Izvirni znanstveni članek

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Identiteta kranjskih deželnih stanov v zgodnjem novem veku

IZVLEČEK

Razprava obravnava identiteto kranjskih deželnih stanov med začetkom 16. in sredo 18. stoletja, in sicer zlasti tiste prvine, ki so se odražale v političnem življenju. Korporacija deželnih stanov je v zgodnjem novem veku namreč predstavljala politični razred dežele, ki je bil po svoji sestavi sicer raznovrsten, vendar pa so nekatere prvine zaznamovale identiteto vseh njenih članov. Med štirimi kurijami prelatov, gospodov, vitezov in oprod ter deželnoknežjih mest je osrednjo vlogo igralo plemstvo, zastopano v drugi in tretji kuriji, zato mu je v pričujoči razpravi posvečena osrednja pozornost. Raziskave arhivskega gradiva in dveh topografskih opisov dežele iz 17. stoletja so pokazale, da je bilo za stanovsko identiteto ključnih sedem dejavnikov, ki pa vseh članov deželnih stanov niso zaznamovali v enaki meri.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

Kranjska, deželni stanovi, identiteta, plemstvo, deželna zavest, jezikovna raba

ABSTRACT

IDENTITY OF THE CARNIOLAN PROVINCIAL ESTATES IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD

The contribution describes the identity of the Carniolan Provincial Estates between the early sixteenth and mid-eighteenth centuries, particularly the elements that reflected in political life. The corporation of the Provincial Estates in the early Modern Period represented the provincial political class, whose otherwise diverse composition contained a few elements that underscored the identity of all its members. Most attention in this contribution is devoted to the nobility, represented by the second and third curiae, which played the central role among the four curiae of prelates, lords, knights and esquires, and provincial princely cities. The examination of archival materials and two topographic descriptions of the province, dating to the seventeenth century, has identified seven crucial factors in determining the identity of the Provincial Estates, which, however, did not affect all their members to an equal degree.

KEY WORDS

Carniola, Provincial Estates, identity, nobility, provincial consciousness, language use

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S U M M A R Y

Identity of the Carniolan Provincial Estates in the Early Modern Period

In the early Modern Period, the Provincial Estates constituted a diverse political community of the province that was composed of prelates, the nobility, and provincial princely cities. The contribution primarily focuses on the elements that constituted the identity of the Provincial Estates, which reflected in their political life. The theoretical framework on which the contribution drew was the study of identity conducted by Slovenian anthropologist Stane Južnič.

The research was carried out on the basis of the archival materials of the Carniolan Provincial Estates in both Slovenian and Austrian archives, and professional literature. The link between the sources and literature was provided by two topographies dating to the seventeenth century, namely: Merian's *Topographia provinciarum Austriacarum* (1649) and Valvasor's *Die Ehre dess Hertzogthums Crain (The Glory of the Duchy of Carniola)*, 1689).

During the course of research, seven elements in particular stood out, on the basis of which the members of the Provincial Estates could construct their identity. The building blocks of the (political) identity of the Carniolan Provincial Estates were as follows: 1) The province. Even though the province was a central component in constructing the identity of the nobility, it was undoubtedly an important building block that determined the identity of other members of the Estates as well. Also, the Turkish threat further reinforced the sense of provincial affiliation in the general population of the provinces rather than only the members of the political class. On the other hand, it should be noted that Carniola also included parts – annexed seigniories – that harboured a certain amount of resentment towards the centre and stressed their partial affiliation with the province. 2) Provincial law. Provincial freedoms, too, had the greatest bearing on the nobility, as the privileges arising from the provincial *Handfesten* (lit. handbindings, predecessors of modern constitutions) were primarily granted to nobles. The contribution aims to demonstrate that these privileges not only served as a legal recognition in the political discussion with the provincial prince, but also as a source of identity. 3) The House of Austria. Loyalty to the Habsburg provincial prince was crucial for all Provincial Estates and based on the traditional link, with Carniola having been a Habsburg hereditary land since as early as 1335. On the other hand, loyalty to the provincial prince was an important building block

of the Provincial Estates' honour and reputation. 4) The bulwark of Christianity. The advance of the Ottoman Empire into the European continent posed an existential threat to the province and its population, and the awareness that their land was now turning into one of the bulwarks fending off the Turkish incursion left a profound mark on the Provincial Estates. Like any other Christian land between the Adriatic Sea and Transylvania, they considered themselves the *antemurale* of Christianity and the empire. 5) The Holy Roman Empire. Carniola was the south-easternmost part of the great Central European state body. The provincial nobility identified itself with the empire, however, with the difference in using the concept "*teutsche Nation*", which designated the affiliation with the empire, and the name "*Teutschland*", which was used, at least by Valvasor, in reference to foreign places – German provinces in the empire, excluding the Habsburg hereditary lands. 6) Religion. In the period under discussion, faith played a crucial role in the daily life and, during

the "confessional period", also had a decisive influence on politics. Confessionalization in the province was initially a two-way process, in which the majority of the noblemen joined a significant number of citizens in embracing the Reformation and establishing their own provincial Protestant church, much to the dismay of the prelates and the Catholic provincial prince. After the Counter-Reformation reached its triumph during the days of Ferdinand II, the Protestant noblemen converted to Catholicism or left the province. The void that the Protestant exiles left behind was filled with new Catholic nobility. The Catholic restoration, led by the Jesuits, brought about the creation of a new Catholic identity of the Provincial Estates and the entire province. 7) Slovenian or "Carniolan", as the Provincial Estates would also call their language, was a unique feature of the province. Even though secular texts were written almost exclusively in German, the Slovenian language was, at least until the eighteenth century, the sole language used in oral communication by all Provincial Estates in the province.