

family (marriage and kinship), as well as professional-patronage networks, merged, reconciled, and intertwined with new networks based on education, professional identity, and sociality. For example, relations between students at the booming universities led to lifelong friendships and the creation of new, modern networks.

The first two parts of the volume (“Functional and Administrative Elites” and “Marriage, Kinship and Elite Formation”) reveal, beyond similarities, important differences in elite formation and networking between the Austrian and the Hungarian halves of the Habsburg Empire. The renewal of the political elites with members of middle-class and non-German origin seems to have been stronger in the Austrian half of the Habsburg monarchy due to the gradual democratization of the political system and the rise of nationalisms, as shown by the occupation of the position of district captain in Bohemia by young Czech lawyers at the beginning of the twentieth century or by the promotion of ethnic homogamy (among Slovenes) in the local elite of Ljubljana. On the contrary, in the Hungarian regions, where the lower and lower-middle classes were excluded by the electoral system until the end of World War I, cohesion, endurance, and stability of the political elite were stronger mainly due to the survival of family and kinship ties, as shown by the chapters on the multipositional elite in Kolozsvár/Cluj, the local council members in Eger, or the members of the Lower Hungarian Parliament who came from Transylvania and Eastern Hungary and were elected there.

The establishment of autonomous-independent nation states in Southeastern Europe in the second half of the nineteenth century created great opportunities for social advancement and the formation of new administrative, commercial, and political elites with a high degree of social inbreeding and strong networks within them, as the volume’s chapters on Serbia and Bulgaria show.

In the third part (“Political Elites and Networks”), the chapters highlight the existence of geographically extensive networks that reinforce the functioning of political elites and facilitate their initiatives both in the center and the periphery of Austria-Hungary, as well as beyond.

To conclude, this is a coherent, comprehensive, theoretically informed, well-researched, and indeed path-breaking volume that sheds new light on the history of European elites. It addresses not only scholars and students interested in the history of Central and South East Europe or working on the history of nobility and the middle classes, but a broader audience as well.

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Schaumann, Caroline. *Peak Pursuits: The Emergence of Mountaineering in the Nineteenth Century*

New Haven: Yale University Press, 2020. Pp. 320.

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In *Peak Pursuits*, Caroline Schaumann takes readers along on numerous fascinating journeys into the uplands to forge a new history of modern mountaineering. The book, in her own words, “presents a kind of Humboldtian history of mountaineering in the long nineteenth century (circa 1789–1914), when both scientific progress and aesthetic reverence became available through the embodied experience of the mountaineer” (4). Like the expeditions that form the core of this study, it is an admirably ambitious undertaking that traces developments over a two-hundred-year period in diverse environments spanning Europe and the Americas. By bringing new perspectives to foundational texts about mountain experiences from the mid-eighteenth century until World War I, Schaumann offers

a new, more ambiguous history of elite mountaineering culture that contains lessons for our current age of human-induced environmental change, the Anthropocene.

Schaumann's approach is informed by recent theories in material ecocriticism that permit the conceptualization of mountaineering as an intimate, physical exchange between the human and nonhuman world. These ideas build off the work of Maurice Merleau-Ponty, who rejected the Cartesian severing of subject-object and mind-body dichotomies by emphasizing the knowledge emerging from the range of human sensory experience. Mountaineering, for Schaumann, "becomes the creative act of perceiving the world with one's hands and feet" (6). *Peak Pursuits* analyzes the writings of some of the towering pioneers of mountain exploration in search of evidence of this embodied climbing experience. While Schaumann shows that the motivations driving these people into the uplands changed over time, in all cases we can see that the physical act of coming into contact with snow, rock, and ice influenced their experience.

The book is divided into three parts organized geographically and proceeding (mostly) chronologically. Part 1 follows globetrotting Alexander von Humboldt on his lesser-known climbs of the peaks of Pico de Teide in the Canary Islands—the explorer's first ascent—the Silla de Caracas in Venezuela, and several volcanoes of the Andean Cordillera. Though Humboldt has been the focus of a slew of recent scholarship, the analysis here produces some important new insights. Contrary to prevailing conceptions, Schaumann finds that, at least in the mountains, Humboldt was not a colonizer. More importantly, Schaumann proposes that Humboldt should also be understood as a mountaineer, indeed as the originator of many tropes of modern mountain writing. Thereafter, the setting shifts to the Alps, where Schaumann presents a chapter contextualizing the history of the chain and five chapters on key personalities in the emerging "Alpinism." These include Horace-Bénédict de Saussure, James David Forbes, Louis Agassiz, Albert Smith, Alfred Wills, John Tyndall, Edward Whymper, and finally Leslie Stephen. In Europe's iconic mountain chain, we witness the transition from climbing for scientific and aesthetic purposes to new goals of sport, exercise, and recreation—with a nationally tinged fixation on first ascents and conquering summits that have continued to the present. In the final part, the book returns to the Americas, following the routes of Clarence King and John Muir in the United States West.

As Schaumann acknowledges, most of these personalities have received wide scholarly attention. *Peak Pursuits*, however, places them in conversation with one another. It also provides an explanation for how mountaineering shifted over this time period, one that points out the social and technological changes of the nineteenth century that both permitted more people to get to the Alps and scale their peaks and created an audience hungry to read about mountain exploits that seemed the antidote to urban industrial modernity.

Peak Pursuits is most successful in demonstrating the profound ambivalence that accompanied all these mountaineers throughout the period under study. Whatever motivations moved these men to ascend to great heights and document their experience, their actual physical encounter prompted a range of reactions and emotions that shaped their understanding of the event. While most authors have treated artistic, scientific, and touristic forays into the peaks as separate research areas, Schaumann convincingly shows that the boundaries separating these categories were rarely so stark in reality. While it is always tricky to demonstrate the genealogy of ideas, the book provides plausible connective material, particularly in the introduction. The focus on the gendered aspects of climbing, and particularly the masculine relationships fashioned at altitude, is illuminating. Though the volume lacks maps, its rich illustrations—primarily images that appeared in the landmark mountaineering publications that form a good portion of the source material—alone are of immense scholarly value.

Readers of the Austrian History Yearbook should know that although *Peak Pursuits* presents itself in many ways as a history of the Alps and Alpinism, Austria itself does not really figure into the account. The focus is clearly on the French and above all the Swiss Alps, with Italy and Italians also appearing on the periphery. While there is no denying the importance of Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn, it is equally true that the Eastern Alps—Bavaria, Austria, and Slovenia—played a role in these developments. In general, the absence of discussions of some key terminology and

selections—mountaineering, alpinism, the periodization of the “long nineteenth century”—blunts what could have been additional analytical impacts of the book.

Due to its transnational and multidisciplinary framework, *Peak Pursuits* defies easy categorization. These same characteristics, however, mean the book should find interest in a wide range of fields. In addition to providing concise and vital histories of canonical modern mountaineering episodes, *Peak Pursuits* holds important insights for literary scholars, environmental historians and environmentalists, and historians of science alike.

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Die Protokolle des Cisleithanian Ministerrates 1867–1918. Series Editor: Anatol Schmied-Kowarzik

Band 1: 1867. 19. Februar 1867–15. Dezember 1867

Edited by Stefan Malfè. Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2018.

Band II: 1868–1871

Edited by Thomas Kletečka and Richard Lein. Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2022.

Band III: 1871–1879. Teilband 1 (25. November 1871–23. April 1872)

Edited by Klaus Koch. Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischer Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2022.

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A document collection rarely causes much excitement. But anyone who has sat in the Austrian State Archives and pried open a document file with a pair of tweezers as its burnt edges disintegrate into a pile of dust may forgive us for our enthusiasm. These three volumes under review constitute the first set of publications of the cabinet minutes of the Cisleithanian government. This ongoing series will contain the official cabinet discussions that start with the drawing up of the Cisleithanian government’s official purview under the Equilibrium Settlement (*Ausgleich* or *Kiegyezés*) between Francis Joseph and Hungary. They will eventually end with the empire’s dissolution under Kaiser Karl in October/November 1918. These minutes hitherto have been available to researchers in a limited fashion, as they were one of the collections heavily damaged by the deliberate fire that engulfed the Palace of Justice in 1927.

The books under review are part of a project that has been ongoing for more than six decades. Indeed, the minutes of the Cisleithanian cabinet are the third cabinet series to be published. The first series was titled *Die Protokolle des österreichischen Ministerrates 1848–67* and was published with an introductory volume and six *Abteilungen* that totalled twenty-eight volumes. This series