



Introduction

The period under study witnessed major changes, two of which are of interest to this research: the 1867 political compromise between Vienna and Pest and the first demographic transition. The first led to the internal division of the Habsburg Monarchy into two parts: Cisleithania/the Austrian side, and Transleithania/the Hungarian Kingdom. This translated into different political systems (e.g., two separate parliaments), different policies and different internal regulations, among others. This is also the period in which popular representation starts becoming important. At the same time, the first demographic transition led to major transformations in the social life in Central and Eastern Europe around this time in terms of mortality, fertility, and nuptiality. The aim of this analysis is to study how the changes regarding the latter manifested at the level of political elites in two non-central provinces of the monarchy (Bohemia and Transylvania) and whether they had any influence over their political activity and parliamentary representation. As the German population is the only ethnic group the two provinces had in common, the target group consists of the German elected deputies to the parliaments in Vienna and (Buda)Pest.

Research questions

1. Are there differences in terms of social background, marital aspects, and political activity between the German deputies from Bohemia and the German deputies from Transylvania?
2. Is there any influence of the marital aspects on the political activity of the deputies?

Methodology

This analysis involved several methods: creation of a database with the biographical information extracted from primary sources (e.g., parish and civil registers), as well as secondary sources (e.g., political almanacs); family reconstitution; mapping political career trajectories; codifying professions with HISCO and classifying them with HISCLASS in order to observe the social mobility; descriptive and advanced statistical analysis (Pearson coefficient correlation, Kruskal-Wallis test, Chi-squared distribution).

Population sample

The analyzed sample includes the 258 German deputies that represented Bohemia in the Imperial Council in Vienna and the 102 German (Saxon) deputies from Transylvania that were elected to the parliament in (Buda)Pest between 1867-1918.

Results

Statistics about social background and marital aspects

-> Bohemia had a higher diversity regarding the social (historical class) than Transylvania, where most of the deputies were part of the two highest socio-professional categories (Fig. 1).

-> For Bohemia, there is information for 172 deputies regarding nuptiality. Of these, about 8% never married, 6% married after 1918 (and thus their data was not integrated in the analysis), and 18% remarried. There are only 2 cases of divorce. For Transylvania, there is information for 67 deputies, out of which only 9% remarried. There is no case of divorce among the deputies and there is no known data about those who never married.

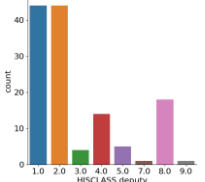
-> There is a similarity regarding age at the first marriage for the deputies in both provinces, with the mean age being around 28.

-> There is a significant distinction in terms of the age difference between the groom and the spouse in the two provinces. While for Bohemia the mean age was about 5 years, for Transylvania the mean age was 7 years. What is interesting for both Bohemia and Transylvania is that some deputies, who were single, married widows or even divorced women (two cases), some of which were much older (for example, in Bohemia there is one case where the bride was 20 years older, while for Transylvania there is no case of a deputy marrying someone older).

-> Another important parameter is the type of social mobility when compared to the father-in-law to see if the marriage could have contributed to climbing the social ladder. It appears that in both cases most of the times deputies obtained higher or similar social status as the father-in-law, although for Bohemia it cannot be overlooked that there is a significant percentage of downward mobility too. This may be explained by the fact that the Bohemian German deputies were more diverse in terms of their socio-professional categories.

Bohemia

Fig. 1. Social class of the deputies (HISCLASS)



Transylvania

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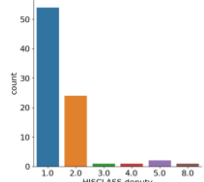


Fig. 2. Age at first marriage (deputy)

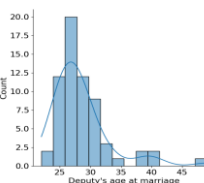
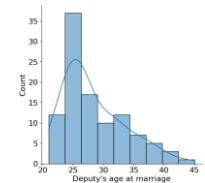


Fig. 3. Age difference between groom and bride at first marriage

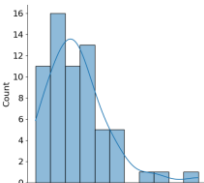
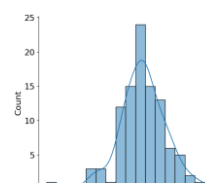
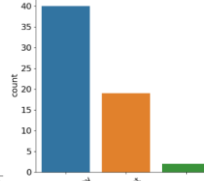
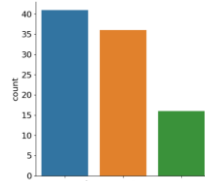


Fig. 4. Social mobility of deputies compared to the fathers-in-law



Statistics about the political activity

->The average age of the deputy at his first mandate was 45 for Bohemia, with a gradual decrease from 50 during the first elections after 1867 to 43 towards the end of the century and 41 during the last electoral cycle in Cisleithania. For Transylvania, the average was of 43, but there was no gradual decrease. The mean age was 47 for the deputies elected in 1865 (they were reconfirmed after the negotiation of the dualism in 1867), but it dropped drastically to 42 during the first election after 1867 and it continued fluctuating. Towards the end of the century the average was 42, and during the last electoral cycle it was 39. An explanation for the differences in the mean age overall between the two provinces could be the fact that the minimum age to be elected as a deputy was 30 for Cisleithania and 24 for Transleithania.

->The average number of mandates was 2,17 for Bohemia and 2,48 for Transylvania per deputy. There seemed to be a higher proportion of deputies that had just one mandate in the case of Bohemia, while for Transylvania the discrepancy is not as high (Fig. 5). Regarding the type of mandate, in Transylvania there seems to be a much higher prevalence of mid-term mandates compared to Bohemia, i.e. deputies were elected when a vacancy appeared during the electoral cycle, while for Bohemia what stands out is the percentage of unfinished mandates, i.e. that ended before the next general elections (Fig. 6, Fig. 7).

Correlation between marital aspects and political career

->For Bohemia, there is a significant correlation (Pearson) between the age at first marriage and the age at first mandate ($r=0.32$, $p=0.0012$; fig. 8). Significant differences (Kruskal-Wallis) were found in the age at first mandate between classes of historical professions/HISCLASS ($p=0.047$; fig. 9); between type of mandates and age difference at first marriage between the groom and the bride ($p=0.032$; fig. 10), and in the number of mandates between classes ($p=0.015$; fig. 11). No correlation was identified between the following: age at first marriage and number of mandates or type of mandates; age difference between the spouses and political features, HISCLASS of the deputy, or social mobility; number of marriages and political features; type of mobility and political features. For Transylvania, no correlation between any of the marital and political features was found.

Fig. 5. Number of mandates per deputy

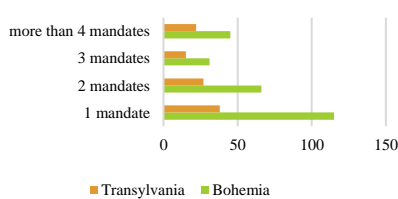


Fig. 6. Types first mandates Bohemia

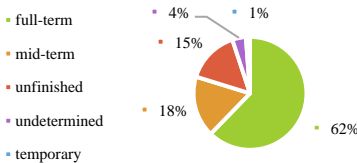


Fig. 7. Types first mandates Transylvania

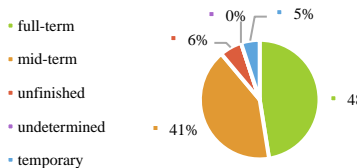


Fig. 8. Pearson correlation between age at first marriage and age at first mandate

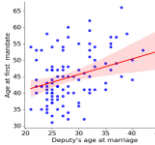


Fig. 10. Significant correlation between age difference between the spouses and type of mandate

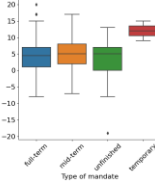


Fig. 9. Significant differences (Kruskal-Wallis) in age at first mandate between classes

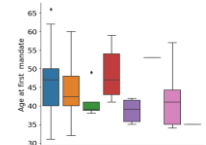
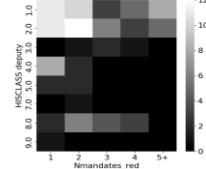


Fig. 11. Significant differences (Chi-squared) in number of mandates between classes



Conclusions: There are some differences between Bohemia and Transylvania regarding the social background and marital strategies of the analyzed individuals, although not vastly different. However, the fact that there are a few correlations between marital strategies and social background and political career for Bohemia, but none for Transylvania is surprising and further research involving other methods (qualitative analysis, social network analysis) could reveal more about whether the marital strategies could have had any influence on the political trajectories of the deputies.