

LEERING AT VIENNA
THE SLOVAKS, FRANZ FERDINAND,
AND THE ARCHDUKE'S REFORM PLANS

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This contribution deals with Archduke Franz Ferdinand's contacts with the Slovaks, between 1905 and 1914. It does not focus on the Slovaks and their most important representative Milan Hodža, as previous studies have done, but follows Franz Ferdinand's own point of view. The Archduke's political ideas, plans and projects are closely connected with his resentment against the Magyar ruling class. This larger frame can explain the extent of his contacts with and his interest in the Hungarian nationalities' cause. Their democratic ideals and his autocratic conservatism found a common enemy in the Magyars. The article does not restrict itself to Franz Ferdinand's occasional involvement in Hungarian politics and its verifiably Slovak background. In addition, it pays attention to the possible Slovak contribution to his plans for a political reconstruction of the Habsburg monarchy, including the introduction of universal suffrage.