

ABSTRACTS

THE HABSBURG MONARCHY – NEW INTERPRETATIONS

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The lecture argues that in recent decades historians of the Habsburg Monarchy developed several new kinds of approaches to that state's history. Years ago historians abandoned a view of the Habsburg Monarchy as a “prison of the peoples” and today they see it rather as a laboratory for modernity, as a state comparable to other European states with both typical strengths and weaknesses. The lecture focuses on three areas of study: 1) the relationship between ideas of nation and empire in politics and daily life; 2) the Monarchy understood in comparative European perspective; 3) the new tendency to see the end of the Monarchy in terms of continuities rather than in terms of a radical break.