

THREE STYRIAN POLITICANS OF SUDETEN GERMAN ORIGIN

Nikolaus von Preradovich

This study describes the life of three Styrian politicians who came from the Sudeten area.

Josef Derschatta was born in Wiese (Bohemia) in 1788. He rose from the ranks to lieutenant field marshal, and in 1839 was awarded the noble title of „v. Standhalt“. His son Julius, from his second marriage, studied law; in 1884 he was elected to the municipal council of Graz, and in 1885 to the Chamber of Deputies. There he joined the „Deutschen Klub“ and in 1887 the „Deutschnationale Vereinigung“. In order to counter effectively the political work of the Slovenes, Derschatta founded the „Südmark“ protective association, which soon became the second largest such association in the Dual

Monarchy. In 1906 he was appointed Minister of Railways in the Beck Cabinet, and in this capacity advocated the nationalization of the railways. After resigning as Minister in 1908, he became president of the Austrian Lloyd. He died on 3 February 1924 in Vienna.

Alfred Gürtler, the son of a manufacturer in Deutsch-Gabel, was born on 30 October 1875. He studied law, habilitated in 1907 in Graz in statistics, political economy, and Austrian financial law, and was named professor in ordinary in 1917. He was nominated in 1919 as a candidate of the Christian Social Association for the constituent National Assembly and was elected from the electoral district of Graz. In September 1919 he accompanied Karl Renner to the peace negotiations in St. Germain. Prof. Gürtler was Finance Minister in the Schober Cabinet in 1921/22, *Landeshauptmann* of Styria in 1926/27, and President of the National Council from 1928 to 1930. He died on 16 March 1933 in Graz.

Reinhold Machold was born on 11 November 1879 in Bielitz (Silesia); his father was a professional musician. As a skilled typesetter, he soon came in contact with the labour movement, to which he contributed his organizational abilities. After a long „wanderyear“ period, he finally settled in Graz. Here he became chairman of the Social Democratic Party. In 1910, Machold was named deputy director of the Party enterprises, and in 1916 director of the Styrian consumers' co-operatives. After the fall of the Third Reich, finally, Machold held the position of *Landeshauptmann*. He died in Graz on 6 February 1961.