

SUSPENSION – PACIFICATION – COMMENDATION

Disagreements in the Higher Administration of the Austrian Monarchy Examined
at the Case of the Bohemian Franz von Thun-Hohenstein (1868-1934)
in Dalmatia

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The present study examines suspensions of high-ranking officials in the Cisleithanian part of the late Habsburg monarchy, which resulted from political and ideological reasons or from security concerns voiced by the military administration. The case most closely examined is the conflict between Marius Attems, governor of Dalmatia (1862-1947), and his deputy Franz Thun (1868-1934). When insurmountable differences emerged between high representatives belonging to the same administrative unit, it was extremely difficult for all parties concerned to come up with something resembling a solution, to soothen passions and to remain on peaceful terms. As long as the situation was unresolved, somebody who had been suspended from office was not normally replaced, which resulted in the workload having to be redistributed internally. The next higher authority, in the conflict Attems–Thun the ministry of the interior, had to find, within a suitable period, another position in keeping with the qualification and the inclinations of the person suspended, and in doing so had to avoid a reduction in rank as long as there was no culpable act. In the case of Thun, another position was not easy to identify, but when Thun was finally restored to office, he received a commendation (quite common in such cases), an order and earlier-than-normal promotion.