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978-155753594-8

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The impact of the Treaty of Passarowitz on the Habsburg monarchy

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Abstract

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Abstract

The Treaty of Passarowitz¹ (Požarevac) reflects a series of processes that characterize the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It was the product of earlier events and preconditions as much as it was the progenitor of subsequent developments. However, as can easily be seen from the larger context, this peace treaty undoubtedly describes an important turning point in history. The present study focuses on that great European power, the Habsburg monarchy:² first, because the empire was among the treaty's signatories; second, because the further development of the empire was closely linked to the Treaty of Passarowitz; and third, because the treaty had a considerable impact on the course of Balkan history. Yet the connection between the treaty and the monarchy reveals two paradoxes. The first is that the Vienna Court did not plan the 1716-1718 war that preceded the peace agreement; rather, the terms of its alliance with Venice determined that it had to be waged.³ The second paradox is that the military and political success of this treaty failed to preempt the emergence of the so-called Eastern Question, which had been building for generations. In fact, uncertainty over Russia's Balkan policy had a significant impact on the peninsula's Orthodox population and, later, on the trajectory of Prussian aggression that would extend beyond the eighteenth century.⁴ Copyright 2011 by Purdue University. All rights reserved.

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