

10-1985

## Franchisement and Election in Vienna 1848 – 1932 – Book Review

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### Recommended Citation

Ritter, Harry, "Franchisement and Election in Vienna 1848 – 1932 – Book Review" (1985). *History*. 39.  
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## German Studies Association

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Wahlrecht und Wählerverhalten in Wien, 1848-1932: Privilegien, Partizipationsdruck und Sozialstruktur by Maren Seliger; Karl Ucakar

Review by: Harry Ritter

*German Studies Review*, Vol. 8, No. 3 (Oct., 1985), p. 560

Published by: [The Johns Hopkins University Press](#) on behalf of the [German Studies Association](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1429401>

Accessed: 29/10/2014 16:06

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parliamentary prejudices) that he was moved to undertake his own searching and as yet inadequately appreciated analysis of the political and cultural crisis embodied in fascism. It is to this that Prümm devotes a detailed study which is admiring ("ein Szenario der Krise, dessen Vollständigkeit den heutigen Leser in Erstaunen und Bewunderung zurückläßt") but not uncritical, particularly as regards the hopelessly optimistic hypothesis that national socialism, being composed of a "constellation" of disparate forces, could allow one of these forces, namely socialism, to outflank the others.

Ironically, it was the strongly anti-fascist Dirks who after the *Machtergreifung* fell victim to the ambivalence and compromises of the "inner emigration" while, from the mid-1930s, Kogon identified himself increasingly with Catholic opposition to fascism, a fact which ultimately led to imprisonment in Buchenwald. These experiences changed both men significantly (Kogon declared "Ich bin im Lager ein anderer geworden" while Dirks admitted of his years in Hitler's Germany "man hätte mehr tun können") and led directly to that successful post-war cooperation which from the perspective of Weimar would have seemed so unlikely. It is the main virtue of Karl Prümm's study to have made this persuasively clear.

IAN WALLACE, *Loughborough University*

Maren Seliger and Karl Ucakar. *Wahlrecht und Wählerverhalten in Wien, 1848-1932: Privilegien, Partizipationsdruck und Sozialstruktur*. Wien and München: Jugend und Volk Verlag, 1984. Pp. 271. Paper DM 56,—.

This volume, conceived as one of several commentaries on the *Historischer Atlas von Wien* (appearing in installments since 1981), is a careful survey of franchise laws, voting procedures, and election results for the city of Vienna from the beginnings of popular politics in 1848 to the establishment of the Dollfuss dictatorship. It is designed to be used not only by readers of the *Atlas*, but by anyone interested in Vienna's political history. The book is divided into two parts: the first, by Ucakar, is a narrative history of the laws governing elections to the Vienna city council as well as the Austrian parliament, so far as Vienna is concerned. This material is placed in the general context of the history of Austria's political movements and parties in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Ucakar's contribution is essentially descriptive; there is little if any new information in this section, but it is nonetheless a handy summary of existing knowledge. The second, more original half of the volume, by Seliger, is a suggestive analysis of the political results of the elections, and an interpretation of their meaning in the light of Vienna's changing social composition and demographic patterns. Particularly interesting is Seliger's break-down of election results in terms of each municipal district and her attempt to relate these results to a reconstructed picture of the social composition of the various districts. Generally speaking, the conclusions of both authors are clearly and persuasively presented. The text (177 pages) is punctuated by many illuminating statistical tables and supplemented by an appendix of seventy-seven pages which bristles with even more valuable quantitative data.

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