

Abstract: The „strategist and visionary“ at the change of era from Ancien Régime to Modernity. Comments on a new biography of Metternich by Wolfram Siemann

The condensed issue of the „Small Siemann“, covering all theories and re-interpretations of the „statesman between Restoration and modernity“, appeared in 2010; it has now been followed up by the same author’s extended version of this book on the „strategist and visionary“ (2016). This presents his theories of re-interpretation backed by the sources and developed in discussions of the ample literature on Metternich. Siemann is the first researcher to have really mined the family archive held in the National Museum in Prague and the records of the State Chancery in Vienna. He has chosen the methodically traditional presentation of a „political biography“, because the focus on the personality „explains“ the success and failure of a politician who put his mark on a whole era. As a „strategist“, this magician of diplomacy pushed through the „European Concert“ against the Napoleonic concept of a universal monarchy. As a „visionary“, he searched for the basic principles of „correct politics“. As a „conservative liberal“ influenced by Edmund Burke’s ideas, he answered the revolutionary battle-cry of „Liberty, Equality, Fraternity“ with the call of „Law and Order“. The „demon of Austria“ recognised and fought the nationalism of „rising peoples“ as a fatal threat to the future.

Keywords: „Strength in Law“, Feast at the Wartburg, „Prime Minister of the world“ (Castlereagh), „Wiener Ordnung“, German Confederation, Resolutions of Karlsbad, „Demon of Austria“

Schlagworte: „Kraft im Recht“, Wartburgfest, „Premierminister der Welt“ (Castlereagh), „Wiener Ordnung“, Deutscher Bund, Karlsbader Beschlüsse, „Dämon Österreichs“