

Receptions and Representations of Revolts in Early Modern Diplomacy

Panel-Proposals for RSA conference in Berlin, to be held on March 26-28, 2015 (Malte Griesse)

Name	Paper title	Abstract	Keywords
Chair: Jason Peacey	1. Religious War		
Markus Koller (Bochum)	Ottoman perception of Morisco Rebellions in 16th Century Spain	In "The Ottoman Age of Exploration", Giancarlo Casale describes Ottoman global policy in the 16th century, the only period when the empire aimed at extending its power into the Indian Ocean World in order to gain control over the spice trade routes and to weaken the positions of the Portuguese and the Habsburgs. This global policy was initiated by grand vizier Mehmet Pasha Sokollu and envisaged an alliance with Christian states. Struggle against Habsburg activities in the Indian Ocean was the main reason why the Ottoman government intended to support the Dutch Revolt. 1579-82 Mehmet Pasha Sokollu sent several delegates to Antwerp, then part of the Union of Utrecht. In my paper I will ask how the grand vizier perceived this upheaval and how he used the retrieved information for his global policy. I will mainly concentrate on published and unpublished Ottoman documents such as reports and internal writings.	Ottoman global policy, 16th Century, Mehmet Pasha Sokollu, Upheaval in the Netherlands
Stefania Gargioni (Berlin/Kent)	The Perception of the French Civil Wars in English Diplomatic Correspondence	My paper focuses on the reception of the French Wars of Religion in English diplomatic correspondence. Of course, the English government was well aware of all major events: the massacres of Vassy and of Saint-Bartholomew, the assassination of Henry III, the struggle between Henry of Navarre and the League. But drawing on a large corpus of diplomatic letters and instructions (Walshingham, Burghley, Courcelles) I will explore 1) what communication channels the English government tried to activate in order to closely follow or even influence events in France, 2) how diplomats interpreted what was going on in France with regard to English interests, and especially 3) to what extent and how English observers compared the situation in France to open and covert conflict at home. Therefore, I will highlight both the religious (persecution of fellow Protestants abroad), and the political dimension (where the weaknesses of the monarchical institution itself seemed exposed).	French Wars of Religion, English diplomacy, Representations, Walsingham, Henry III, Henry IV, Saint-Bartholomew

Radu Paun (Paris, EHESS)	Looking for Trojan Horses. Perceptions of the Christian Revolts against the Ottoman Empire (16th century)	The present paper is part of an ongoing research devoted to the perception of Orthodox Christian subjects and tributaries (principalities of Wallachia, Moldavia and Transylvania) of the Ottoman Empire by Western observers (15th-17th centuries). Here, I will deal with the manners in which European powers considered, and sometimes boosted, the Christian revolts against the Ottoman power, as they hoped to take advantage of these events in their political and military competition with the Porte. The study of the Western perception of the Christian anti-Ottoman revolts can provide valuable insight into the broader phenomenon of the circulation of ideas and stereotypes concerning the 'Crusading' ideal in Early Modern Europe. The main sources to be taken into account are diplomatic correspondence (Venetian, Papal, Spanish, Austrian, etc.), works produced by foreign observers and travelers within the Ottoman Empire, "avvisi" and treaties on the "maniere di vincere gli Turchi".	Orthodox Christians, anti-Ottoman revolts; Ottoman Empire; Ottoman tributaries
Chair: Jason Peacey (UCL)	2. England and the continent	German refugee Samuel Hartlib, who had settled in the center of London since 1628, became for thirty years the main intellectual hub between England in revolution and the continent that was facing aggressive Catholic reconquest. An active diplomacy on the continent was insistently trying to gain English support for their cause. Hartlib's unpublished and relatively unknown correspondence (25,000 sheets) sheds new light on how the English revolution fuelled European intellectuals' hopes for a reorganization of society and a revival of European Protestantism with England as its spearhead. From the perspective of Hartlib's international networks and his engagement with Cromwell's politics, the talk will analyze both these projects of Protestant reorganization of European societies, and how European intellectuals were attracted by the reforming ambitions of the English revolution. When Hartlib solicited them, many were ready to leave everything they had to join the Commonwealth.	Hartlib – revolution – London – Protestantism – Cromwell

Monika Barget (Konstanz)	“The hatred which they bear towards their kings” – German perceptions of the Glorious Revolution	The Glorious Revolution of 1688 was widely perceived in continental Europe as it recalled the many religious and constitutional struggles of the Reformation century. The noble families of Hanover and Palatine, who were directly related to the deposed Stuarts, took greatest interest in English politics. The correspondence of both Princess Palatine and her aunt Sophie of Hanover reveal that – for their class and sex – blood ties, elite solidarity and stability mattered most. Unpublished sources from Pattensen (Cal. Br. 24 & Hann. 92) also express the concept of consensual government centered on the king and stress irenic values and internationality shared by aristocrats in post-1648 Germany. Whig dominance in London, however, favoured a policy of competition and national freedom. Palatine and Hanoverian debates on the Glorious Revolution accordingly foreshadowed the controversies over the Georgian reign in Britain and prove that 17th and 18th century government crises were anything but individual misadventures.	Diplomacy, correspondence, nobility, Palatine, Hanover, Britain, Glorious Revolution, monarchy, Parliament, Protestant succession, international relations
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Daniel Szechi (Manchester)	Reporting Rebellion. The Marquis d’Iberville and the Jacobites in 1715	One of the most important duties of eighteenth-century ambassadors was to keep their governments well informed about political developments at the courts to which they were accredited, and few political developments could be more important than the onset of a major rebellion that – if it succeeded – would bring on a revolution. This was the situation in which Charles François de la Bonde, marquis d’Iberville and French ambassador to Britain, found himself in autumn 1715. In September a full-scale Jacobite rebellion broke out in Scotland and soon spread to northern England. In London Iberville was far removed from the action, yet his superiors expected reports that would keep them well abreast of what was going on. Iberville naturally tried to deliver. This paper will accordingly explore the content of his reports as he sought to make provide accurate, up-to-date intelligence on a fluid situation hundreds of miles away.	Jacobites, 1715 rebellion, Marquis d’Iberville, France, England, Scotland, Jacobites, diplomatic history
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Chair: Francesco Benigno	3. Scandinavia and the Continent
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Nils Eric Villstrand (Åbo Akademi)	Perceptions of Domestic Strife in Swedish and Danish Diplomatic Correspondance of the 1620s	In the early 1620s diplomatic relations between Sweden and Denmark intensified. This reflected Sweden's growing power and integration into European politics. In 1621, Swedish Anders Svensson was appointed as commissar of the customs in Öresund. Then the Danish government sent Peder Galt as permanent resident to Stockholm. In a situation of growing tension between the Scandinavian kingdoms his presence and reports to Copenhagen made him highly unpopular among the Swedish elite. And in 1622 the Swedish government reacted by promoting Svensson to the position of residential agent in Copenhagen. Galt's correspondence from Stockholm 1622–1624 was published by Nils Ahnlund in 1924, Svensson's dispatches to the Swedish king and chancellor 1621–1626 by Leo Tandrup in 1971. In my paper I will show how expressions of popular discontent were reported by the two diplomats to their respective governments and how this information was perceived at the two courts.	Peder Galt, Anders Svensson, Denmark, Sweden, permanent residents, 17th century
Enrique Corredera Nilsson (Konstanz)	Advising the king on conspiracies? Bernardino de Rebolledo's account Dina Vinhofvers' scandal	In 1651 Bernardino de Rebolledo, Philip IV of Spain's envoy to Copenhagen, informed his sovereign on the scandal that shocked Denmark. Corfitz Ulfeldt, Steward of the Realm, had been accused of planning to poison the king. The accusation had opened an enquiry that ended in Ulfeldt's exoneration. The woman who had denounced him, a commoner named Dina Vinhofvers, was executed. Things were more complicated, though, for the case revealed the ongoing power struggle between Ulfeldt and his party on one side, and the king and part of the nobility on the other. So far Rebolledo's summary has been mainly used to reconstruct the events. In my paper I will analyze its apparently casual composition that bears conspicuous resemblance to Machiavelli's comments on the functioning of conspiracies in The Prince. Rebolledo's account is therefore more than merely a report, but also a piece of advice literature, a little 'mirror of Princes'.	Diplomacy, conspiracy, political culture, Philip IV, Spain, Denmark

Miriam Rönqvist (Åbo Akademi)	The calm before the storm. Revolts as metaphors in early modern Swedish diplomacy	In the 17th century Sweden engaged in a multitude of wars. Constant demand for soldiers and taxes led to an internal tension straining the relationship between elite and subjects. The state power's constant fear of peasant unrest was additionally fuelled by revolts on the European continent, which were characterized as either contagious diseases or natural catastrophes. Both would not stop at political or geographical borders and therefore threatened to affect the Swedish population. Such revolt metaphors permeate Swedish diplomatic accounts on continental revolts. For instance, in a letter to Chancellor Oxenstierna, Hugo Grotius, then ambassador to Sweden in France, depicts the Nu-Pieds uprising as a "storm". I will also draw on a series of anonymous letters to Grotius in French, from the State Archive in Stockholm. The letters deal with political conflicts throughout Europe, including the Catalan Revolt of 1640. Grotius apparently forwarded them to the Swedish government.	Early modern Sweden, stormaktstiden, communication, revolts, metaphors
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Chair: Malte Griesse

4. Borderlands

Kuzma Kukushkin (Moscow Vyshka)	Reflecting revolts during the Siege of Smolensk (1609-1611): internal reports and diplomatic instructions	In the early 17th century the Muscovite Empire was shaken by a devastating civil war over dynastic succession that provoked overt Polish and Swedish intervention in its later phase. The Polish siege of Smolensk 1609-1611 was part of Sigismund III's campaign for the Russian crown. Considerable parts of the Muscovite elite supported Sigismund's son Prince Wladyslaw's candidature against the unlucky reign of Tsar Vasily Shuisky (1606-1610), which created a climate of ubiquitous rebellion, treason and desertion. I will focus on the reports sent from the regional borderland authorities in Smolensk to Moscow (Smolensk regional archives) and on Tsar Vasily's embassies' mandates (from the archives of the Muscovite foreign office). The aim is to analyze both, how revolts were reflected internally, and how they were represented on an international stage. The novelty of the paper is to follow the dynamic and complex interdependence between internal and external channels of communication.	Muscovy, Poland, Time of Troubles, Siege of Smolensk, Revolts, Representations, Diplomacy
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Gleb Kazakov (Konstanz)	Cossack Diplomacy: Unrecognized autonomies or sovereign entities of the 17th century?	In early modern times eastern Europe experienced many insurrections. Often they were inspired or initiated by Cossacks, especially the Dnepr and the Don hosts. These unruly warriors on the southern borders of Muscovy and Poland-Lithuania were a real headache for Russian and Polish tsars and kings. Governments were eager to curtail Cossack liberties and autonomies. At the same time they relied on Cossack warfare skills while in need for protection from Tatars. This ambiguous role influenced the legal status of Cossacks, which was constantly shifting from 'the subjects of the crown' to 'independent political force', depending on relations with central authority. This paper examines the participation of Cossacks in foreign diplomacy, the documentation of their negotiations with neighboring political powers (the Polish king, the Ottoman Sultan, the Khan of Crimea and the Russian tsar), and thus sheds light on the autonomous side of the Cossack phenomenon in the 17th century.	Cossacks, Eastern Europe, Muscovy, Ottomans, Poland- Lithuania, 17th century, rebellions, diplomacy
Adrian Selin (Moscow Vyshka)	Muscovite Religious Dissenters in Ingria as an Object of Diplomatic Negotiations in the Borderlands	The Muscovite Empire ceded Ingria to Sweden in 1617, but the population remained Orthodox. Starting from the 1660s Patriarch Nikon's church reform (of the 1650s) encountered resistance among Orthodox believers in Muscovy, both simple parishioners and priests. Many of them fled to the Ingrian borderlands that were outside the reach of Muscovite power and where the Orthodox population was in constant need of Orthodox service. Petitions addressed to the Ingrian governor show that the local population did not care if a Nikonian priest or an Old believer held service. Consequently, in negotiations between Ingria (Swedish) and Novgorod (Muscovite), discourse on refugees gradually changed into discourse on religious dissenters. The very existence of this alternative Orthodox space beyond the influence of Russian state power was a challenge to the Muscovite Patriarchate. Therefore, in 1685 the government sent a special mission to Ingria that was supposed to control and correct ecclesiastical affairs.	Ingria, Borderlands, Old Belief, Diplomatic Negotiations, Sweden, Muscovy
Chair: Francesco Benigno	5. Shaping the Image		

Michelle Viise (Harvard)	The Sacralization of Nonconformity: Orthodox Christian Self-representation in Early Modern Poland-Lithuania	In the late sixteenth century, Orthodoxy in Poland-Lithuania became the target of an aggressive campaign to subordinate the Slavo-Byzantine rite to the Roman Catholic Church. The Orthodox elite—rapidly diminished by conversions to Catholicism—struggled to respond, not only to increasing political pressure by the Polish elite, but also to a Jesuit-led cultural crusade denigrating the Orthodox as peasants and rebels. Most scholarship has analyzed the Orthodox responses to the Counterreformation in political terms; that is, as accommodation or rejection of the Polish-Catholic state. This paper presents an aspect of Orthodox culture that has received little attention—namely, experimentation with discursive frames by Orthodox polemicists to assert control over the culture war with Rome, especially through the sacralization of their opposition in apocalyptic imagery that left ambiguous the precise identity of the enemies of the (Orthodox) church of Christ.	Poland-Lithuania, Rome, Orthodoxy, Culture war, Diplomatic self-representation, Apocalyptic imagery, Sacralization of religious dissent.
David de Boer (Konstanz)	Notable Revolutions: The Diplomat as a Contemporary Historian in the Dutch Republic	Diplomats were important news providers in early modern Europe. Apart from acting on behalf of their sovereigns, their main job was to keep their rulers up to date. As such, ambassadors played crucial roles in constructing an image of Europe and its political landscape. In the Dutch Republic many diplomats tried to bundle this topical knowledge into comprehensive contemporary histories, conceived as guides to good government. In these works, the description of revolts takes remarkable prominence. Lieuwe van Aitzema (1600-1669) wrote books like <i>Notable Revolutions and Matters of State and War</i> , which with its more than 10,000 pages still forms an incredibly rich source for students of the Dutch Republic's foreign policy today. These histories, however, have never been studied in their own right. This paper therefore explores the role of revolts in early modern conceptualizations of Europe, its peoples, and their rulers in the contemporary histories of Dutch diplomats.	Dutch Republic, Diplomacy, Contemporary history writing, Lieuwe van Aitzema, Conflicts, Objectivity, Topicality, Public opinion, Comprehensive histories.

Malte Griesse
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An Ambassadorial
Diary on a Muscovite
Revolt as Stone of
Contention in
Diplomatic Relations
(1698-1701)

In 1701 the publication of Johann Georg Korb's ambassadorial diary in Vienna provoked a diplomatic crisis between the Holy Roman Empire and Muscovy. Muscovite diplomats called on the Emperor to prohibit and withdraw the book. When this was unsuccessful, they purchased all copies they could get hold of and staged an autodafé in Moscow, in order to prevent the publication from circulating. Korb had been secretary of an imperial delegation to Moscow in 1698/99. In his diary the description of the musketeers' revolt (1698) and its subsequent repression by young Tsar Peter I figured prominently. However, I have found newspaper accounts of the years 1698/99, where the cruel retribution scenes had been represented in an equally colorful way. What was acceptable and what raised scandal? In my paper I will explore the stakes of this conflict considering both genre (text-image) and degrees of dissemination (arcane-public).

Musketeers' revolt 1698, Holy Roman Empire, Peter I (the Great), Leopold I (Holy Roman Empire), Johann Georg Korb, Public-Arcane, text-image.