



PROJECT SUMMARY

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## Political Regimes in Emergencies.

### The Resilience and Vulnerability of Middle Powers in Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Europe

This project examines the resilience and vulnerability of different political regimes after disruptive events in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It focuses on the adaptability of institutions and political elites, comparing crisis response mechanisms and states of emergency in authoritarian regimes, constitutional monarchies, and liberal democracies. In doing so, the project intends to historicize the current debate on the vulnerability of democracies.

Looking at crucial moments in the history of middle powers such as Denmark, Portugal, and Saxony, the project investigates how the governing apparatus responded to revolutionary upheavals, invasions, foreign domination, and other key incidents. It also explores how debates about security, risk and, vulnerability spread and which networks, ideas, ingrained habits, skills, and dispositions played a crucial role in supporting political resilience. The project aims to understand how modern political systems reacted in times of turmoil and widespread insecurity; how crisis jeopardized state cohesion and legitimacy; and how, and to what extent, political institutions and emergency powers were able to adapt effectively in periods of heightened vulnerability.

“Political Regimes in Emergencies” compares crisis responses at different stages of state-building, democratization and, globalization. The project looks at key historical moments such as the transfer of the Portuguese Court to Brazil and the devastating bombardment of Copenhagen in 1807. In the era of the constitutional monarchies, the project explores moments such as the death of Pedro V of Portugal in the cholera outbreak of 1861, the Second Schleswig War of 1864, and the Prussian occupation of Saxony in 1866. In the third historical period explored, the project looks at crucial political transformations, threats of revolution, and regime changes in liberal states before 1914. Finally, the project will focus on major threats to the stability of liberal democracies during the interwar period, exploring disruptive events such as the Reichswehr’s intervention in Saxony in 1923 and the coup d’état of 1926 in Portugal.

The project promises to shed light on the continuity and change of crisis management in modern history. It takes into consideration the role played by repressive violence, political antagonism, and crisis communication during resilience processes; how these aspects changed over time and in different political regimes.