

SECURING POLITICAL RULE IN THE PERIPHERY:  
THE TRANSFORMATION OF MUNICIPALISM IN EUPEN  
AND ZNOJMO/ZNAIM AFTER WORLD WAR I (1918-1922)

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The article deals with the change of sovereignty as experienced in two towns which ended up in another country after the end of World War I: Eupen switching from Germany to Belgium and Znojmo/Znaim from Imperial Austria to newly established Czechoslovakia. Whereas the Belgian government set up a special administration for the single purpose of dealing with Eupen, in Znojmo/Znaim the former community parliament was supplanted by a committee under the auspices of the administration of the federal state of Moravia. Thus, in both places a superior administrative level came to control matters that had been the prerogative of community self-rule until then. But these new bodies acted differently: In Eupen, the special administration increasingly intervened in the prerogative of the town administration, finally replacing the mayor with a candidate of its own choice, whereas in Znojmo/Znaim the regional government of Moravia sought to mediate between parties. In both towns, these mechanisms for conflict solving proved to be trend-setting for the further development of communal politics. In the former case, they contributed to an aggravation of antagonisms which had surfaced after the world war ended, in the latter case they facilitated their being overcome.