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The Croatian Estates and the Pragmatic Sanction When? Who? Why?

Article 7:1712 of the Croatian Diet, Sabor – known by its historiographic name as the Croatian Pragmatic Sanction – was insider dealing between members of the royal family (Holy Roman Empress, Queen and Regent Eleonore), the monarchical elite (Emerik Esterházy, bishop of Zagreb) and the local, Sabor's elite (protonotary Juraj Plemić). When and who is no mystery. However, the “three whys” are behind the making of the so-called Croatian Pragmatic Sanction.

Regent Eleonore acted for her royal family's sake. She saw the main political problem in the legal possibility of the Hungarian estates gaining back the elective right as expressed in Article 3:1687. The decision of the Sabor in 1712 nullified the power of Article 3:1687.

Bishop Esterházy had a vision of *Tündérország*: political and legal solution to benefit all. The fulfillment of vision came in the form of Article 3:1723 and legal solutions like *indivisibiliter ac inseparabiliter*. Article 7:1712 of the Sabor was the first step toward that goal.

Protonotary Plemić acted to stop conflict within Croatian estates. It was not as traditional historiography suggested general Croatian-Hungarian dispute in the 19th Century manner, but quarell between Sabor's officials and members of the Erdődy family. The question of ownership over Samobor's copper mines caused the friction. Plemić, as leader of the most influential political elite within the Kingdom of Croatia, had one prime goal: to secure Sabor's officials to stay powerholders of the Croatian realm in changed circumstances after 1699. With the help of the so-called Croatian Pragmatic Sanction, Plemić got the sanction of Article 120:1715 and confirmed the legal autonomy of Sabor for good what enabled Sabor's officials to continue acting as a local power.

This presentation analyzes the “three whys” and the Pragmatic sanction of 1713 in the context of Bernd Schneidmüller's *Konsensuale Herrschaft*. The Croatian political space accepted and lived after 1723 in an *indivisibiliter ac inseparabiliter*, reform-oriented Monarchy, but got and negotiated at least till 1770'ties different Monarchy.