



I.S.T.A.

Costruire confini nelle Alpi

Disegnare, cancellare, riprovare





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Dicembre 2020

COSTRUIRE CONFINI NELLE ALPI

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ABSTRACTS

1. THE CENTURIES-OLD CONTEST OF MOUNT NEGRINO BETWEEN BORNO AND VAL DI SCALVE

Mount Negrino is an area located in the hydrographic basin of Val di Scalve on the border with Borno in Valle Camonica. The two communities of Borno and Val di Scalve have faced each other for six centuries for the possession of the Mount Negrino, in a harsh dispute with many dead, wounded people and terrible damages on both sides. The oldest known document is a charta dating from 13th November 1018. In the Venetian period, at the beginning of the 16th century, a model of the disputed area was built to be submitted to the judges in Venice. The contest eased in the 17th century and the definitive boundaries were set in 1682.

2. THE VOLPINO BORDER IN VALCAMONICA. A LONG MEDIEVAL DISPUTE BETWEEN BERGAMO AND BRESCIA (12TH-13TH CENTURIES)

During the 12th and the 13th centuries, at the height of the Communal Age, the cities of Bergamo and Brescia were engaged in a long dispute aimed at asserting their own jurisdiction over a limited area between the lower part of Valle Camonica and the upper Lake Iseo area, on the western side of the Oglio river, around the village of Volpino. The boundaries established in the mid-13th century between the two cities have been the basis of the area division which, in large part, is still in force today.

3. ARCHEOLOGY OF AN ENTRENCHED LINE: THE THIRD DEFENSE SYSTEM OF FIRST WORLD WAR IN THE TERRITORY OF SONICO IN VALLE CAMONICA (BRESCIA)

The Third Defense System (or *Third line*) is the name of a military barrage located in Valle Camonica built by the Italian army during the First World War. The fortification was intended to provide a backward line of defense in the event of a breach of the Italian border both from the north-east (Tonale Pass) and from the north (Aprica and Mortirolo Pass), preventing the enemy army invaded Brescia and the Po Valley. The *Third Line* was built starting from 1916 and it is equipped with reinforced concrete trenches, armored and cave positions, deposits and machine gun positions.

4. LAKE ISEO AS A BORDERLINE

The settlements along the two banks of Sebino (ancient name of lake Iseo) have been for centuries divided between the control of Brescia and Bergamo, but the lake has been an essential way of communication and trade between these settlements, as well as between the plain and Valle Camonica. The conflicts between Brescia and Bergamo for the lake boundary were in general caused by the aim to control this trade route, along which goods of public interest passed, such as the cereals necessary to feed the population and the iron ore useful for the production of weapons. Under the Republic of Venice this control was mainly realized through the taxation and therefore the main controversies arose from the attempt to repress contraband, usually tolerated for the fiscal privileges claimed by the different territories. The contribution focuses on the controversies in the Venetian period, with brief references to the function of the lake border in the following centuries.

5. THE CENTURIES-OLD BORDER DEBATES BETWEEN TIRANO AND VAL POSCHIAVO

The problem of the definition of the borders between Poschiavo and Tirano dates back to the medieval time. The situation got complicated with the detachment of Val Poschiavo from the Duchy of Milan and the union to the League of God's House of Chur in 1408 and the beginning of the domination of the Grisons in Valtellina in 1512. In 1526 the new rulers established the border between the two communes at the tower of Piattamala Castle at the natural opening of the valley. Part of Tirano territory came to be in the jurisdiction of Poschiavo, which was named *Alto Dominio*. The singular decision in 1526, after the withdrawal of the Grisons from Valtellina in 1797, caused continuous tensions with the new rulers of the Adda river valley reunited with Lombardy, initially with Napoleon and then with the Austrians. In 1865, only after the union of Valtellina to the Kingdom of Italy, an agreement was reached with the transfer to Switzerland of the territory already belonged to Tirano.

6. THE BOUNDARIES OF THE BORMIO CONTADO IN THE 16TH CENTURY

The article illustrates the manuscript of Giuseppe Sermondi, notary in Bormio, in which are described the procedures and actions taken between 1540 and 1548 in order to define the borders of the Contado of Bormio. This area bordered on the north and west side with other territories of the Three Leagues, on the east side with Tirol (Holy Roman Empire) and on the southern side with Valle Camonica (Republic of Venice).

7. HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE CAFFARO RIVER BORDER

Since 1918 the Caffaro river has been a municipal and provincial border: it divides the territories of Valli Giudicarie (in Trentino area) from those of Valle Sabbia in Brescia province, in particular the municipalities of Bondone and Storo (province of Trento) from those of Bagolino and Anfo (province of Brescia). In the past, the dividing line was the state border between the Austrian Empire and the Kingdom of Italy (1859-1918) and, before that, with the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom (1814-1859). Still before it was the border between the county of the Lodron family, feudal lords of the prince-bishop of Trento, and the Republic of Venice. From the 14th to 15th century it was the border between the Duchy of Milan and the Holy Roman Empire.

8. COGNOSERE, DEFFINIRE, SENTENTIARE ET TERMINOS PONERE. CENTRAL POWER, LOCAL CUSTOMS AND NATURAL BOUNDARY SIGNS IN THE GIUDICARIE AREA (13TH-18TH CENTURIES)

The parchments in the archives of many municipalities of Giudicarie (the valley of the river Chiese) allow us to study two aspects for defining boundaries: on one hand the organization of the political area in the ancient regime; on the other hand the definition of the borders in the relationships between single communities or within the communities themselves. In this case study the methods of borders tracing have become very significant, in particular in a composite and variable reality revealed by a dense and irregular network of estates, skills, practices, rituals, prerogatives, rights, powers. These communities used natural and artificial signs, in the interweaving among: microtoponomy, environmental emergencies, ancient traditions and *vox populi*.

9. VALLE DEL FÈRSINA (TRENTINO) : ASPECTS OF GERMANIC COLONIZATION IN THE LATE MIDDLE AGES

A large series of documents of the first half of the 14th century kept in Innsbruck describes the colonization and the subdivision into farms (latin: mansi) of the mountain territory in the municipality of Fierozzo in Valle del Fèrsina (Trentino) by the Tyrolean counts. The Germanic settlement in the nearby village of Frassilongo is however earlier as well as the feudal subdivision of the valley in which there is still today a Germanic language community called *mòchena* together with the Romance language community.

10. NEW CONSIDERATIONS ON THE WALL OF GIAU: THE AUSTRO-VENETIAN BORDER AND ITS POSSIBLE ARCHETYPES

The so-called Giau wall, unusual peculiarity in the entire Alpine arc, constitutes an artifact built for ending over four centuries of controversies and real clashes between the community of San Vito and that of Cortina. In this study case, as also elsewhere, ancient delimitations among administrative entities end up becoming state borders: the Venetian Cadore came into conflict with Ampezzo area which has become imperial. The article investigates, through the archive material and the stony evidence of the place, the possibility of an older history of the artifact and, in particular, the theses that would connect it to symbolic or functional structures of Classical or Pre-classical age.

11. AMPEZZO: LIVING IN UNSTABLE BOUNDARIES

The article is divided into three parts. The first part outlines the legal aspects and the reasons of the referendum by which some municipalities in Belluno province have requested to be absorbed in other provinces and regions. The second part analyzes the historic process for defining the borderline of Ampezzo area since the 16th century until the World War II making reference to the large degree of autonomy over the centuries. Lastly the possible development of that area and more generally of the mountain it is considered.

12. CLASHES AND ENCOUNTERS ON THE PLATEAU OF THE SEVEN MUNICIPALITIES. THE DIFFICULT AND STILL UNCLEAR BORDER BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF VENICE AND THE EMPIRE (TODAY BETWEEN VENETO AND TRENTINO ALTO ADIGE REGIONS)

In the northern zone of the Asiago Plateau there is a mountain range that represents the highest sector of that plateau. The vertical north face of these mountains towards Valsugana has historically represented, since Middle Ages, a natural boundary between the Republic of Venice (to which the Asiago Plateau was joined in 1405) and the Hapsburg Empire. Along that border land (dividing two different States in past centuries, and two Italian regions today: Veneto and Trentino Alto Adige) conflicts and battles but also peace, dialogue and union of different cultures have always been frequent in the course of time. This essay focuses on the political meetings recurred during the centuries (1533-35, 1605, 1750-54) between the Republic of Venice and the Empire in order to find an agreement on the definition of the border line in that region. Moreover, the essay focuses on the numerous conflicts developed before and after those meetings, until the outbreak of World War I.

13. JUSTICE AND BORDERS IN THE VICENTINE ALPS BETWEEN AGNO AND LEOGRA IN THE 17TH CENTURY. CASE STUDY OF PURSUIT IN 1658

The main purpose of this article is to outline the develop of the boundary between the Venetian Republic and the Hapsburg Empire in the Pre-Alps in the northern part of the territory of Vicenza: Vallarsa, on the imperial side, Val Leogra and Valle dell'Agno on the Venetian side. The research focuses on the way the public dynamics and those of the small communities intertwine, sometimes living peacefully but in most cases colliding. People who lived in this border area didn't perceive the reality of the public boundary, so they acted independently from it. Studying a particular case of «crossing of the border» in 1658, the research wants to evidence the existence of almost two boundaries collocated in the same places but provided with different intensities.

14. THE MOVEMENT OF BOOKS AND PRINTS THROUGH THE VENETIAN-TYROLESE BORDER. THE CASE OF THE TESINI PEDDLERS AND THE REMONDINI PRINTERS FROM BASSANO (1685-1797)

During the early modern period the administrative and physical borders in the Alps were never an obstacle for rural people, often forced to move for supporting, through seasonal work, the precarious local economy. In the case of the Venetian-Tyrolese border the constant passage of men, animals and goods obligated the Austrian government to intervene with several rules. The centuries-old commercial relationship between the Remondini printers from Bassano – one of the greatest examples of production and distribution of prints and books in the early modern Europe – and the street vendors from Valle di Tesino, in the Austrian Tyrol, offer us a significant example of how the regulations on borders and the prohibitions on the itinerant trade have accompanied and conditioned the history of Alpine migrations. From the analysis of a wide archival documentation the purpose of the paper is to examine the commercial relations which took place in the Venetian-Tyrolese border area.

15. THE FORMATION OF THE BORDER LIMITS AMONG THE COMMUNITIES OF THE UPPER FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA AREA: THREE SIGNIFICANT EXAMPLES (13TH-15TH CENTURIES)

In the last centuries of the Middle Ages, the Friulian communities began with increasing intensity to define and delimit the territories under their jurisdiction. In many cases this process led to head-on collisions, activating court cases for settling disputes. In the piedmont and plain territories the contrasts can be framed in a precise pattern, also influenced by the political and economic conjunctures, while in the Alpine area there are peculiarities and differences, especially in the 15th century.

16. FROM THE ALPS TO THE ADRIATIC. THE CRUXES OF THE ITALIAN EASTERN BORDER

The Italian eastern border can be considered as a space in which for many centuries many cultural, religious and national frontiers have interwoven and overlapped. Not only a physical place, as a caesura between Western and Eastern Europe in a generic sense. The eastern border certainly remains a characteristic

crux in the history of Italy. It is geographically located from the banks of the river Isonzo to the eastern Alpine valley, it contains the Karst and the Istrian peninsula up to Fiume and the Dalmatian coast with its archipelagos of islands. In perfect harmony with the numerous border conflicts in Europe between the second half of the nineteenth century and the first of the twentieth century, the history of the Italian eastern border lasts as an emblematic attempt to set an hegemonic border within a multiform and heterogeneous region for events and peoples. It is a variable limit because it has always been fixed on ideological terms and for this reason of continual difficult demarcation.

17. THE ADDA RIVER BETWEEN OLGINATE AND SAN MARTINO VALLEY: A BORDER BETWEEN UNION AND DIVISION (15TH-18TH CENTURIES)

This paper deals with the beginning and the history of the border between the Republic of Venice and the Duchy of Milan represented by the Adda river in the stretch touching the towns of Olginate, Brivio and Imbersago, during the 15th and 18th centuries. Based on archival documents, some of these unpublished, the paper describes the influence of this border, originated from the Peace of Lodi in 1454, on the life of the two riversides habitants and on the economic, social and military activities in the surrounding territory identified with Brianza, belonging to the Duchy of Milan, and Val San Martino, belonging to the Republic of Venice.

The events in this stretch of border, among smuggling, spies, bandits, trade and fishing represent the ability of local people to adapt themselves to contingent situations. In this situation and in spite of the political divisions, they have always been able to create commercial and human relationships between the two riversides, also thanks to the religious unity existing between the two areas, both belonging to the Milanese diocese.

18. UPPER VAL DI SUSA AND VAL CHISONE BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT: EVIDENCE OF A CROSS-BORDER REALITY

Upper Val Susa and Alta Val Chisone, two areas located on either side of the current border between France and Italy, were involved in a experience which led in 1343 to the drafting of the *Grand Charte des Libertées Briançonnaises*, a bill of rights with articles enshrining freedom and independence of inhabitants with a special regard for specific themes such as ecology, environmental sustainability, gender equality, corruption and relationship with the authorities. This document marks the birth of a federal community organization, called *Escartons*, a self-governed community which lasted for centuries and faded only with the imposition of a boundary line officially stated by Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. The anthropological analysis concerns some of the articles of the *Grand Charte* with the purpose of examining the relationship between tradition and modernity and aiming to understand how elements of the past remain in the present.