

Ádám Deák: Representation of Csanád county at the Diets of the reform era (1825–1848)

In my dissertation I present the activity of Csanád county at the Diets between 1825 and 1848 on the basis of county instructions, deputies reports, Diets diaries and press sources. Csanád county followed traditional policy of grievances at the Diet of 1825/27, however, taking the royal rights into account. The fact that Francis I had not convened the Diet for thirteen years was a decisive factor in it as in previous years many grievances had accumulated in the counties, which they sought to be redressed. At that time for the nobility of the counties, it was more important to strengthen the ancient Hungarian constitution and the privileges of the nobility than to raise reform issues. Not only the county of Csanád, but almost all the counties followed a such political principles grounded on grievances. The most important characteristic of the representation of Csanád county at the Diet of 1830 was clearly strong loyalty to the House of Habsburg, but due to the shortness of the Diet there was no opportunity to propose reforms. Both the Viennese court and the nobility were content to secure the positions they had previously acquired. Starting from the Diets of 1832/36 and 1839/40, Csanád county began to strongly support reforms. At the Diet of 1843/44, there were already strong calls for the implementation of reforms, such as everyone be oblinded to pay public taxes, the abolition of aviticity, abolition of serfdom, representative parliament, equality before the law and freedom of the press. Finally, the county instruction for the Diet of 1847/48 did not include a representative parliament, equality before the law and full freedom of the press, in oppose to a number of other reforms (compulsory abolition of serfdom, full general taxation, abolition of aviticity). They considered it acceptable to make political compromise with the government in order to implement moderate reforms immediately, so as to say they accepted the separation of reform and opposition position. Then, as a result of the events of February and March 1848, they were also willing to support reforms that had been not included in the basic instructions.