

## **German and Polish Evangelical periodicals from 1861-1918 in the territory of the Austrian Empire and Austria-Hungary**

The year 1861 was a turning point in the life of Austrian Evangelicals, who since the Counter-Reformation of the Roman Church had lost the right to practice their faith freely. The underground activities of the Protestant communities were put to an end once and for all by Franz Joseph I, heir to the throne of the Habsburg Monarchy, who enacted the so-called Protestant Patent in the empire. The Austrian Protestant press was then born, backed by liberal, progressive, and educated representatives of Protestantism, who had created a religious-liberal movement in Austria, and whose journals gave them ample opportunity to express their views freely. This dissertation gives an insight into the life and mentality of Austrian Lutherans, based on the accounts of hundreds of digitized Protestant periodicals of the Austrian and Austro-Hungarian Empires from 1861 to 1918. These periodicals, also read by many Catholics, became at that time organs that had a significant influence on the formation of the views of Austrian traditional Catholic society. It was thanks to these publications that a breeze of liberal ideas and the belief in progress propagated in Prussia came to the Danube monarchy in the second half of the 19th century.

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