CHAPTER SIXTEEN

THE COUNTS OF GORIZIA AS DOMINI TERRAE
IN GORIZIA, CARNIOLA, AND ISTRIA

Carniola spread to its largest area in the first half of the 16th century. Besides Carniola proper, which consisted of Upper Carniola, the Ljubljana Basin, Inner Carniola, and part of Lower Carniola, it then included the “adjoined lordships” (angereihte Herrschaften) of the county in the March and Metlika, the Karst, and Istria.\(^1\) Even the Triestians, who so jealously guarded their autonomy that Emperor Frederick III released them from attending the assemblies of the Land of Carniola in 1491, felt threatened by the war of Emperor Maximilian I against Venice (1508–1516/1521), and considered themselves Carniolans to the extent that they again started to attend the Land’s assemblies on their own initiative, requesting military and financial assistance and even willing to pay taxes again.\(^2\) When Emperor Charles V, in the partition treaty of Worms from 1521, assigned to his brother Ferdinand I the both Austrias, Styria, Carinthia, and Carniola, but excluded from the latter all the adjoined lordships and subjected them to his own lordship together with Trieste, Gorizia, and the territories acquired in the Venetian war, the Carniolan Estates refused to pay homage to the new prince, Ferdinand I, because they did not agree with the division of the Duchy of Carniola.\(^3\) In their complaint they demanded not only the Slovene March, Istria, and the Karst to be rejoined with Carniola, but even voiced their expectation that the sovereign would expand Carniola with Gorizia and seigneuries in Friuli, because it was they, the Carniolans, who had occupied and held on to the county of Gorizia, Gradisca d’Isonzo, and other places in Friuli during the Venetian war.

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\(^1\) It was an official term, used by the Carniolan Estates as well as the prince of the Land. See Deželnozborski spisi 1, no. 54; 2, nos. 160, 163, 167; AS, ZL, 1564, IV. 29., Ljubljana; charter of Archduke Charles V: /…/ ainer gannzen erner lanndschaft sambt derselben angereichten herrschaffen der Winndischen March, Mettling, Isterreichs und Charst.

\(^2\) Ausgewählte Urkunden, no. 228; Deželnozborski spisi 1, nos. 35, 45; 2, no. 163. On the territorial development of Carniola in the 15th and 16th centuries, see especially Hauptmann 1929, 444 ff.

\(^3\) Burkert 1987, 127; Vilfan 1994, 247.
and not by any chance the Tyroleans or Upper Austrians. Although these expectations were too high, the Treaty of Brussels from 1522 re-established Carniola within its old borders, while all the other territories in the south of Habsburg’s hereditary lands, which Charles V had initially kept for himself, fell to Ferdinand.

The county of Gorizia, which came under Habsburg rule as a special Land only after the death of the last count of Gorizia, Leonhard, in 1500, had too strong traditions and a far too well-established autonomy to become part of Carniola. To the contrary, the county was enlarged with the Habsburg acquisitions from the Venetian war at the upper and lower courses of the Soča (Isonzo) and continued to exist until 1918 as a special entity in Austria’s constitutional system in the form of a Crown Land (Kronland). Traces of its statehood have been preserved to the present day in the autonomy the Provincia di Gorizia enjoys within the Regione Friuli-Venezia Giulia in Italy.

Moreover, the major part of the adjoined lordships that enlarged Carniola equally derived from the inheritance of the counts of Gorizia. The county in the (Slovene) March and Metlika, which occupied large areas of Lower Carniola and White Carniola, as well as Istria, or rather the county of Pazin in Istria, occupying the peninsula’s interior and eastern coast in the Kvarner Gulf, had developed into two Länder of the counts of Gorizia in the 14th century, and both retained their territorial independence after they were inherited by the Habsburgs in 1374. They merged with Carniola only in the early 16th century, when the nobles of the county in the March and Metlika and the county of Istria for the first time resolutely defended the territorial unity of enlarged Carniola because of the partition treaty of Worms. Nevertheless, how deep rooted and enduring the traditions of the two Gorizia Länder were is evident from the fact that Archduke Charles II, the prince of the Inner Austrian Länder, confirmed the Land’s privileges to Carniola,