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Abstracts

MIROSLAV ŠEDIVÝ, *The Principle of Non-Intervention Reconsidered. The French July Monarchy, the Public Law of Europe and the Limited Sovereignty of Secondary Countries*

The issues of intervention and non-intervention played a significant role in diplomatic history and became popular topics of political-legal debates as well as scholarly works. It is all the more surprising that no complex analysis of France's application of the non-intervention principle after the July Revolution in 1830 has been written, at least in connection with the Italian countries. This principle became an important doctrine in French foreign policy during the early 1830s that served as a weapon against Austria's predominance in Italy; the cabinet in Vienna as well as those of Italian countries were warned from Paris that any military intervention of the former in the internal affairs of the latter, even if formally requested by their monarchs, would be regarded by the French government as a violation of the non-intervention principle, even as a casus belli. As this article attempts to prove, with this approach the French political and diplomatic elites in no way wished to support the liberalisation of Italy by offering a shield to local political radicals against Austria's intervention but merely to establish a sphere of influence in designated states of secondary power. The practical outcome of this geopolitical game would have been the restriction of the sovereignty of some Italian states if the non-intervention principle had been accepted, a similar outcome as witnessed later by history with Brezhnev's famous Doctrine of 1968 about the limited sovereignty of the socialist countries in Europe.

Keywords:

*French July Monarchy
Principle of Non-Intervention; Italy
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