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Process Paper for the Friends of the Library Research Award

The central aim of this project is to bring focus to a topic that is rarely discussed in the historiography of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and in the historiography of Marxism. Austro-Marxism, despite its various valuable inputs on the topics of nationalism and the development of capitalism, remains a hidden gem in the current discussion of intellectual history. Because of the difficulty to gather secondary sources for this topic and my early-on inability to settle on a research question, I learned through this research process both the necessity to start broad when gathering sources and inspirations and the need to narrow down during the actual writing process, even if it meant to cut down some interesting points.

I started this research process envisioning the final paper to be about socialist architecture and city life in Red Vienna, a period that was dominated by social-reformatory initiatives from a socialist municipal government. While scrolling through OBIS under the search term “Red Vienna,” I encountered two books that immediately sparked my interests. One was *The architecture of Red Vienna 1919-1934* by Eve Blau, the other was *Red Vienna: experiment in working-class culture 1919-1934* by Gruber Helmut. It was through these books that I was introduced to the intellectual basis of Austro-Marxism. However, at this point, I still wished to focus on the practical aspect of the social reforms rather than their intellectual, theoretical significance. I tried to find access to municipal laws and decrees from this period that regulated social housing and used them as primary sources. With the help from library research assistant Elizabeth Sullivan, we went to the official website of Vienna archive (Wiener Stadt- und Landesarchiv) and did some preliminary searches in its directories. Due to my insufficiencies in German, the search was mostly unsuccessful. We then moved on to the Internet Archive with similar unsatisfactory results. It was at this point that I decided to shift the focus of my research paper.

Rather than focusing on actual socialist practices and urban spaces, which might demand a visit to Vienna and its archives, I decided to focus on its various intellectual underpinnings. Though many treatises written by Austro-Marxist thinkers remained untranslated, I was able to find two translated anthologies, *Austro-Marxism* edited and translated by Tom Bottomore and Patrick Goode and *Austro-Marxism: The Ideology of Unity: Austro-Marxist Theory and Strategy* edited by Mark E. Blum and William Smaldone. These two anthologies introduced me to some of

the key figures that would appear in my paper and served as my main primary sources. Even if some of the passages were abridged versions, I was able to find the whole work on Project Gutenberg or Marxists Internet Archive upon further research.

Then my main difficulty lay in finding secondary sources. What I found during research was that most scholars used Austro-Marxism mainly as a springboard to examine other topics, such as Red Vienna, Austro-Fascism, or the Austrian-school of economy and sociology. Because of this absence, it was hard to position my argument against other arguments. After meeting with Professor Sammartino, she suggested me to make use of this absence in secondary literature and to see what available characterizations of Austro-Marxism had in common. I then decided to shift the current historiography by looking at fin-de-siècle Austria instead of interwar Austria (as many scholars did) as the moment when Austro-Marxist theories developed and reached their maturity. The two secondary literatures I utilized for a basic overview of fin-de-siècle Austria were *Fin-de-siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture* by Carl E. Schorske and *The Economic Rise of the Habsburg Empire, 1750-1914* by David F. Good. During this research for secondary literature, both JSTOR and OBIS played pivotal roles.

The final paper looked completely different from what I envisioned at the start. Despite the fact that I had to abandon some interesting topics to pursue, the research and the writing process for this paper were highly enjoyable. Indispensable to this research process was the help from Ms. Elizabeth Sullivan, Professor Sammartino, and my friends who spent time hearing me talking about my paper during the finals. I am very grateful for their help.