

Summary

Conflict Lines and Spatial Diversity in Early Modern Scania

The image of relationships between different social groups in Scania (Skåne) at the end of the 17th century exposes a complex structure. Within Scania there was a struggle for both resources and conditions of existence. It was about socio-economic conflicts with different spatial anchoring.

Noblemen, fiefs, peasant farmers and the bourgeoisie were subject to different power structures, which meant that their spatial ties would also have been quite different. The actors' rhetoric on province, privileges and customs illustrates a way of spatially forming one's own claims and demands. Every class attempted to safeguard its privileges; a form of monopoly intent that was most evident in towns. The concept "outsider" indicated the divisions and limitations of these communities' social and geographical extent.

The power of the state was both an opponent and a partner in this struggle for experienced and actual statutory rights. No one group had the power to completely dominate the other. State authority was necessary in order to maintain a privileged order that favoured one's own group. This allowed for a situation where state authority could expect something in return for grace and favours made to individual groups or estates. A negotiating situation developed where different actors and social groups could be played off against each other. The position occupied by the state explains the ambivalence that citizens had to state authority. The *notion* of a commonly shared Scanian space tends to hide the fact that Scania accommodated many communities of varying social ties, and that the future didn't necessarily depend on a common approach to the new state authority.