

## Summary

My thesis describes the evolution of the Waldstein clan in the age of one hundred years after the Thirty Years War. Both termini which I have chosen (1640 and 1740) are not exactly kept because of logic of my constructions. I aspire to commit an integrated and compact view of activities of Waldstein clan, which belonged to an aristocratic class through its property, political power and an amount of social relations. It was one of the most famous and most powerful family structures in early modern Bohemia and in the whole Habsburg monarchy as well. My method combines a lot of approaches including biography (prosopography) and structure analysis. I want to inquire the relations between the Waldstein family and the changing social and political structures, in which they acted.

The first part concerns stories of the personalities growing from the clan, their activities in the frame of early modern state and its administration. In the time of 17th and 18th centuries, this activity was connected with the fealty to the ruler and the service for the ruler was an essential assumption for making the career. As courtiers, diplomats and officers, the Waldsteine came up to expectations of their estate. The models of aristocratic careers I have related to the life cycle and I have described the making of Waldstein positions and the preparation for the following function during the educational process which contains the study at universities in Prague and in Western Europe („*grand tour*“). The highest level of the career was represented by the diplomatic action and Waldsteine created the international relations several times. This service was connected with the life in vicinity of the Emperor and many Waldsteine occupied the first places at court in Vienna. Besides the central offices, they were entrenched in the highest land functions. The poorer members of the clan did not have the possibilities to make their career in such a chief place and had to move into administration of Bohemia as a regional authority (*Kreishauptmann*). The nobility could make the running not only in the state structure, but in other social hierarchies, for example in the catholic church or in the army.

The second part of my thesis deals with the Waldstein clan on whole. I tried to describe the filiation, family and correspondent connections with other aristocratic clans and with the inferior men as well (gentry, jurists, townsmen). Through these relationships, the Waldstein held their main positions in the bohemian society, because they maintained the informal connections like the friendship or patronage. It seems the clan was not an aggregate of persons, but the individual social organism with its own strategies, which were manifested by the orientation toward the marriage with certain chosen clans from Bohemia (Czernin), Habsburg monarchy (Harrach) and even from Holy Roman Empire (Fürstenberg). I have to mention the endogamy inside the Waldstein clan. The

endogamy was caused by the pursuit to save the domain for future members of the clan and by the fact, that the clan was branched off into many family branches. The cooperation of the clan and its partners was manifested not only by the depressed and felicitous moments (the death or birth of family member) but during the everyday life as well (meetings, common dinners etc.). The consistence of this network helped the member by the acquirement of the political functions and by the legal conflict against another nobleman. The friendship and also the animosity could continue during many generations, they could be inherited from the father to the son.

In the third part I deal with the economic ground of the Waldstein clan. This ground was made by the network of the domain situated above all in north and northeastern Bohemia. In this case, Waldsteine were manorial lords, but they could not abuse their position. According to the Christian doctrine, they should take care of their subjects. The members of Waldstein clan engaged in the management of their domain by various way. Some family members looked after his domain, because he settled in the centre of it, the others were fixed at court, so they could not attend to the domain organisation and they entrusted their bureaucracy with it. The Waldsteine were generally responsible householders, they assisted their subjects (above all the citizens of the residential towns) to gain the new privileges, although we can see a few conflicts between the Waldstein (or his bureaucracy) and his liege town (for example in Turnov). Under the supervising of the manorial lord or his bureaucracy, the domains were going through a lot of deep changes. The goal of these actions was a rationalization of manorial economy, which could not stay only on the agricultural basis, but also on the manufactures. They arose as a product of the new economic thought (mercantilism), which had begun to penetrate to Bohemia at the beginning of 18th century.

We can observe a lot of common tendencies of the progress of early modern Bohemia after the Thirty Years War on the basis of one aristocratic clan. It was created by the ensemble of the persons connected under the blazon with four lions. The clan and its members affected the world around them, the Waldsteine burned the signs into the cultural and agricultural landscape, their defended not only their own interests, but also the interests of their country and their ruler as well. They made a network of connection, so they bound the different social and geographic enviroments. I have to say they should be studied in future.