

## **Abstract**

The thesis describes a period of the government of Leopold II Grand Duke of Tuscany and his affiliation to the swampy territory along the Tuscany coastline called Maremma and its bonification. He was able to change fundamentally the most underdeveloped areas of his country during thirty years of his government. He succeeded even though political changes during the revolutionary years of 1847-1849, and though his government was finished by the unification of Italy and the incorporation of Tuscany into the newly established Kingdom of Italy, which was the goal of Italian risorgimento. This work further describes biography of Leopold II in short, his policy focused on overall development of Tuscany, and last but not least life fates and the principal works of his three closest collaborators – personalities with major influence at the realisation of the bonification works – Vittorio Fossombroni, Gaetano Giorgini and Alessandro Manetti. The thesis describes the bonification works in Maremma themselves, their organisation and results achieved. Part of the bonification overall plans of Leopold II was construction of the road network as well, with necessity of numerous bridges over canals and regulated watercourses. It was also necessary to solve the health problems in the region, especially malaria, where the cause, ways of spreading and the most effective treatment were still being searched. The last issue connected with the overall bonification in the Maremma region is the economic development of the region, especially the development of the agriculture. The proof of the effectiveness of Leopold's policy in Maremma was its demographic development. Leopold II was one of the sovereigns which mostly merited in the flourishing development of Tuscany. The spatial scale and the complexity of the bonification works were unprecedented and is hard to find comparisons to them.