

**Abstract in English language:**

This thesis deals with the political and economic development of the Kingdom of Hanover as an example of a medium-sized state in the German Confederation. In addition to its relationship with Great Britain, with which was Hanover associated in personal union in the years 1714–1837, a new definition of relations between these states before 1866 and the annexation of Hanover by Prussia are also discussed, as well as the impact of the significant events in Europe in that time on the functioning of the Guelph domain. Closer to be discussed are the personalities of British Queen Victoria and Hanoverian King and Duke of Cumberland Ernest August, who were key actors at the end of the personal union in 1837, and in addressing the sensitive political issues that followed.

Apart from the emphasis on political history, this thesis also deals with economic history, primarily in connection with Hanover's relationship with the German Customs Association (Zollverein). This institution, guarded by Prussia, represented to Hanover in certain stages of its development as an independent kingdom, first of all, competition and then a path to the short-term solution of its internal problems. Above all, however, this was one of the many situations where Hanoverian interests clashed with the interests of his bigger neighbor, Prussia. This was also the case in the years 1848–1850, which were crucial for the future development of Germany, and in 1863–1866, which served as a prelude to the conflict between Austria and Prussia about hegemony in Germany.

Attention is also paid to the so-called "British Card" within Hanoverian policy. It involves the use of close ties with Britain and its ruling dynasty in order to gain a more prominent position in political negotiations and in balancing the sphere of influence between Prussia and Austria. This institute was used by Hanover with alternate successes until 1866, and its success depended primarily on the direction of British politics.

This work is focused on primary and secondary sources, memoirs, periodicals and uses many quotes from the correspondence of the then significant politicians and public life subjects. The purpose is a better-balanced view of the events of that time, as well as the ungrateful role that Hanover had to cope with since the end of the Vienna Congress in 1815 until its annexation by Prussia as a result of the Battle of Langensalza in 1866.

**Key words:**

Hanover, Great Britain, Prussia, History, personal union, German unification, Guelph, annexation, Victoria, Ernest Augustus