

Economy of three generations of aristocrats from Pernštejn during the 16th century

In my work I focus on the management of aristocrats from Pernštejn during the 16th century.

On an example of three generations I am trying to show traditional forms of noble business, as well as new attempts for financial gain. I built my work on the data from sixteen urbary of Pernštejn manors reflecting the view of major aristocratic family on their own proactive approach to economic events in estates.

Throughout the study I cover the history of aristocrats from Pernštejn from the beginnings to the end of the 16th century. Further I focus on the traditional forms of feudal profits also via more modern ways that started to be used during late medieval and early modern period. After that I describe the urbary and development of their studies. Furthermore, using an extant urbary I describe the economic situation in eight Pernštejn estates. In the final appendix I record all locations that are monitored in the urbary.

Overall, I summarize the estates as outdated and not very profitable. According to me the self-interest of Pernštejn family in this area is minimal. Both facts led to financial bankruptcy of the family that during a certain period belonged to a political and property elite of the early modern Czech aristocracy.

Key words: early modern times, nobility, economy, estate, urbary