

## **Abstract**

There are only a few works available dealing with the Czech Early New Times and not mentioning the name of Pavel Michna z Vacínova. The man who succeeded in overcoming barriers of his middle class origin and making himself an indispensable advisor to top representatives of the Czech Kingdom and even Emperor Ferdinand II and to manage elevation to Imperial Earldom towards the end of his life.

Michna, a butcher's son from Budyně nad Ohří, became thanks to patronage of the High Chancellor of the Czech Kingdom Zdeněk Vojtěch Popel z Lobkowitz in the early part of the 17th century the Czech Kingdom Court Office Secretary and reinforced a group of catholic militants who gradually started to exploit the Czech Kingdom Court Office for the benefit of their own influence at the expense of Protestant majority.

Even though Michna had signed the Imperial Charter of Rudolf II that guaranteed all subjects in the Kingdom freedom of worship, he alone prosecuted Protestants during his office period in the Czech Kingdom Court Office and was aiming to restrict their rights.

The hate of Protestants against Michna culminated on May 23, 1618, when he should have been one of the victims of the Defenestration of Prague. He had learned of plans of the plotters on time and rescued himself fleeing to Vienna to the Imperial Court. As a loyal supporter of Emperor Ferdinand II he takes part in preparations of a military retaliation against the Estate rebels. As one of the first Catholic nobles he comes back with the troops of General Buquoye in the mid of 1620 to the Czech lands and participates in the fateful Bílá Hora battle which ended in the final defeat of the Protestant revolt. After the victory of Imperial armies Michna assists the caretaker Commissioner and Administrator of the Czech Lands Karel z Lichtensteina in calming down the situation in the Kingdom. Michna was appointed Imperial General Commissioner and Governor and was given a baron title in 1622 and later elevated even to Imperial earldom.

More over, he managed to acquire huge land property in the in the 1720s that consisted mostly in estate confiscated from rebels. He was involved together with Albrecht z Valdštejna in many up to now unexplained speculations. He became an important member of the so called Office of the Mint at the same time that contrary to agreements made with the Emperor allowed coining low-quality mints containing very low amount of precious metal resulting in unprecedented inflation that brought about insolvency of the state.

Nevertheless, Michna dies as an honourable and powerful man in the military camp of Albrecht z Valdštejna not far from Nuremberg in 1632.