

Abstract

Wenceslaus IV. is traditionally considered as a not very capable monarch, in contrast to his successful father, Emperor Charles IV. Not even modern historiography works are without a flattened negative view on this ruler. The aim of this work is to relativize Wenceslaus' alleged ruling inability in an example of his policy in Lands of the Bohemian Crown, namely in Lower Lusatia between years 1364–1419. The issue of the crown countries in this period has been so far in the background of Bohemian researchers' interest. Emphasis is placed on the socio-cultural background of Lusatian Margrave at the end of the 14th century and it is possible to also evaluate the position of Lower Lusatia throughout the whole Bohemian Crown. The focus of the thesis is an analysis of specific Wenceslaus' political steps, mainly based on charters research. The work is also focused on exploring the relationship between the sovereign and the Lower Lusatian nobility, cities and churches. The scope is also devoted to the contribution of John of Gorlitz and Jost of Moravia to the administration of Margrave. By analyzing the above-mentioned aspects, is possible to enrich the view of the government of Wenceslaus IV. and to relativize the traditional narrative of his inability to govern. Finally, it can prove the continuity of the of the Bohemian Crown after the death of Charles IV.

Keywords: Wenceslaus IV., Luxembourg, 14th century, 15th century, Bohemian Crown, Lower Lusatia, Lands of the Bohemian Crown, lords of Bieberstein, Vogt, John of Gorlitz, Jost of Moravia