

This thesis deals with the papacy's attitudes towards early Christian heresies: monophysitism, monoenergism, and monotheletism. Using a diachronic approach, four popes are discussed, namely Leo the Great, Vigilius, Honorius, and Agatho. These were the popes who greatly influenced the development of condemnation of heresies in the period starting from the Chalcedonian Council (451) until the Third Council of Constantinople (680/681). In this work, the attitudes and actions of the four popes are analyzed, compared, and put into a wider perspective. The attitude of each pope is presented with an analysis of his most important writings which are consequently put into a context of his personal traits and wider theological and political relations. The introductory chapter offers a concise summary of the theological development in the Roman Empire from 4th to 7th Century AD dealing with Trinitarian and Christological heresies and the councils that condemned them. Each of the next four chapters dedicated to four popes contains biographical information, an analysis of theological and political events with an emphasis on ecumenical councils, and, an analysis of popes' attitude. At the end of this thesis, a thorough comparison of all four popes is made. Moreover, the most important factors determining the popes' attitudes are identified.