

Summary

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Topic: Dynastic Policy of the Piasts from the 10th to the Mid-12th Century in the Context of Central Europe. A Genealogical and Comparative Study

This dissertation analyzes the marriages contracted by members of the Piast dynasty, both men and women, from the beginnings of statehood until the enactment of the succession law by Duke Bolesław III Wrymouth in 1138. Dynastic marriages were one of the key tools of international politics in medieval Europe. They were of particular importance both for political stability and for strengthening the power and influence of a given lineage. They often served as a means to solidify alliances between different states and dynasties.

The dissertation is divided into three main parts. The first part comprises an overview of sources useful for studying the genealogy of the Piasts, supplemented by a review of the literature on this topic. In addition to research on the first Polish dynasty, this section also presents the state of research on the genealogy of the Czech Přemyslids, the Hungarian Árpáds, the Russian Rurikids, and German noble families. The second part of the dissertation is dedicated to a genealogical-political study in which the individual marriages contracted by the Piast dynasty are discussed. Contrary to the prevailing trend in historiography, these marriages are not discussed chronologically but according to territorial division. First, the hypothetically existing marriages contracted before the reign of Duke Mieszko I are introduced. Subsequently, the marriages contracted with various dynasties: the Přemyslids, Árpáds, Scandinavian rulers, Rurikids, and members of German princely and comital families are analyzed. Finally, hypotheses concerning marriages contracted by the Piasts, for which we do not have certain information, are presented. For each Piast and Piast princess, genealogical data about the person was first considered, with an effort to determine life dates and filiations. The same applies to the spouse. Subsequently, the political circumstances that contributed to the conclusion of the given alliance supported by the marriage were analyzed.

In the last chapter, a comparative and statistical analysis was conducted. Attention was paid to the names of the first Piasts, attempting to answer the question of where a given name was adopted by the dynasty and which names survived and were more frequently given in later times. Furthermore, the lifespan, number of offspring, and the direction of the dynastic policy pursued by the given Piast were analyzed.

The entire dissertation concludes with a summary of all the findings contained in the doctoral dissertation, followed by a list of tables and a bibliography divided into sources and literature.