Central Europe in the High Middle Ages

This groundbreaking comparative history of the early centuries of Bohemia, Hungary and Poland sets the development of each polity in the context of the central European region as a whole. Focusing on the origins of the realms and their development in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, the book concludes with the thirteenth century when significant changes in social and economic structures occurred. The book presents a series of thematic chapters on every aspect of the early history of the region covering political, religious, economic, social and cultural developments, including an investigation of origin myths that questions traditional national narratives. It also explores the ways in which west European patterns were appropriated and adapted through the local initiatives of rulers, nobles and ecclesiastics in central Europe. An ideal introduction to the essential themes in medieval central European history, the book sheds important new light on regional similarities and differences.

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CENTRAL EUROPE IN THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES
BOHEMIA, HUNGARY AND POLAND
c. 900–c. 1300

NORA BEREND, PRZEMYSŁAW URBAŃ CZYK AND PRZEMYSŁAW WISZEWSKI
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Przemysław Urbańczyk and Przemysław Wiszewski wrote the sections on Bohemia and Poland; Nora Berend wrote the Introduction and the sections on Hungary. The availability of the source material has led to some imbalances in the discussion of themes and areas.

Central European names often have many alternative spellings in the medieval texts, and yet another modern form reconstructed by scholars. We signal various versions in the first instance, and then use the modern vernacular form. Similarly, central European town names, except some of those generally familiar to English-speakers, are used in the vernacular, with the modern names in parentheses if they are different. Regions and geographical names are given in English to facilitate reading, with local variants in parentheses in the first instance where needed. Eastern, Western and Central Europe as well as Eastern and Western are capitalized when they refer to concepts or to the political division of Europe after the Second World War, but are used in the lower case when they refer to relative geographical position in the pre-modern world.

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Border between the duchies of Zbigniew and Bolesław III the Wrymouth, sons of Władysław I Herman, c. 1102

Realm of Duke Bolesław III the Wrymouth, c. 1109

Lands conquered by Duke Bolesław III the Wrymouth, c. 1109–1113

Lands conquered by Duke Bolesław III the Wrymouth, c. 1116–1119

Lands conquered by Duke Bolesław III the Wrymouth, c. 1121–1122

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- Personal duchy of Duke Władysław II the Exile
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- Borders of the Duchies of the Piast Dukes of the Masovian Line
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