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Comparison of the Use of Historical Motives in the Monarchical Legitimacy in Kingdoms of France and Bohemia in the Late Middle Ages

Abstract

Concepts of the past are most important parts in the formation of individual and collective identity. Medieval authors deliberately used the historical narratives as a means of enhancing the cohesion of respective social groups, usually the ruling strata of society. The doctoral thesis focuses on re-interpretations and exploitations of the past in France and Bohemia during the 14th century, on the role of historical narratives in the self-representation of the ruling dynasties Luxembourg and Valois, and on the perception of their own role in the history. Main question of the thesis is the social and literary context of the shaping of an imagination of the past: detailed comparison between the Latin and vernacular historiographical production at the royal courts in France and Bohemia bring also crucial observations as to the ways and means of cultural transfer between the respective centres of power.