

DOCUMENTARY STUDIES ON THE HISTORY
OF HUSSITISM IN KÖNIGINHOF ON THE ELBE

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After the foundation in the 13th century of the east Bohemian town of Hof, which was later called (as the *Leibgedingstadt* of the Queen) Königinhof, the

leadership of the town remained in the hands of German merchants and craftsmen. In 1421 it surrendered to the Hussite military leader Žižka and thus came under Czech control. But some Germans nevertheless stayed in the town and continued to enjoy the right to conduct legal transactions. An escheatage court case instituted against a German patrician who had fled shows that despite all the prevailing disorder and unrest, no legal liability was imposed on families of convicted non-Hussites.

Within only a few years, along with Königinhof, the neighboring German villages also became Czech. Remnants of the Hussite creed — in the form of the Bohemian Confession — survived through the following centuries and contributed to strengthening the national awareness of the Czech people. These groups were, however, also receptive to the religious teachings of Martin Luther, with the result that they viewed the German Lutherans who streamed into the thinly settled villages more as brothers in faith than as Germans.