

THE EXEMPTION DISPUTE BETWEEN THE ABBOTS
OF BŘEVNOV-BRAUNAU AND THE ARCHBISHOPS
OF PRAGUE, 1705—1758

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The exemption dispute between the abbots of Břevnov-Braunau and the Prague archbishops which lasted during the first half of the 18th century was a bitter struggle between law and power. Three popes intervened with 15 bulls and briefs. Three Roman Congregations as well as the Rota Romana conducted and decided legal proceedings in the matter. Hapsburg emperors from Leopold I to Maria Theresa were enlisted in the struggle. This case again shows the danger which power poses, because it perverts the law, unleashes emotions, and leads to gravely erroneous decisions. The implications of this detailed account thus go far beyond the „local color“ of Bohemian Church history.