

ON „FOREIGN POLICY“ IN THE AGE OF THE
„BOHEMIAN ANARCHY“

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F. Palacký and F. G. Heymann characterized the mid-15th century as an age of anarchy. The author sees this as a gap in historical research and uses the example of the involved history of the mercenaries as a stimulus to its further investigation. An approximately 10,000-man-strong contingent from Bohemia was drawn into the so-called Luxemburg inheritance struggle and Soest feud (1444—1447) in Westphalia on the side of the House of Wettin (Saxony, Meissen, Thuringia), in coalition with the Archbishop of Cologne. Peter von Sternberg and Heinrich von Kolowrat appeared as its leaders. Their motives for this westward campaign revealed them to be something less than mercenaries, for their interest was based rather on the political will to preserve, as representatives of the Estates, Luxemburg for the „crown of Bohemia“ — this also being in accord with the interests of the Luxemburg Estates. In conclusion, the broad echo of the Bohemian expedition is analyzed, and attention thereby directed to such themes as „resistance of the Estates“ and „public opinion“.