

THE CHURCH POLICY OF CARL IV

Gerhard Losher

This contribution is an extended book review of the work by Wolfgang Hölscher: *Kirchenschutz als Herrschaftsinstrument*, 1985. Independent of one another, and almost simultaneously, three other extensive works about the Church policy of Carl IV have been published. The three come to similar conclusions: during his 32-year reign the Luxemburger succeeded in bringing the majority of the appointment of bishops in the empire under his control. That the question of the Emperor's influence in the appointment of bishops has rarely been asked until now shows that in the study of the Late Middle Ages the relations between state and Church are still not sufficiently taken into consideration. The work of Wolfgang Hölscher also gives a valuable overview of the rules of Carl IV's protectorate over the Church, notwithstanding the fact that it does so without sufficiently discussing all aspects involved.