

SUMMARIES

TOWARDS COEXISTENCE: EMPEROR SIGMUND AND THE END OF THE HUSSITE REVOLUTION

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This study examines the structure of the negotiating process which led to an understanding being reached by the Hussites on one hand and Emperor Sigmund and the Basle council on the other. These negotiations can be seen as representing the opening chapter of a history of tolerance in Bohemia, born out of the necessity to reestablish political and social unity within a new order which had to transcend the religious antagonisms. After both sides had refrained from the use of violence, they had to overcome their contrasting monistic and fundamentalistic goals first. During the negotiations of 1434–36 it was above all the politicians who managed to do so, since their main interest was to stabilize the existing rule. A prerequisite for the compromise to be reached was that both parties accepted the primacy of politics over religion. Against objections raised by the council, the emperor made concessions with respect to the autonomy of the Hussite estates. This was the factual beginning of the coexistence of two confessions in Bohemia and Moravia. Thus, objectively the emperor started the learning process which would eventually lead to public tolerance.