

ST. ADALBERT IN GERMAN, POLISH AND CZECH SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS

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Whereas St. Adalbert is completely ignored in contemporary German history classes, the authors of pre-war textbooks treated the saint in the framework of their ideologically founded criticism of medieval Eastern politics. Contemporary Polish textbooks focus on Adalbert's importance for the development of the Polish monarchy in the middle ages. Where the saint does receive the most extensive and respectful treatment, however, is in Czech textbooks. For several generations, Adalbert's image as an highly educated, ascetic monk was determined by Josef Pekař, who failed, on the other hand, to elaborate upon his importance for ecclesiastical politics in Poland. Modern Czech textbook authors look upon Adalbert as a prominent member of the central European intellectual elite of his time, but also as an active supporter of the medieval church reform movement.