

NOT A MAGNIFICENT RIDE

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The present article is a critical review of the monograph "The Magnificent Ride. The First Reformation in Hussite Bohemia" (1998) by Thomas A. Fudge. This exhaustive synthesis of Bohemian reformation and Hussite revolution is an ambitious undertaking, its chapters ranging from "Bohemia on the Eve of the Hussite Movement" to the changes that this movement brought about. How Fudge deals with sources and with literature, however, does not always represent current scientific standards. As a result, the whole book is marred by (too many) deficiencies relating to the presentation of facts, to quotations and to the scientific apparatus. The chapters pertaining to structural and intellectual history, albeit raising some intriguing questions and offering new approaches, among them communication science and literacy research, are not entirely convincing either. Moreover, the language is not as clear and to the point as it could be. Summing up, this book is neither a convincing synthesis of contemporary research nor a compelling presentation of individual aspects of the Hussite revolution.