

SUMMARIES

CONFESSIONALISATION IN EASTERN EUROPE IN THE 17TH CENTURY: THE APPLICABILITY OF A RESEARCH CONCEPT

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The author puts the concept of "confessionalisation", with its origins in structural history, to the test by applying it to the two typologically seemingly incomparable cases of 17th-century Bohemia and Moscow. Focusing on the problem of religion, confessionalisation and modernisation, he almost entirely skips the controversial question of enforcing social discipline for want of preliminary historical research. Common to both cases is the marked aspect of state intervention including the use of force. In Bohemia, (catholic) confessionalisation meant in almost every area a strategy to prevent modernisation, whereas in the Muscovite Realm the (orthodox) Old Believers after the schism strengthened latent impulses towards modernisation; in Moscow there was a closer relationship between religion and modernisation than in post-White-Mountain Bohemia. This is evident even from the large period of time that elapsed between the respective tolerance laws. Thus, the author offers a critical view on "confessionalisation" but does not, in a departure from the trend in recent cultural history, entirely refute it.