

# CONVERSIONS OF BOHEMIAN AND MORAVIAN NOBLES DURING THE HUSSITE ERA

*Robert Novotný*

In this article, conversions of persons of noble birth from Bohemia and Moravia occurring between the outbreak of the Hussite revolution and the beginning of the reformation are analyzed and placed in a greater context. Ten particular conversions are comprehensively described, taking into consideration not only the religious situation of those concerned, but also the family settings and the social, economic, and political circumstances. A case which has not so far been taken up by historians is evaluated at length, namely the conversion, in Würzburg, of Jan Míčan z Klinštejna, which has been described in great detail by the Franconian knight Michel von Ehenheim. On the basis of these case stories, the whole problem field is placed in the broader context of modern-day “conversion research”, comparison being made primarily with research dealing with the (later) era of confessionalization, offering a number of parallels with 15<sup>th</sup>-century Bohemian developments. The final part is made up by a more general look at some distinct aspects involved, in particular the legal framework for conversions and the ceremonies involved.