

SOCIETAL ORDER AND VIOLENCE ON THE EASTERN
BORDER OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE:

“*Landfrieden*” Laws – a Comparison Between Bohemia, Moravia and Austria
(1396-1464)

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In a comparison between the three neighboring territories Bohemia, Moravia, and Austria, the author analyzes the situation with regard to feuds in connection with the so-called *Landfrieden* laws, a legal provision by which the sovereign sought to prohibit them. Most closely examined is the time frame of appearance and gradual refinement of the late-medieval *Landfrieden* laws, i.e. the years 1396 (when devastating wars near-simultaneously erupted in all three territories concerned) to 1464 (the start of the restoration of the regal power of Ladislaus Posthumus). In his main drive the author argues that while *Landfrieden* laws may well be considered mere policing

regulations, first and foremost they constituted provisions of national law reflecting the power and political influence of the groups involved. Thus it was not feuds in which the dominance of the ruler and the privileged strata expressed itself most strikingly, but *Landfrieden* laws and related means of regulating such violence as occurred in society at this time.