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DEFENCE OF THE POLISH WESTERN FRONTIERS DURING THE PERIOD OF EARLY FEUDALISM IN THE LIGHT OF PREVIOUS STUDIES

The article is concerned with military problems of the Polish western frontier during the early feudal period. It discusses the state of research on the restoration of this problem in Polish and German reference literature, as well as the methods of studies.

The first part consists of a critical analysis of historiographic literature on military problems of the Polish western boundary until 1939. The second part is concerned with the development of studies on this question in People's Poland, wherein there has ensued an increased interest in the military history of the Polish western frontier during the period since the Xth until the middle of the XIIth century. The present paper is a result of studies carried out in cooperation by representatives of many scientific fields. Most of the relevant findings were contributed by geographers who restored the geographical surroundings of the western boundary; by archaeologists who made excavations at different fortified sites along the border; and finally by historians who studied the problem from various aspects.

The outcome of research in all these realms has rendered possible a detailed report on the history and defence value of the system of fortifications erected on the western frontier in the early feudal era. Findings have revealed the association between fortifications and defence properties of the geographical environment of the western boundary, as well as the means of its protection by the Polish state.

The topic in question was presented in a monograph by the same author, issued in 1961, under the following heading: "Studies on the defence of Polish western frontier during the early-feudal period" (Poznań, 1961). The present article has complemented the work by recent five years' findings and made it possible for the reader to assume an attitude towards these problems. Moreover, it has afforded an opportunity to revise some of the former conclusions. By doing so, it has broadened the author's investigations on the defence of the Polish western frontier during the early feudal era.

MARIAN BISKUP

TEUTONIC ORDER AND 1ST STATE BORDERING THE BAL- TIC SEA IN POLAND'S HISTORY

The author affords a presentation of the problem in the light of recent ideas prevailing in Polish historiography, which contradict many of the doctrines of West-German historiography. Founding of the Teutonic state in Prussia, in the years 1226—1230, is considered from the aspect of its tendencies to carry out armed colonization missions, and of German social knightly elements, as well as from the viewpoint of its rivalry with the Mazovian duke, Conrad, who introduced the Teutonic order and became its founder in the Polish district of Chełmno. Emphasis is given to the fact of a deceitful — in respect to duke Conrad — assurance by Hermann von Salza, the grand Teutonic master, of an imperial privilege issued in 1226, and permitting him to establish in Prussia a state independent from Poland and associated with the empire only by an indeterminate relation of a protection. Further emphasis is given to the falsification of duke Conrad's privilege (the so called Kruszwica prerogative), issued in 1230 (actually in 1234), supposedly re-