

*Ziemia polskie w X wieku i ich znaczenie w kształtowaniu się nowej mapy Europy (Polish Territories in the Tenth Century and Their Importance for the Shape of a New Europe)*, ed. Henryk Samsonowicz, Kraków 2000, Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych "Universitas", 475 pp., 65 illustr., 9 diagrams, 36 maps, 1 table, index of geographical names, sum. in English, German and Russian.

The book contains materials from a conference organised in Cracow in the spring of 2000. Jerzy Kłoczowski (*Christianity in East-Central Europe and the Construction of Church Organisation*, pp. 3–16) presents the Christianisation of Croatia, Bohemia, Hungary and Poland. He points out that these countries, together with Ruthenia and Scandinavia, formed a zone of "new Christianity", a zone in which the Church was strongly linked with the state apparatus and in which the conflict between western and eastern Christianity appeared late, the first references in sources dating from the 13th century. Jerzy Strzelczyk (*Poland in the Geopolitical Structure of Europe*, pp. 35–52) says that state-building processes and the Christianisation of a part of Europe led to important changes in the geopolitical situation of Polish territories. Przemysław Urbaniczyk (*The Beginnings of Early-Medieval States in East-Central Europe*, pp. 53–70) argues that the dynasties of the Přemyslids, Piasts, Ruriks and Arpads succeeded in building new states because they had defeated local rivals, stopped the expansion of other states, organised economic exploitation in their territories and introduced an ideology which legitimated their authority. Gerard Labuda (*The Political and Ecclesiastic Aspects of the Gniezno Congress of 1000*, pp. 17–33) emphasises that the decisions of the Congress were well prepared in the ecclesiastic field (establishment of a Polish metropolitan see) and the political field (conferment of regal dignity on Boleslaus the Brave). A group of articles present the history of various regions of Poland at the turn of the 10th century in the light of latest archeological research (Zofia Kurnatowska, *Great Poland in the 10th Century and the Formation of the Polish State*, pp. 99–117; Władysław Łosiński, *Pomerania — Was It More Slavic than Baltic?*, pp. 119–141; Andrzej Buko, *The Czech Little Poland and the "Polanian" Little Poland*, pp. 143–168; Sławomir Moździoch, *Silesia between Gniezno and Prague*, pp. 169–198; Marek Dulinicz, *Mazovia in the 10th Century*, pp. 199–220). The authors emphasise differences between various Polish regions, draw attention to foreign influence (of Baltic countries in Pomerania, Hungarians in a part of Little Poland, Ruthenia in Mazovia, but they question the opinion that southern Poland was under strong Czech influence) and stress the Piasts' endeavours to unite the country (construction of new castles-towns). Teresa Rysiewska (*Structures of Kinship Preserved in Cemeteries*, pp. 279–301) points out that traces of Polanians' settlement have been discovered in the main centres of the Sandomierz region and Mazovia thanks to anthropological research (examination of skulls). Michał Kara and Marek Krapięć (*The Possibilities of Determining Dates by the Dendrochronological Method and the State*

of *Dendrochronological Research into the Early-Medieval Castle-Towns of Great Poland, Lower Silesia and Little Poland*, pp. 303–327) say that the construction and renovation of castle-towns intensified in the forties, seventies and eighties of the tenth century and then about 1000 and at the end of the 1020s and the beginning of the 1030s. Stanisław Kurnatowski (*Studies on the Structure of Settlement and Economy*, pp. 329–350) emphasises that the steady and quick increase of population in the Polish territories from the end of the 10th century brought about economic growth but also degradation of the environment. Stanisław Suchodolski (*The Beginnings of Polish Minting*, pp. 351–360) dates the beginning of Polish coinage to ca. 995 and the end of its first phase to about 1020. According to the author, minting was halted because Boleslaus the Brave's court was incompetent and could not run a cash economy; the end of coinage may also have been a symptom of the crisis which came to light in 1034. Teresa Rodzińska-Chorąży (*What Does Brick Architecture Tell Us?*, pp. 361–387) points out that Polish pre-Romanesque architecture was influenced by Italian and German architecture but not by that of Bohemia for brick architecture was poorly developed in Bohemia. Jacek Banaszkewicz (*Dynastic and Tribal Traditions in Northern Slav Countries*, pp. 261–277) stresses the role of traditions in the formation of socio-political ties. In the case of Bohemia, Poland and Ruthenia these traditions were connected with the beginning of the local dynasties, in the Polabian region they were linked to tribal myths. A large part of the book (pp. 73–96, 223–257, 391–429) is an account of the discussions which followed the papers. Henryk Samsonowicz's text *Polish Territories in the Tenth Century and Their Importance for the Shape of a New Europe* is a summing up of the conference; the text is in Polish, English, German and Russian (English version pp. 443–449).

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