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Early 16th-century Hungary in the eyes of Westerners: 'shield of Christendom' or 'a remote land' on the frontiers of 'barbaricum'

The paper seeks to investigate the view Western Europe had of Jagiellonian Hungary, the period before the battle of Mohács (1526) and the fall of the medieval Kingdom of Hungary. The channels through which it is seen are the relations of the Western European envoys. We also ask in what way Hungary had a role in the new constellation of the grand powers of the Italian wars? In the eyes of Westerners, of newly emerging powers striking for naval grandeur, can the kingdom be still seen as one of the prime movers of Europe, or, is it now a remote land of the frontiers of Christendom, sinking to peripheral importance in the new, Valois-Tudor-Spanish axis? In the new power constellation of newly emerged Valois/Tudor/Habsburg grandeur did Hungary play her traditional medieval role as "empire"? Was it still seen as a „propugnaculum Christianitatis”, or, did the Western European political theatre already reckoned with the inevitable fall of Stephen's realm? Is the „antemurale” an over-exaggerated, over-exhausted old-fashioned myth?