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The transition of the concept of Central Europe in the Ottonian Empire – historiographical and diplomatical analysis

The paper intends to discuss the change of terminology regarding the early medieval Central Europe in the historical literature and charters written in the Holy Roman Empire under the Ottonian kings and emperors (tenth to early eleventh century). A special emphasis will be laid on the transformation of terminology concerning the ethnographical and geographical components of the region east of the Elbe river, between the Holy Roman Empire and Byzantium. One research question deals with the problem of the term *Sclavania* and its interpretation, whether *Sclavania* might cover the entire Central European region or a limited territory within it. The other question of the paper focuses on the (possible) change of the notion of the Central European region in the scholarly literature and administrative documents written in the Ottonian period, if this concept might have been influenced by the christianization of Central Europe. The paper also tries to find any reminiscence of the Ottonian idea of the Central European region in the modern scholarly and political discourse.