

Wojciech Kozłowski

A Dynastic Triangle: Poland, Bohemia and Hungary in the Late Thirteenth Century

After several centuries of exercising power in the neighboring political entities, the ruling houses of Bohemia (the Přemyslids), Hungary (the Árpáds), and Poland (the Piasts) developed a complex web of inter-dynastic ties. Approx. from the 1250s the kingdoms of Bohemia and Hungary sought ways of alluring the Piasts into their spheres of influence. The Piast dukes, themselves deprived of royal status, gradually accepted the increasing role of their “more prestigious” neighbors. On the whole, the Přemyslids attracted the dukes of Silesia, whereas the Árpáds created closer bonds with the dukes of central and southern Poland.

This dynastic inter-play between three houses appears as a great opportunity for investigating and making sense of the so-called “international” politics in the thirteenth-century Europe. It raises questions about how to approach the “international” stage before modern nation-state and prior to the birth of the concept of international relations: what concepts and frameworks could be applied in order to identify and demonstrate mechanisms that governed the “international” system; to investigate its structure, define its actors, and track down their methods of constructing political interests that ultimately guided their behaviors in the “international” setting? Such research questions call for interdisciplinary approaches that would merge standard political history with the field of international relations theories.