

Balázs Nagy*A Region of Prosperity: Economic Interactions in East Central Europe in the Later Middle Ages*

The paper will revisit the question of the often mentioned prosperity of East Central Europe in the 14th and 15th centuries. The scholarly literature usually refers to political consolidation and the influence of decisive rulers as the main factors behind the prosperity. Besides these aspects the paper will argue for the significance of the development of mining, especially the mining of precious metals, in the second half of the 14th century. The productivity of mining, however, was greatly exposed to technical difficulties and the draining of water caused serious challenges from the 15th century onwards. The influence of mining therefore was decisive for a shorter period, but because of the decline of mining production other factors should be taken into account.