

## **Gerald Schwedler**

### *Crowned: Rituals of sovereignty in Central Europe in the later Middle Ages*

What coronations were, and how they were celebrated has been studied intensively, especially since the volume of Bak in 1990 widened the perspective on the monarchic ritual as Pan-European phenomenon. In recent years, as the concept of Globalisation shifted perceptions in the study of History, one dimension of the European phenomenon of coronations seems to become more and more important, their driving force for an “internationalisation” of Europe’s *regna*. With the global perspective in mind, one may discover one of the driving factors of the rise of Europe among the regions of the world in the emergence of large scale structures of territories in reciprocal acceptance and competition: the Late Medieval development of something, that later would be called sovereignty. The aim of the paper is to show a significant, yet often underestimated facet in the development of “Völkerrecht”, the importance of coronation and embodiment of royal sovereignty for mutual acceptance of the heads of states. Methodically we will analyse moments of personal encounter of monarchs and royal summit-meetings, especially of the Empire, Bohemia, Hungary, Poland in asymmetrical yet stable relationships because their positions were sealed with crowns. From this perspective, Central Eastern Europe seems not so forgotten at all.