Conflicting Loyalties in Early Medieval Bavaria: A View of Socio-political Interaction, 680-900

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Description
This text examines the successes and failures of the Agilofingi dukes and their Carolingian royal successors as they attempted to establish effective territoriality within early-medieval Bavaria. The dukes and kings relied heavily on two major strategies: the use of the Church as an extension of the ruler's authority over both territory and its inhabitants; and the creation of proto-vassalic and vassalic ties with members of the landowning class. Pursuit of these strategies forced the Bavarian rulers to deal with the ambivalence of their clerical and secular elites whose patterns of loyalty were shaped by a variety of familial, religious or territorial concerns of their own, not always compatible with the ruler's interests. The book explores these various conflicting loyalties and demonstrates that, although Bavaria did evolve into a distinct territorial principality, the ambitions and loyalties of the landowning elites could never be fully subordinated to royal authority. [From Amazon.com]

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However, this highly legalistic account is quite out of character for the period; K. L. Pearson has suggested [Kathy Lynne Roper Pearson, “Conflicting Loyalties in Early Medieval Bavaria: a View of Socio-Political Interaction, 680-900.” (Aldershot: Ashgate), 1999.] that it probably represents a reworking of the original document by the annalist to emphasise Charlemagne’s overlordship over Tassilo during the period of hostilities between the two rulers. This punishment was carried out, after much political maneuvering; in 787, when Tassilo was finally deposed and entered a monastery. In 794, Tassilo was made once more, at the synod of Frankfurt, to renounce his and his family’s claims to Bavaria. He married Liutperga, the daughter of Desiderius of Lombardy. Notes.