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KUNO FRANCKE - LECTURES - 1934-1935

The Constitutional history of Germany
from Otto I. to Charles V. (936 - 1555)
is, more accurately, the Defense of the
Roman Empire by the Germans.

Otto I. Duke of Saxony, Emperor of Rome
in Quedlinburg, founds Magdeburg (936 - 972)
Axis of the Empire: Magdeburg - Rome

Charles V. King of Spain and Duke of Burgundy,
Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (Sacrum Imperium Romanum)

Last Emperor crowned by a Pope, but instead of Rome,
in Bologna.

Dies in S. Juste, near Madrid. (1519 - 1555)

No axis of the Empire, but an eccentric domination from
the circumference.

Two main periods:

I. The Roman Empire restored and defended by
Emperors of German descent

(936 - 1254)

II. The Roman Empire administered by the German nation:

(1254 - 1555)

I. First Period: (936 - 1254)

The Roman Empire restored by emperors of German descent.

1. Renovatio imperii: (936 - 1056)
2. Discordia regni et sacerdotii: (1056 - 1189)
3. Unio regni (Siciliae) et imperii: (1190 - 1254)

1. Renovatio imperii: (936 - 1056)

The emperors from the North restore the imperial church and throne.
 Their model: Constantine and St. Paul. They are majordomos of the Roman church.
 Their majesty is exalted into 'apostolic'.
 Typical: Henry II. the Saint, buried in the Roman bishopric of Bamberg: (1002 - 1024)
 Expeditio Romana the constitution of the Empire.

2. Discordia regni et sacerdotii: (1056 - 1189)

The German Emperors attacked by the popes and degraded to anointed Kings. Emperors on the defensive from the North. The axis: Magdeburg. - Bamberg - Rome clashes with the papal axis for the Crusades: France - Rome - Jerusalem.
 In defense, the emperors turn to Charlemagne and Roland. Sacrum Imperium Romanum.
 Typical: Henry IV. excommunicated and deposed (+ in Speyer) 1056 - 1105

3. Unio regni et imperii: (1190 - 1254)

The empire is defended from the South. Models the pagan Roman emperors. The axis: Rome - Jerusalem
 Taken up by the Sicilian domination of the Ghibelline emperors.
 Typical: Henry VI. son-in-law of the last Norman King in South Italy, Crusader, dies in Messina 1190 - 1198

II. Second Period: (1254 - 1555)

The Roman empire administered by the German nation. It is characterized by a sequence of three groups:

1. Prince electors as the 'Cardinals' of the Roman Empire.
2. The nation Germanica as a section of the Roman Church.
3. All the High Magistrates acting as emergency Bishops of the nation, independent of Rome.

1. 1254 - 1377 The 7 Prince Electors lead the States of the Empire, choose and depose the Roman King, fight the pope.
 Typical: Emperor Charles IV. bases his power on his quality as Prince Elector and King of Bohemia.
 Prague, University and Residence Karlstein, Augustus and Caesar.

2. 1377 - 1460 Natio Germanica, as one of five sections of the economic councils of the Roman church, tries to reform the empire.
Typical: Emperor Sigismund (of Hungary) must execute the decrees of the council of Konstanz against Huss. The brunt of the wars of the Hussites borne by the German nation.
Tacitus Germania rediscovered?
3. 1460 - 1555 The Natio Germanica is forced out of the Roman Church.
- 1460 National Council
- 1507) Emperor Maximilian tries to make
1512) himself pope.
- 1517 Martin Luther, member of the Faculty in Wittenberg, defies the pope.
- 1521 The Faculties are appointed Censors by Charles V.
- 1530 Charles V., despite his imperial dignity, treated as one magistrate among the rest of the German nation.
- 1555 Reformation handed over to every particular High Magistrate. The Empire of Otto I. and the German nation of 1555, have a different constitution in Church and State.
- 1556 Charles V. abdicated the throne.

DOCUMENTS AND MONUMENTS

Otto II. Golden Bowl of Halle Expeditio Romana 984.
Otto III. Miniatures in Bamberg. Donation to Rome.
Henry II. Liturgy in Rome Cathedral of Bamberg.
Pax Vormantiensis

Henry IV. Pax terrae 1104 (Waitz Urkunden)
Henry V. Concordate of Worms 1122.

Barbarossa Frederic I Charlemagne canonized
Roland of Brema
Lion of Brunswick
Eagle of Goslar.

Frederic II. Decrees of 1227 and 1237
Peace of 1235

Karl IV. Golden Bull of 1356
Castle of Karlstein
University of Prague
The Pretty Fountain at Nuremberg

Reformatio Sigismundi
Coins in honour of John Huss

Pulpit of Martin Luther in Wittenberg
95 Theses
Charles V. in the pictures of Titian

Literature 1. Karl Zeumer Urkunden zur Deutschen Verfassungs-Geschichte.
2. James Bryce Holy Roman Empire.