

Abstract

The aim of this diploma thesis, drawing on available literature and primary sources, is to examine and fundamentally present the development of the phenomenon of witchcraft in the late medieval period in the territory of today's Europe. The main aim of the author, using mainly the scientific method of comparison or synthesis, is to use the study of primary sources and available secondary literature to examine the development of witchcraft – from the 12th century to the publication of perhaps the most famous book about witchcraft – *Malleus Maleficarum* (The Hammer of Witches) at the end of the 15th century, which will be subjected to a critical analysis.

Key words

witchcraft, heresy, inquisition, magic, middle ages