

Resumé

The publication is devoted to the biography of the nobilitated knight Jan Němčický from Němčice (1555–1614). Only scrawny information is known about his origin and youth. His mother was a nobleman while his father came from a bourgeois environment, so Jan Nemcický was not entitled to a noble title. In the last third of the seventies of the 16th century, the possibility of a military career opens before him, which, together with his client relations with Frederic the Elder of Žerotín, provided him with a social ascension. After gaining his military experience in Hungary, Jan Němčický joined his patron in several diplomatic missions in the service of the Habsburgs, which in 1588 brought him a coat of arms and in 1593 also accepted into the knighthood in Moravia. In the same year, he married Hedwig Rodovská of Hustířany. After 1595 he established himself in the patrimonial services of the Olomouc bishopric. He then reunited his fates with his military career, which came to a halt shortly before the end of the 16th century. Jan Němčický from Němčice occupied significant military offices in the service of Moravian states and actively participated in the war operations of the so-called 15-year war in Hungary. At the same time, he has been building his own property base. After 1605 he moved to Teschen's principality and briefly used the services of Duke Adam Wenceslaus.

One of the aims of this biography is to contribute to the understanding of career strategies of the social stratum represented by Jan Němčický from Němčice, in the context of the society of the Czech lands in the period before the battle of the White Mountain. With regard to the torsionality of the surviving spring base, it was necessary to resign to answering many sub-questions, but nevertheless it was possible to reconstruct a relatively complete biography. On a concrete example, the capacity of foreign and Czech historiography formulated thesis on the fundamental importance of clientele links in the development of the personal careers of most of the members of the lower nobility, or of the bourgeoisie, was demonstrated. By contextualizing the life story of Jan Němčický from Němčice and his interpretations on the background of the processes that conditioned the transformation of the social and religious atmosphere of the society in the period before the Battle of the White Mountain, we also tried to reveal the partial problems of the lifestyle of the lower nobility. A crucial issue is the role of the almost permanent war conflict with the Turks during the second half of the 16th

century and the personal participation in it as a universal medium for the social rise of the individual. On the example of Jan Němčický from Němčice, representing the social category of nobilized burgess, or small inferior nobility, we have come to a definite conclusion in connection with participation in the conflict with the Ottoman Empire. Despite the period of propaganda in the spirit of the ideal of a just Muslim struggle, the motivation of the members of this social category to view the battlefield in Hungary must be seen exclusively in economic and social aspects. This purely pragmatic approach to participation in the war obviously outweighed the motivation promoted by period propaganda, with which it was easier to identify the higher nobility or members of antique Knight's families.

In the pragmatic view of the war as a means of enriching and social ascension, Jan Němčický of Němčice and his socially represented group coincided with opinions about the generation of the younger warrior Henry Michal Hýzrle from Chody (1575-1665). In this nobleman's mind, the war with the Ottoman Empire was a pathetic breath of fighting Christian knights against Muslims. In the Turks they saw Hýzrle as well as the Němčický regular enemy, no different from any enemy mercenary army. This was reflected, for example, at the Němčický's Volunteer Participation in the Campaign against the Army of Polish States in the years 1587-1588. The above-mentioned theses can be at least partially verified. We believe that the Němčický's thinker world did not differ fundamentally from looking at its lower-class aristocrats. The link was the analogous economic situation, participation in client relations and many other factors. However, the real justification of the theses outlined here can underpin or, on the contrary, correct, only other analogous research.