Transylvania – territory at the eastern border of Catholicism (10th-13th C.)

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Abstract: The Transylvanian territory has revealed itself as a key area for better understanding the cultural mixture that is defining the area of central and southeastern Europe. Transylvania is a vantage point between different religious cultures: Catholicism, Greek – Orthodox religion, Greek – Catholic religion, Calvin religion, Lutheran and Unitarian ones. The area is therefore known as a place were different national minorities have come together. Amongst these one can mention the Romanian population, the Hungarian one and the Transylvanian Saxons. This mixture of national minorities has given researches from all around Europe the possibility of scientific exploits that show interesting features. Despite all of this, the history of Transylvania during the Middle Ages has remained little known outside the borders of Romanian, German and Hungarian borders, mostly because of the language barriers.

The military history depicts an organic part of history. The political development, as well as the social, economical and cultural ones have always influenced the military systems and the strategic warfare principles. The need for security has compelled the people during the Middle Ages to fortify their dwellings or to place themselves upon a position assuring them a safe retreat. Erecting a fortification during the start of the Middle Ages is considered an important criteria in evaluating power and the assertion of state organization.

Keywords: Transylvania, early Middle Ages, frontier, border.

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