

■ PREFACE

In terms of the religious military orders that fused the monastic and knightly values and way of life, medieval Hungary occupies a contradictory place in Latin Christian Europe. All of the great military orders¹ founded at the time of the Crusades settled in the Kingdom of Hungary for longer or shorter periods.² Whilst the Knights Templar and the Knights Hospitaller put down lasting roots in Hungary, the Teutonic Order was present for no more than twenty-two years in total, including a fourteen-year period from 1211 until 1225 during the reign of Andrew II of Hungary³ and a six-year period from 1429 until 1435 during the reign of Sigismund of Luxembourg.⁴ Yet, it is perhaps no exaggeration to state that the interest of historians in the Teutonic Order's activities in Hungary far exceeds the attention given to the Knights Templar and Knights Hospitaller. In large part, this reflects the fact that during its first period in Hungary (1211–1225), the Teutonic Order earned a dubious reputation for itself, ranging from praise and recognition to the gravest accusations. Its impact was all the more remarkable when one considers that at the time the Order was still in its youth, having been established barely two decades

1 Barber, "The Origins of the Order of the Temple", pp. 219–239; Forey, "The Emergence of the Military Order", pp. 175–195; Forey, "The Militarisation of the Hospital of St. John", pp. 75–89; Herbers, "Los órdenes militares", pp. 161–173; Hiestand, "Die Anfänge der Johanniter", pp. 31–80; Hunyadi, *A kereszties háborúk világa*, p. 49; Hunyadi, *The Hospitallers*, pp. 13–21; Krüger, "Charakter militaris", pp. 567–580; Ruano, "Las órdenes militares españolas", pp. 3–13; Seward, *The Monks of War*.

2 On the Knights Templar in Hungary, see Pesty, "A templáriusok Magyarországon", pp. 30–152; Stossek, "A templomosok Magyarországon", pp. 181–194; on the role of the Knights Hospitaller, see Hunyadi, *The Hospitallers*.

3 See Adriányi, "Geschichte des Deutschen Ritterordens", pp. 9–22; Glassl, "Der Deutsche Orden", pp. 26–48; Hunyadi, "The Teutonic Order", pp. 151–162; Hunyadi, "A Német Lovagrend a Barcaságban", pp. 116–128; Laszlovszky – Soós, "Historical Monuments", pp. 319–336; Laszlovszky – Soós, "A Német Lovagrend", pp. 195–208; Pósan, *A Német Lovagrend története*, pp. 21–43; Pósan, "Ordinul Cavalerilor Teutoni", pp. 117–136; Pósan, "Der Deutsche Orden im mittelalterlichen Ungarn", pp. 123–131; Pósan, "A Német Lovagrend megítélése", pp. 465–474; Zimmermann, *Der Deutsche Orden*.

4 Hochstrasser, "Der Ordenspraepceptor", pp. 124–134; Joachim, "Sigismund und der Deutsche Ritterorden", pp. 87–119; Mályusz, *Zsigmond király uralma Magyarországon*, p. 117; Pósan, "Zsigmond és a Német Lovagrend", pp. 630–656; Pósan, "Sigismund und der Deutsche Orden", pp. 73–82; Pósan, "Der Deutsche Orden im mittelalterlichen Ungarn", pp. 132–136.

prior to its appearance in Hungary.⁵ The fascination of historians with the Teutonic Order may also be explained by the various military successes of its knights in the southern and south-eastern Carpathians and by their subsequent expulsion from the country, events that attracted significant political interest throughout Europe even at the time. For many years after the Teutonic Order's expulsion from Transylvania, the Holy See sought to persuade Hungary's rulers to return the region of Burzenland to the Knights. Indeed, in 1245, Béla IV of Hungary was called upon to do so by the First Council of Lyon. Up until the first quarter of the fourteenth century, a century after the Order's expulsion from Transylvania, the papacy made repeated attempts to restore to the Teutonic Knights the land that had been granted to them in the region in 1211. The Teutonic Order's brief presence in the Burzenland region (barely a decade and a half) had, therefore, a long afterlife.⁶

After 1225, the Knights settled in the coastal areas to the southeast of the Baltic Sea, a region inhabited at the time by the pagan (Old) Prussians. By the end of the thirteenth century, they had established an independent territorial power known as Prussia. In the fourteenth century, this sovereign monastic state had – by way of its relations with Poland – contact with Hungary in both political and military fields. As Charles I (of Anjou) fostered close ties with the king of Poland, who was in conflict with the Knights, the relationship between Hungary and the Teutonic Order during his reign was mostly hostile, and it remained cool and detached even after the Congress of Visegrád in 1335. Relations underwent a gradual improvement during the reign of Louis I of Hungary in the mid-fourteenth century, with the norm becoming one of collaboration and cooperation against a common enemy (Lithuania). With the ascent of Sigismund of Luxembourg to the Hungarian throne, relations between the Kingdom of Hungary and the Teutonic Order became even closer. Indeed, there were suggestions that the Knights might make a return to Hungary. Although Ottoman attacks frustrated the fulfilment of this idea between 1429 and 1435,⁷ diplomatic relations and political cooperation between the two actors were maintained. During the reign of Matthias Corvinus (Hunyadi), contacts between Hungary and the Teutonic Order were revitalized,⁸ clearly in opposition to Poland. Following Matthias's death, a similar level of foreign policy activity was sustained under the Jagiellonian dynasty,⁹ up until the secularization of the Teutonic Order in 1525.¹⁰

5 On the founding of the Teutonic Order, see Arnold, "Jerusalem oder Akkon", pp. 416–431; Arnold, "Entstehung und Frühzeit", pp. 81–108; Arnold, "De primordiis", pp. 17–30; Favreau, *Frühgeschichte des Deutschen Ordens*; Pószán, "A Némets Lovagrend alapítása", pp. 145–156.

6 Armbruster, "Nachspiel", pp. 286–287; Pószán, "A Némets Lovagrend megítélése", pp. 473.

7 Pószán, "A Némets Lovagrend szerepe", pp. 263–291.

8 Pószán, "Matthias Corvinus und der Deutsche Orden", pp. 437–444.

9 Pószán, "A magyarországi Jagellók", pp. 387–405.

10 On the secularization of the Teutonic Order, see Arnold, "Hochmeisterverlust", pp. 241–257; Arnold, "Vom Ordensland zum Herzogtum", pp. 21–40; Jähnig, "Flucht vor der Reformation", pp. 61–69;

In contrast to the era of the Árpádian rulers in Hungary, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries relations between Hungary and the Teutonic Order reflected the policies of Hungarian rulers towards Bohemia, Poland and Lithuania. That is to say, Hungary's rulers viewed Prussia under the Teutonic Order as a major political actor in the Central and Eastern European region. In this book, in addition to examining relations between Hungary and the Teutonic Order in the diplomatic, political and military historical fields during these three centuries, I shall also outline economic and trade relations between medieval Hungary and Prussia, as well as cultural aspects and cooperation in the technological and transport fields. Of course, knowledge of the Crusader concept and zeal is required for an understanding of the Teutonic Order's arrival in Hungary. For this reason, a separate chapter addresses the impact of Crusader ideas in Hungary and their special features. It is followed by an assessment of political and power relations in the Balkan Peninsula in the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries. The aim is to describe the milieu faced by the Teutonic Knights on their arrival in Transylvania, tasked with defending the southern border of the Kingdom of Hungary.

Jähnig, "Evangelischen Landeskirche", pp. 15–56; Meier, "Säkularisation Preußens", pp. 170–185; Vercamer, "Ein Hochmeister wird zum Herzog", pp. 213–240.