



NAME

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TITLE OF PRESENTATION

The sea: challenge and stimulus in the Middle Age

ABSTRACT OF PRESENTATION

The sea, for most of us the huge and endless range of the Atlantic Ocean or even of the Baltic Sea will be daunting. The sea divided areas, political, ethnical but also economical, in the Middle Ages as today. To bridge the sea and to use the economical advantages of connecting two separated areas was the challenge of the Middle Ages as it was in the 17th, 18th or 19th century. The sea was for the medieval merchants not only a huge, dangerous desert, but it was also a challenge and a stimulus for the Medieval Economy.

The paper will give a short introduction of the development from the 12th to the 15th century and it will show one of the most important solutions, founded by the so called “hanseatic” merchants: the hanseatic trading network.

The network-structure enabled the Hanseatic merchants not only to bridge the sea and to connect totally dispersed areas, but also to trade at different places at the same time, without any extra costs. By this, this system was the most optimal and flexible solution under the circumstances of that time and it dominated the economy of Northern Europe until the beginning of the 16th century, when social and economical developments changed the basis of trade.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

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