

Within the period of nearly two hundred years of existence, the Knights Templar amassed considerable wealth in the Kingdom of France. When in October 1307, by order of King Philip IV the Fair (1285-1314), all French Knights Templar were arrested and charged with heresies, their possessions were passed to representatives of the king. This initiated a discussion between the French court and Pope Clement V (1305-1314) as the immediate superior of the Order as to who should take control of the properties of the Templars and what their prospective fate should be. Although both parties jointly expressed their willingness to use them to organize a new crusade, their opinions differed primarily in matters regarding properties management until the moment the trial were completed. Finally, in 1312, during the council of Vienne, the Pope decided to dissolve the Order and transfer its possessions to the Hospitallers. In the Kingdom of France, this transfer was completed in 1318. To this day, however, it has not been established whether Philip the Fair actually implemented the Pope's decisions, or whether from the beginning of the Templars' affair he tried to take over the possessions of the Order and use them for his own needs. It is also unknown whether the costs of several years of investigations have consumed most of the properties in the Kingdom of France. This project aims at answering these two questions and at offering a thorough analysis of the French monarch's policy regarding issues related to the Order's property as well as at developing a financial balance of the proceedings. This will supplement our knowledge about the role of Philip the Fair in the Templars' affair, which has been the subject of discussions in the world historiography until this day.