

**At the dawn of Central European statehood on the example of the Czechia and Poland.
Dynasties - elites - societies (late 9th - 11th century)**

POPULAR SCIENCE SUMMARY

The European continent after the collapse of the Roman Empire in the 5th century CE was divided into three distinct civilizational, cultural, political, and economic zones: i) Byzantium (Eastern Empire): ii) political entities in place of the ruins of the Roman Empire in the west, and iii) vast areas of "Barbaricum" beyond the borders of the former Roman Empire. The turning point was the 9th/10th centuries when the Frankish state formed in the 8th century was disintegrated into several political entities. At the time, in the area of "Younger Europe" (beyond the Elbe and the Danube), state-building processes began, which led to the formation of early state structures in Scandinavia, Central, and Eastern Europe. This state-building breakthrough in Central Europe, especially the creation of political constructs by the Piasts and Přemyslids, interests us directly.

The main goal of the project is to reach the beginnings of statehood in order to determine the relationship between the population living in the center of the emerging political structure (Wielkopolska with state centers e.g. Poznań and Gniezno) and the dynasty around which this structure is formed. We ask a similar question for the Czech statehood emerging and concentrated in the Bohemian Basin, with the state-makers centered on a small area of Central Bohemia. In both cases, we are dealing with societies that, during the transition from tribal structures to the early states, have a simple, two-part structure - elites concentrated around dynasties and the general population living outside the areas of great cities and living by farming and livestock. Precise determination of the origin of both the elites and the rest of the population of the early countries of our circle is possible through genetic (genomic) research, which, confronted with the inquiries of historians, archaeologists, but also linguists, should give an answer to the question "where did our kin come from", posed many times, constantly however, remain unanswered.

For these reasons, we plan multidimensional and interdisciplinary studies of populations living in key regions for the formation of Polish and Czech statehood, with the use of available knowledge and advanced techniques specific to the fields of history, archeology, anatomy, anthropology, geochemical (isotopic) analysis, genetics, and genomics. The latter two will be supported by knowledge and experience with the latest high-throughput sequencing technologies, both in experimental scope and the bioinformatic analysis of the obtained data.

The results of the project will allow characterizing past populations living in the areas of contemporary Poland and the Czech Republic in terms of their look (height, weight, eye and hair color), dietary habits (food consumed, digestion of specific products), general health status (diseases they suffered from, the composition of the pathogenic microbiome) and what was the social structure (degree of kinship and inbreeding). More importantly, the project enables us to verify the hypotheses concerning the origin of individuals, the genetic homogeneity of the whole population, and the mutual influence of neighboring societies. This way we will be able to verify the existing hypotheses and create a wider picture of the history of Central Europe, especially in the context of the formation of the Piasts and Premislav states and their populations.