

## Summary

The aim of this dissertation was to show the complexity of the early medieval trans-Baltic relationships and to explain those contacts on a theoretical level. The issue has been researched for several decades, but no publication that would discuss the issue comprehensively has yet seen the light.

The thesis includes four main chapters where theoretical considerations are presented and related, *inter alia*, with world-system theory and globalisation processes. Finds that allow to identify early medieval Slavs and Scandinavians are also discussed and analysed, and an anthropological interpretation of cultural contacts of both ethnoses are proposed.

Archaeological evidence (e.g. constructions, ceramics, jewellery, boatbuilding, burials), written sources, as well as toponymy, anthroponymy and inter-dynastic marriages are also included. They all are listed in the catalogue which is an integral part of the work.

A series of artifacts attributed to the Slavs identified in the area of Scandinavia (jewellery, knife sheath fittings and mass-produced ceramics), next to house construction, burials and Slavic place names, indicate physical presence of Slavs in Scandinavia. The analysis of these sources contradicts the thesis that the Slavs in Scandinavia were only slaves and suggests their higher social status, which resulted from specialized craftsmanship and participation in the long-distance trade.

Scandinavians in the West Slavic territory were present in the Viking Age emporia on the southern shore of the Baltic Sea (i.a. Truso, Wolin, Menzlin-Görke, Oldenburg or Ralswiek), where they were engaged in long-distance trade, and from the 10<sup>th</sup> century they also appeared in the interior of Polish lands. Archaeological evidence of their activity includes unique jewellery (pendants, pins, rings), elements of weapons (spearheads, axes, swords), tools, houses and burials.

Considerations presented in this dissertation, referring both to “hard” data and their anthropological interpretation show that West Slavic-Scandinavian contacts were not one-sided. They were based primarily on trade. Complexity of those relations can be analyzed using the perspective of world-system theory. The archaeological uses of this anthropological concept suggest that within the central-peripheral system of dependence, economic aspects were more important than ethnic origin. Therefore, relations between Slavs and Scandinavians can be described as equal.