

Alexander Beihammer, *The Roman Church and the Papacy in the reform period as perceived in Muslim-Arab sources* (p. 267–297)

Although there is a relatively rich bibliography on the relations of the Roman papacy with the Muslim world throughout the Middle Ages, much less has been written about Muslim perceptions of and attitudes towards the pope. This article examines the diachronic evolution of Arab-Muslim perceptive patterns from the time of the Gregorian Reform up to the culmination of papal claims to hegemony over the universal Christian Church and the first missionary activities of the mendicant orders under Innocent III and his successors. Contemporary Arab chronicles and geographic treatises give few but meaningful descriptions of Rome and the papacy, clearly reflecting the increasing monopolization of administrative competences and spiritual leadership by the Holy See, especially during the time of the Crusades. Surviving copies from the thirteenth-century correspondence between Arab rulers and the Roman Curia, in conjunction with Mamuk chancery manuals, reveal the remarkable inventiveness and flexibility of Muslim scribes and diplomats in projecting their views and establishing successful forms of communication with the Roman papacy.

Schlagworte: Papsttum; Diplomatie; arabische Historiographie; Titel

Keywords: papacy; diplomacy, Arab historiography; titles