

Jewish life between normality and persecution in Austria

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This paper will deal with the impact that persecutions had on the continuity of Jewish life in medieval Austria, especially on the development of Jewish settlements, the legal status of Austrian Jews and the economic activities of Jewish businessmen.

The main focus will be on the conspicuous discrepancy between contemporary narrative sources and the numerous business charters, two types of sources which depict very differing scenarios of Jewish existence.

By a comparative analysis of these sources, the paper will attempt a reconstruction of the parameters of Jewish life in Austria from the 12th to the 15th centuries.

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