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Abstract

The Church Fathers in the Controversies between Catholics and Orthodox in the Ruthenian Lands (End 16th-Mid-17th Century): An Overview.

The article investigates how the Church Fathers were used as a part of the polemistic strategies of the most prominent authors of interconfessional polemical works in the Ruthenian lands from the end of the 16th century to mid-17th century. These authors exploited the Church Fathers in various ways: they quoted their works, discussed on their writings, debated about their very role as authorities. The analysis of the attitude of the polemicists towards the Church Fathers reveals a lot about their frame of mind and the sources they used.

Keywords: Interconfessional polemics, Church Fathers, Ruthenian lands in the 17th century, Polemic literature.