

Mike Bacher

The emergence and establishment of the modern rule of law was one of the essential prerequisites for Europe's rise in the second millennium. A crucial role in this was played by the learned law, which emerged from the 12th century onward, originating in northern Italy. Alongside Roman law (from antiquity), canon law was also subjected to scholarly study. In the following centuries, this learned law spread across Europe and contributed significantly to the continent's development. This learned law reached the Lake Lucerne region very early on (12/13th century). Besides ecclesiastical and municipal organizations, it also influenced the formation of communal entities, the so-called "corporations". These still exist today and represent essential drivers for the emergence of democratic communities in Central Europe. This dissertation examines the background to this early reception of learned law in rural communities in the area of present-day Central Switzerland and how this contributed to the formation of early democratic communities.