Duke William IV of Bavaria (1st half of the 16th century)

Abstract

Bavaria, an old dukedom long ruled by the native Wittelsbach dynasty, pioneered the transformation of medieval principalities into territorial states. Duke William IV (r. 1508-1550), shown astride his horse in the woodcut below, took two important steps during his rule: he issued the territorial law [*Landesordnung*] of 1531 and prevented the spread of Protestantism in his duchy.

Source

Source: Erhard Schoen, Portrait of Duke William IV of Bavaria, woodcut, 16th century, printed by Hans Guldenmund d.Ä. in Nuremberg. Directmedia/Zeno, http://www.zeno.org/nid/20004287134

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