

which the Staufer emperor Frederick II recognized in the Treaty of Metz in 1214 in his capacity as head of the empire. King Waldemar II „the Victorious“ fundamentally rearranged power relationships in Nordalbingia by enfeoffing his nephew Albrecht of Orlamünde with this region. German national historiography unanimously rejected Frederick II's recognition via treaty of the conquests of the Danish kingdom until the middle of the twentieth century. In the meantime, although such nationalist sentiments have disappeared and the reality of Frederick II's territorial surrender is now beyond question, scholars have for the most part avoided the problem of its legal character, or applied the overhasty interpretation that the affected region was simply transferred to Denmark. On the basis of older considerations by Walther Lammers and Reimer Hansen, and also with the help of authentic sources, this article presents the thesis that the lands north of the Elbe and also the Elde, despite their formal surrender, persisted in the imperial understanding as regions of the transcendent Empire. They remained *attinentes imperio*, as the text of the treaty of 1214 itself directly states.