

hunderts datiert werden. Hincmar war wohl nicht dessen Verfasser, sondern der erste und einzige Rezipient.

In research literature and reference books, the work *De coercendo et extirpando raptu viduarum, puellarum ac sanctimonialium* is commonly attributed to archbishop Hincmar of Reims, who quotes parts of it in his treatise *De divortio*. The first critical edition of the text and especially its hitherto little-noticed appended *Excerpta* sheds new light on the text and its background. Composed as a letter, its senders are bishops of Gaul and Germania who appeal to an unnamed king, asking him to order secular courts to punish not only the abduction of women and illegitimate marriages, but also acts of violence against women and priests – in analogy to church robbery – as forms of sacrilege. Also noteworthy are numerous parallels to legal texts of the 840s and the use of the otherwise rarely known *Collectio Hispana systematica* in the *Excerpta*, which is documented here for the first time. The provisions for the election of bishops formulated in the last chapters, demanding, among other things, the right of devolution by the metropolitan, must be later additions. Although these new findings do not allow us to identify a specific occasion, place or author of the text, it can be dated to the middle of the 9th century on the basis of a precise examination of its contents and the sources cited. Hincmar was probably not the author, but rather its first and only recipient.