"WHAT GERMAN BLOOD MEANS FOR THE CZECH PEOPLE"

The "scientific" contribution of the sociologist Karl Valentin Müller towards solving the problem of how to Germanize Central Europe

Eduard Kubů

Analysing so far unused sources from the Prague District State Archive and the archive of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Czech Republic, the author traces the career of the sociologist Karl Valentin Müller, an important exponent of national socialist racial doctrine and a professor of social anthropology at Charles University in Prague. He takes a closer look at two papers by Müller: In the first one, Müller undertakes to prove that a significant percentage of Czechs belonging predominantly to the upper social strata, had Germans among their ancestors. In the second one, he sketches scenarios of how to deal with the subjugated nations in a Europe once German rule is established. Post-1945, Müller's career went on essentially unaltered. His biography is exemplary for many members of the national socialist functionary elite who, having managed to camouflage their activities in the Nazi state, where able to continue after the war without fundamental changes. It thus also demonstrates a certain bias pertinent to German historiography together with the strategies of blacking out unwanted facts.

MOURNING BECOMES THE NATION: THE FUNERAL OF TOMÁŠ G. MASARYK IN 1937

Jonathan Bolton

"I don't know how many theories there are about what a nation is and how it arises, but I know that in the last few days we've seen the nation, that we've seen it as clearly as one can see a material object." Thus wrote the journalist Ferdinand Peroutka after the elaborate state funeral of former Czechoslovak president Tomáš G. Masaryk in September 1937. In this article, based on an extensive review of contemporary press accounts, the author traces the treatment of the enormous crowds at Masaryk's funeral, showing how commentators like Peroutka, Karel Čapek and others represented these multitudes as an orderly, disciplined, solemn, and silent nation that could both feel its loss deeply and remain resolute in the face of external threats. The author examines how the route of the funeral procession superimposed multiple images from Czech history, uniting the "nevermore" of Masaryk's death to the "always" of memory, and thus enacting a pledge to remain faithful to Masaryk's ideals (which themselves were variously interpreted). A final consideration of Communist press accounts, some of the few that departed from the quickly established discourse of a subdued and disciplined crowd-nation, shows how indeterminate and unresolved the meaning of these multitudes could become.