nomic crises, from which, however, it always managed to recover. But after the great crisis of the 1930s, the expected recovery failed to materialize, and after 1945, Bohemia’s silk industry sank to a wholly insignificant level.

The author not only utilizes statistics to elucidate the individual periods of development from the beginnings through the manufactories to a highly developed industry, but also analyzes the shortcomings of the state’s support, as well as the social distress of the workers.

EUROPEAN PEACE AS NATIONAL INTEREST: THE ROLE OF THE GERMAN CONFEDERATION IN BRITISH POLICY, 1814—1832

Wolf D. Gruner

Using selected examples (the phase of establishing the Confederation, 1814—1820; conflict between absolutist and constitutional states in the Confederation, 1831—1832; the Belgian-Luxemburg question), analyzes the German Confederation’s role in the Pax Britannica in the period before the Revolution of 1848. The analysis throws light on the determining factors of British policy which resulted from the interaction of elements of domestic policy, social development, foreign policy, the economy, alliance constellations, and the international system. The prime goal of British national interests was to secure and preserve European peace as a prerequisite for a policy allowing a free hand for tackling the domestic political problems of a society in transition and for securing the global political and economic interests of the world and commercial power, without overextending its own forces. The functional role of the German Confederation as a “keystone” in securing European peace and the resulting British “appeasement” policy aimed at stabilizing the European center had far-reaching consequences for the political and economic development of Germany in the 19th century.

FRANTIŠEK PALACKÝ AND THE GERMAN—CZECH RELATIONSHIP AS VIEWED BY THE CZECH HISTORIOGRAPHY OF OUR CENTURY

Friedrich Prinz

Of the many themes of Czech historical research which the eminent Czech national politician František Palacký was the first to raise, it was precisely those concerning the German-Czech relationship that have remained topical down to this day.

Palacký took over the picture derived from Herder of a peaceful Urslawentum whose original legal equality was destroyed by the creation of class distinctions
with the invasion of German feudalism under Ottokar II. The idea of a Slavic feudalism first emerged in Czech historiography in the 1930s.

The question of Bohemia’s dependence on the medieval Reich acquired special significance for the German-Czech relationship in the 20th century. Historically, however, the relationship between Bohemia and the Reich was built on mutual aid and support, national aspects playing no role whatsoever.

A rapprochement of scientific standpoints on the so-called Ostkolonisation — viewed by the Germans as a pioneering achievement, and perceived by the Czechs as a process of foreign penetration and control — has begun in the most recent period.

Thus the insight has prevailed that Hussitism was not primarily a national, but above all a religious phenomenon, and that the post-„White Mountain“ era must be seen in the European-wide context of the resistance of the Estates against absolutism.

Czech historiography was placed in a dilemma by the facts that in the Revolution of 1848 the German politicians played a considerably more radical role than did the Czechs, and that the working-class movement from the 1860s on developed more tempestuously among the Germans. During the „Prague Spring“ Czech historians succeeded in breaking out of the narrow national perspective.

THE CULTURAL AND POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SUDETEN GERMANS FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Friedrich Prinz

Thousands of American immigrants from Bohemia, Moravia and Austrian Silesia contributed their share to the shaping of the nation. This article deals in some detail with a few of them whose achievements were especially outstanding.

Hans Kudlich, the German-Bohemian emancipator of the Austrian peasants in 1848, was a passionate supporter of Abraham Lincoln. His battle for the emancipation of the blacks from slavery made America his homeland.

Oswald Ottendorfer from Zwittau in Moravia, American newspaper king, founded the public lending library system in America, supported immigrants, endowed hospitals and poorhouses, and introduced German-language instruction into the New York schools.

Karl Postl (Charles Sealsfield), publicist and writer, „Ein Wanderer zwischen zwei Welten“, criticized in his books both the Old and the New World, of which he had extensive knowledge.

Johann Nepomuk Neumann, Catholic bishop of Philadelphia (1852—1860), dedicated himself to pastoral work among the immigrants as well as to the Indian mission, promoted the school system, and built orphanages and churches. His impact went far beyond the ecclesiastical sphere.

The lot of emigration spurred these and many others to great achievements.