"RELIGION NEBENSACHE"
INTERMARRIAGE BETWEEN BIOLOGICAL INTEGRATION AND (SELF-)DESTRUCTION

Gaby Zürn

The article deals with the meaning of intermarriage in Czechoslovakia between 1880 and 1938 as one of the most intimate kinds of interaction between people of differing ethnic identity. The author concentrates on the dynamic evolution of state laws governing marriages and the emergence of a racial discourse which especially highlighted intermarriages. In this discourse, religion increasingly became a minor matter, a "Nebensache," as it was referred to in marriage advertisements of the 1920s. Self-ascription, and perception by "the other" in social spaces defined as frontiers resulted in identity constructions which were situated on a layer between what has been termed "biological integration" on one hand and "(self-)destruction" on the other. The author comes to the conclusion that in the contemporary racist discourse of the late 19th–early 20th centuries intermarriages served as a major instrument to maintain and consolidate ethnic boundaries. They thus became a role model to contrast the earlier, mid-19th-century notion and aspiration of biological integration.

"SONDERWEG" OF CZECH ANTISEMITISM?
Nationalism, National Conflict, and Antisemitism in the Czech Society in the Late 19th Century

Michal Frankl

Historiography has tended to link Czech antisemitism to the nationalities’ conflict between German and Czechs and to the situation of the Jews between Czechs and Germans. Thus, the Czech nationalists’ hostility towards the Jews was ostensibly due to the pro-German attitude of the Jewish minority. In reality however, the emergence of the Czech anti-Semitic movement was closely linked to changes in Czech nationalist sentiment, to the latter’s embracing an integral nationalism employing archetypical enemies and conspiration theories. The rise of Czech antisemitism was accelerated in the first place by a rift appearing in the Czech political environment, and the elections of 1897, when limited universal suffrage applied for the first time, with the first social-democratic MPs being elected. The elections were accompanied by antisemitic propaganda employed by the Young Czechs, the dominant Czech nationalist political party, by the Christian Social party and other political parties mobilizing the electorate against an alleged threat to national integrity embodied by the social democratic party which was said to be a mere instrument of Jewish conspiracy. Czech anti-Semitism coming to the fore during the final years of the 19th century was caused above all by nationalist sentiment becoming increasingly radical and by the political split-up, by no means was it due to the Czech-german nationalities’ conflict.