Gustav von Schmoller

The first serious clash of the Czechs and the German occupation force during the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia were the student demonstrations in October and November 1939 and the harsh retaliatory measures by the Germans which followed: the closing of the Czech institutions of higher learning and the shooting and arrest of Czech students. Based on hitherto inaccessible sources, the author gives a new version of these events, against the background of the conflict within the Protectorate between State Secretary K. H. Frank and Reichsprotektor von Neurath, or between the SS and the administration. He shows above all that SS circles in Prague and Berlin had a great interest in provoking the Czechs to anti-German violence. This was aimed not only at furnishing a pretext for more severe action against those Czech circles — above all in the student body — which stood in opposition to the Reich, but also represented an attempt to eliminate the political influence of Reichsprotektor von Neurath, who was considered a moderate vis-à-vis the Czechs.

Karel Kaplan

In the course of the year 1950 the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) imposed upon all the member states the conclusion of long-term bilateral economic agreements among themselves. The most important one for all of them was the agreement with the Soviet Union, which was their main supplier of raw materials and equipment and the main customer for their products. The Czechoslovak-Soviet negotiations were prolonged and very complicated, owing to the demands pressed by the Soviet side. At stake were demands whose realisation meant profound changes in the structure of the Czechoslovak economy and had longterm disadvantageous consequences. This reconstruction of the proceedings on the basis of archival documents depicts the positions, deliberations and course of action of both partners.