Humor can be an effective tool to manipulate a population. The Nazi occupation regime in the "Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia" knew this quite well. When the German armed forces were forced into ceding territory on several fronts at a growing pace, the Czech population became practically inaccessible to German propaganda. In order to retain the ability to make the Czech population more receptive to the goals of the occupying power, the persons responsible in the German State Ministry exploited novel methods. Among other things, they founded a cartoon periodical called "Ejhle". To make it interesting to its readership, political content was hidden behind seemingly unpolitical jokes and sometimes lewd drawings. In addition, the State Ministry sought to hide the fact that the persons behind "Ejhle" were German. The present contribution analyses how the periodical was planned, how it functioned and how its work was assessed at the time. Moreover, its content is examined in some depth.

Starting with the mid-1990s, the present contribution deals with the discussion in the German press about the eastward expansion of the European Union. Coverage of two new members, the Czech Republic and Romania, has been selected in order to demonstrate that the recurring leitmotifs and narratives of the debate can be traced back to the semantics of specific possibilities of how to describe social space and its dynamics. Three paradigmatic notions of social space are evaluated and their consequences for describing and assessing "old" and "new" regions of the EU analysed. In the media debate, however, these notions have always remained implicit, never have they been named, never has any reflection been voiced about them. Also striking is the fact that they have been used in the same sense by papers of differing political orientation and that there has been very little change over time.