The lenition in inland High German that was operative from the 13th century on and was discovered by the Prague Old German scholar Primus Les­siak (1878—1937), brought about a lasting change in the state of consonants in large parts of High German. As these changes, in contrast to those caused by the High German lautverschiebung scarcely appeared in writing, scientific research has paid only scant attention to them thus far. The German vernacular of the Sudeten lands — namely the dialect as well as the elevated colloquial speech — was more or less affected by the lenition in inland High German.

Map no. 1, appended to the article, shows the fate of the anlaut explosive fortes MHG p, t, k, which in the areas designated I, to which the town dialects of Brünn and Iglau also belong, merged with the explosive lenes MHG b, d, g to form one sound each. This is in most cases a medial sound (semi-fortis B, D, G), but can also be the lenis and occasionally also the fortis. Unchanged remains only the aspirate b;b preceding vowels. The anlaut MHG s became voiceless in this area. In area II, these changes appeared only in part, namely in sentence anlaut or following voiceless consonants. After vowels and sonorities the old fortes and lenes remained as such, e.g. MHG s as a voiced sound. But lenition was advancing. In area III, the old relationships were as yet unshaken. The anlaut MHG s is always voiced here. (p in Schön­hengst, etc., is a Bavarian inheritance.)

The situation of the weakening of the inlaut explosive fortes is shown in map no. 2. In the area designated Ia, to which the town dialects of Brünn and Iglau once again belong, the inlaut MHG p, t, k became b, d, g and merged with the old b, d, g (in so far as the latter did not become spirants or were dropped). In the area Ib, p, t, k likewise merged with b, d, g (in so far as the latter remained explosive consonants). The MHG geminates pp, tt, ck are in area I (a and b) always fortes. In area II, geminates, fortes and lenes are without exception spoken as semi-fortes to lenes, while in area III, the old relationships have been preserved. Relationships similar to those in anlaut prevail also in auslaut, but are clearly recognizable only in the dialects.

The anlaut MHG k before vowels is spoken in the whole Sudeten German area as an aspirated sound. The distribution of the aspiration of the anlaut k before consonants is shown by map no. 3. In the colloquial language of northern Moravia and Silesia, and in part also in the dialect in this region, the anlaut p and t are frequently also aspirates.

In some connection with lenition is also the prevalent transformation of the explosive lenes into fricatives, above all from b> w and g>x (ch). In colloquial speech, the change from g>ch is found only in the areas shown in map no. 4.
This study is restricted to the explosive sounds: as far as the fricatives are concerned, it attempts solely to clarify the question of the pronunciation of the anlaut s in the Sudeten area.

The Prerequisites of the Foreign Policy of the First Czechoslovak Republic

Bobumila Wierer

Not only was the existence of the Czechoslovak Republic (CSR) as a state primarily the work of T. G. Masaryk, but its state ideology as well bore essentially the mark of the political and philosophical faith of its first President. Masaryk regarded the Czech Hussite revolution and especially the Reformation of the Bohemian Brethren as humanistic movements, which in the 18th century strongly fertilized the democratic ideas of the West. Although historians had in part severely criticized these theses, the Czech resistance during the First World War adopted Masaryk's philosophy of history as its own. The practical result of this philosophy of history was opposition to the Catholic House of Habsburg, and thus also to the Austrian Monarchy. The Czechoslovak state ideology, which bore the imprint of Masaryk's ideas, psychologically influenced the foreign policy of the new state vis-à-vis Austria and Hungary. Essential for the origin of the Czechoslovak Republic was also Masaryk's successful attempt to unite the Czech historical Staatsrecht program, developed in the 19th century, with the modern national law based on natural law. This construction was necessary in order to justify the union of Slovakia with the Bohemian lands.

Geopolitically considered, the CSR could point only in the Bohemian area to natural boundaries, which already in Moravia were lacking to a small extent, and in Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia to a great extent. The composition of the population — the result of centuries of intensive ethnic contest — promised in 1918 a secure state-constituting majority, but not a state consciousness embracing all the nationalities of the state, for the CSR was founded as a national state. And with the national separation of the Slovaks, the majority sustaining the state decreased. On the other hand, the reserve of the Sudeten Germans vis-à-vis the CSR also diminished gradually.

Economically, the Bohemian lands were highly industrialized. As the production capacities were tailored to the economic areas of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, many branches of industry lacked sales opportunities in the relatively smaller CSR. The question of the distribution of state investments among the individual ethnic groups created difficult problems. Still more difficult and questionable became the execution of the Land Reform. Since the socially dissatisfied groups of non-Czech nationality tended to turn to neighbouring countries for support, a successful foreign policy of the CSR required extraordinary ability and skill, for the domestic political problems mentioned above had to be harmonized with the foreign policy plans.