achieve a peace treaty that was acceptable to him. The background of his activity were discussions held in Berlin with Czech journalists (Kotík, Fric, and Prince Thurn und Taxis) and a propaganda brochure which they printed in Berlin and which was also disseminated by Prussian organs. The early peace settlement prevented this campaign from gaining any deeper impact. But in any event, the conservative Czech forces, under the still unchallenged leadership of the realistic Palacký, would presumably have sided with the Habsburg monarchy, which in their eyes still represented the bulwark against grossdeutsch and Russian-led Pan-Slav endeavours. The still powerful nobility of the land would likewise not have been willing to revolt against Austria. The people as a whole were probably also aware of the ambivalence of the campaign, which left open the whole question of the Germans in Bohemia. By and large, the will to an independent state was, in contrast to the Magyars, still insufficiently developed. The policy of Bismarck and of the Czechs in 1866 offers an instructive example of the durability of the Habsburg Empire even in the critical situation which it faced before the final collapse in the year 1918.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF MENDEL’S LAWS

Otto Mather

Johann Gregor Mendel was born in 1822 in Heinzendorf. His father was a farmer, and the young Mendel was originally designated to take over the property ultimately. Already in elementary school, however, he revealed a marked mental alertness. He finally went to the Gymnasium, where he displayed his gifts in the linguistic-philosophical and mathematical-natural sciences. In spite of financial distress and illness, he graduated from the Gymnasium in Troppau in 1840 and then entered the Augustinian Order. After completing his philosophical-theological studies, he was ordained a priest. Mendel later studied natural science at the University of Vienna, and after twice having failed to pass the state examination, he became a part-time teacher at a Realschule, where he distinguished himself as an outstanding pedagogue.

In addition to teaching, Mendel devoted himself above all to his experiments, in which he used garden peas as experimental plants. He applied the experimental methods of physics and chemistry. Because of his conviction that the laws of heredity were necessarily a question of numerical relationships, the quantity of experimental plants and the number of trials had to be as large as possible. After years of experimentation which required tremendous energy and stubborn persistence, he was finally able to demonstrate the existence of a law of heredity in 1865. The fact that the scientists of his time refused to recognize his achievement was a bitter disappointment to him.
With his election as abbot of his monastery, the scope of Mendel's activity broadened not only in the religious sphere but also in the secular field, which meant that administrative work absorbed much of his time and energy. Failing eyesight soon prevented him from experimenting further, and his generally weak state of health was ruined completely by the fight over monastery taxes. He died in 1884.

Mendel was the founder of classical genetics, but his work was rediscovered and its fundamental significance recognized only at the turn of the century by de Vries, Correns and Tschermak.

JOSEPH MARIA BAERNREITHER AND THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF NATIONAL SETTLEMENT IN BOHEMIA (1908—1914)

Harald Bachmann

The effort to achieve settlements with the nationalities of the Danube monarchy presented one of the most difficult domestic political tasks which Austria had to face. After the introduction of universal, equal suffrage, it was above all the task of Baron Bienerth's government (1908—1911) to continue the negotiations with the Czechs which had been underway since the Koerber ministry and to bring them to a successful conclusion. Already under Koerber, the former minister Dr. Baernreither (1845—1925) had done his utmost to reach an understanding with the Czechs. His marked skill as a negotiator and his broad connections with Czech and German politicians helped give him a favourable starting position. Under Baron Bienerth, these negotiations made little headway, and in his diaries, Baernreither was not sparing in critical remarks about the Prime Minister's lack of energy. These diaries, part of the extensive and valuable collected papers of Baernreither which were given to the Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv in Vienna, also represent an important source for appraising German party politics in Bohemia in this period.

It is characteristic of the Realpolitiker Baernreither that he did not believe that much was to be gained from a strong emphasis on the national point of view. Unfortunately, his broad knowledge of social problems was underestimated by the influential German politicians of Austria. The German party leaders in Bohemia also failed to exploit sufficiently his outstanding abilities for their cause. Baernreither supported the Governor of Bohemia, Prince Franz Thun-Hohenstein, who was sympathetic to the idea of a settlement, even though he was aware that Thun was increasingly approaching the Czech national position. The aim of the settlement negotiations of 1910—12 was to achieve a demarcation between the German- and Czech-speaking areas of Bohemia. Baernreither was no friend of any demarcation according to nationality in a compact area of settlement like Bohemia. In the negotiations