Since the 12/13 Century, German Culture was significant, and the author even calls Slovakia a German „Kulturlandschaft“, pointing out the prominent position of the German cities, the influence of which started the Lutheran Reformation of Northern Hungary. In this connection it is remarkable that the so-called “Tatra-Idea“ the symbol of later national Slovakian literature comes originally from the world of ideas of the Carpathian Germans, and through their education system it found its way to the Slovakian educated classes. Socially these were modelled on the North Hungarian System, but culturally and confessionally influenced by Wittenberg. They gave the “Tatra-Idea“ Slovakian shape, and the 19th Century charged it with Slovakian nationalism. Further the author illustrates the importance of the Slovakian leading-classes in the Hungarian State by the examples of Count Georg Thurzo, who founded the Slovakian Protestant Church in 1611, Prince Franz Rákóczi II, Count Nicolaus Berčényi, Superintendent Daniel Krman a man of Old-Wittenberg conformance, Daniel Horčička-Sinapius, Mathias Bél and Count Peter Révay. The development of the Slovakian nation has very old roots and is no phenomenon of the 19th century Romantic Panslavism. Until 1790 the Czechs knew very little of the Slovakians, and Josef Dobrovský, their greatest Slavist, was the first to show any interest in them.

The author shows the progress of the Slovakian nation in the 18th and 19th century, and the special political conditions of its awakening (Conservatism), which differentiates it from the Czech national revival, and he criticises the attitude of T. G. Masaryk towards the Slovakians. For Masaryk, with western and democratic ideas, himself of Slovakian stock from East Moravia, the Slovakians were „just raw material“; he saw as the only way a re-education along the lines of Czech western-radical, antireligious nationalism. Milan Hodža was of the same opinion. As a counter-movement, a national and tradition-minded group of intellectuals grew out of this situation in the First Republic, and already in 1920 Andrej Hlinka was their leader.

SUDeten Germans IN THE AUSTRIAN REPUBLICS
1918—1959

Nikolaus von Preradovich

As a continuation of his work on the Sudeten Germans in Austria, 1848—1918, (compare vol. I „Bohemia“) the author offers a short instructive survey of the still important role played by Sudetenland-born Germans in the two Austrian Republics (1918—38 and 1945 till the present). Among the leaders of the Government after St. Germain were six Sudeten
Germans, with Karl Renner as Chancellor and Foreign Minister. Ministers of State Ignaz Seipel, Rudolf Ramek and Ritter von Streuruwitz were also of Sudeten German origin.

Under the Dollfuss-regime can be seen a distinct decrease in the Sudeten German element in the Government, almost the same being true of the Schuschnigg Government. Whereas since the founding of the Second Republic in 1945, politicians of Sudeten German origin, Julius Raab, Reinhard Kamitz, Theodor Koerner, Adolf Schaerf, appear again in the foreground. As already before 1918, the number of Sudeten Germans in high military positions is considerable. Among others Theodor Koerner, Rudolf Materna, Robert Martineck, the inventor of the „Zielspinne“, and Julius Ringel, General of the Mountaintroops should be mentioned.

THE FORTRESS BOHEMIA, A PHANTOM AND ITS RELATION TO THE SUDETEN COUNTRIES

Karl Ad. Sedlmeier

In the opinion of the author the repeatedly used concepts “Fortress Bohemia” and “Bohemian Valley”, although based on old traditional descriptions — they can be found already in the second chapter of the Chronicle of Cosmas of Prague (1045—1125) — do not correspond to geographical reality.

The first scholar who opposes these erroneous ideas was Count Albrecht von Roon (later to become Prussian Chief of Staff), who in 1847 stresses the varied formation of the Bohemian and Moravian hilly country and the Moravian mountains. He considered Bohemia as a country of valleys only “in so far as it contains several relatively small extended hollow depressions divided by wooded mountain ridges”. Similarly, J. Kutzen („Das deutsche Land“, Breslau 1880), attacks the definition “Valley” and calls Bohemia more aptly a step like, or terraced country, in its interior mostly uneven and ascending from the North-East, to the South-West.

Hugo Hassinger, more in accord with the “Valley” concept, divides Bohemia in his work „Die Tschechoslowakei“ (1925), into three sections — the Elbe valley in the north, the Moldau Plateau in the south, and along the sides of both the wooded mountains. With the beginning of a new epoch in modern geography Carl Kořistka and Hugo Hassinger tried to determine the natural landscape. The concept “Sudeten Countries” — appearing in Literature for the first time in 1843 — is introduced into geography by Alexander Supan in 1889. He understands by it the Bohemian Elbe region with the Austrian granite plateau, and excludes the March-