SUMMARIES

FARMING BY NOBLE LANDHOLDERS IN BOHEMIA BEFORE THE BATTLE OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN

Jaroslav Čechura

The pre-1620 landed property in Bohemia has hitherto been seen largely in the context of the development leading to the 17th-century economy of large estates, based as it was predominantly on statute labour. This study presents the results of research done, with the aim of publishing a monography, on the development of the most important noble landholders' estates in Bohemia between 1550 and 1620, with accounting data having been analyzed in the first place. In the course of this research, landed property came to be seen more in terms of an enterprise. After 1550, especially on truly large estates a structure prevailed which was based on units (breweries, fish-pond compounds, farms) run by the landlords themselves, and which resulted in considerably higher profits. Its principal feature was paid labour. By 1600, statute labour (robot) had practically ceased to exist in Bohemia. The landed property was commercially linked to the peasant economy: The peasants had an opportunity to sell grain, and they were offered jobs. Seemingly, this is a truly Bohemian contribution to the varied picture of the landed property in the European early modern age. It was a transitional phase, and as a result of the post-1620 events in Bohemia, this development was curtailed.

THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA SEEN AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE GERMAN-CZECH NATIONALITY PROBLEM

Andreas Reich

With the exception of Vienna, the educational system in Bohemia is regarded as the most highly developed and most modern of the whole Austro-Hungarian Empire, in both the sheer number of schools and the multiplicity of their organizational forms. The author examines continuity and change in the educational system in Bohemia in the context of the setting-up of the Czechoslovak state, and his attention centers on the consequences of the radically new concept of educational legislation after 1918. Had a nationally autonomous administration on the lower echelons supervised by multinational bodies been typical for the Habsburg monarchy, this was now substituted with a centralized educational system in which Germans were deprived of any influence on the top-level administration of educational institutions. The principal object of research were the consequences for the German schools of the educational policy of the
Czechoslovak state, particularly the law on providing schools for ethnic minorities and the law on the language of instruction at the so-called Mittelschulen and at institutions training teachers. The system of adult education and cultural institutions in general did not escape attention either. The author reaches the conclusion that the essence of the German-language educational system remained untouched. A comparison of available statistics with those on Czech- and Slovak-language schools and with the educational system in Germany proves that even under the new conditions the Sude ten Germans enjoyed more favourable conditions in terms of both quantity and quality. In those communities, however, where Germans were in a minority, the educational system was instrumental in advancing a policy of de-nationalization. The complaints that the educational system of the Germans was being discriminated against are, according to this study, due, among other things, to a discrepancy of the democratic structure of the state and internationally recognized standards of minority protection.

THE SOCIAL SITUATION OF ETHNIC GERMAN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE

Mads Ole Balling

The data on which the author relies were established when he wrote a doctor’s thesis on parliamentary representation of the German minority in east central Europe in 1919–45. This was strongest in the spring of 1927, on the peak of postwar economic growth, when ethnic Germans held 219 mandates throughout the Parliaments and representative bodies of the region. For the entire period, the author was able to prove the existence of 636 mandates held by Germans in this area. The present article statistically analyzes, with the ČSR as its principal object, the data on the biographies – occupation, place of birth, ethno-cultural background – of the deputies belonging to the German minority, and presents some interesting results concerning the social and cultural makeup of this group. Almost without exception these parliamentary delegates were of male gender. Typically for minorities, there was only a fairly small percentage of civil servants. As to occupation, in the ČSR this group consisted mainly of party officials and functionaries of various bodies and organizations, whereas overall delegates with an agricultural background took first place. Ethnic German deputies in the ČSR normally did not speak Czech. With respect to the national-cultural background, the composition of the political élite was more heterogeneous (e.g. social-democratic and liberal leaders of Germano-Jewish origin) than has been realized in previous research. Analysis of the residences and places of birth of the German deputies and of the geographic disposition of their constituencies gives irrefutable evidence that members of German minorities chose fellow Germans of high repute who lived nearby to represent them in legislative bodies. Nonlocals, even if they were Germans, stood only a small chance. A good deal of the prominent nationalist German deputies in the ČSR lived in the immediate vicinity of a linguistic boundary or came from one of the speech enclaves.