in Brno. Many prominent scholars worked there, one of them being Johann Gregor Mendel. The author of this contribution focuses on the parallelity of important scientific accomplishments by members of the order on one hand and the attempts by the ecclesiastical hierarchy at checking independent thinking and the quest for freedom on the other.

THE DEUTSCHBÖHMEN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, 1918-1919

Susanne Maurer-Horn

On October 29, 1918, the greatest area of ethnic German settlement in Bohemia was constituted as Deutschböhmen province, and a provincial government was set up which existed for almost eleven months. It tried in vain to prevent Deutschböhmen from being included into the territory of the Czechoslovak state. What has hitherto rather been overlooked is the disputes within this regional government for Deutschböhmen, and whether its politics were in keeping with what the population of the province wanted. Taking recourse to the proceedings of the provincial government and the reports of the Prague ambassador of the German Reich, consul Baron Fritz von Gebsattel, it is possible to show that the provincial government, especially in the first months of its tenure, could not be sure where the population of Deutschböhmen would lean in case of a referendum. There had to be a “national awakening” first. Although both Conservatives and Social Democrats, who were cooperating for the first time in the framework of the provincial government, fought for the right to self-determination for Deutschböhmen, they understood this differently, as is apparent from the propaganda publications examined. This was possible because the formula of a nation’s right to self-determination left a margin for interpretation which could accommodate both popular-nationalistic and democratic views.

GERMANY, ITALY, AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING THE INTERWAR YEARS

Manfred Alexander

There is hardly a common denominator for the relations between these three nations. The author thus selected five problem areas with the aim of sketching the interests of the different nations, namely the stance taken respectively towards France, Yugoslavia, Austria, Poland, and the League of Nations. The basic pattern that emerges is that the ČSR sought to preserve the status quo as stipulated by the Versailles peace treaties, while Germany maintained a revisionist attitude, and Italy could be found on either side, depending on the problem in question. One problem common to all three nations is the existence of ethnic minorities within their boundaries, and in this respect Italy can be seen to suppress the Germans in South Tyrol, Germany chose to disregard the problem of the Sorbs in Lusatia, and Czechoslovakia enjoyed the most liberal regime of the interwar period.