SUMMARIES

"REVOKE THE LANGUAGE DECREE!"
GERMAN OBSTRUCTION POSTCARDS DURING THE BADENI CRISIS, 1897-98

Rudolf Jaworski

The language decree ordained in 1897 for the Bohemian lands by Prime Minister Kazimierz Badeni, caused vehement protest within the Habsburg monarchy as well as abroad, and almost led to a crisis of the Empire. Apart from numerous speeches in Parliament and during public gatherings, newspaper articles and militant pamphlets, the storm of indignation was publicistically expressed in what was called "obstruction postcards". This contribution presents 16 selected examples of these picture postcards, their message laden with nationality politics, it acquaints the reader with the principal topics and motives used, and assesses the obstruction postcards with a view to the overall context in which they were used.

THE EXPULSION OF GERMANS FROM CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY AND THEIR FORCED RESETTLEMENT IN WESTERN MEDIA REPORTS

Detlef Brandes

Using the "New York Times" and the London-based "Times" as a yardstick, this contribution demonstrates how western newspapers established, in their coverage of Czechoslovak matters, a link between the expulsions of ethnic Germans and the crimes perpetrated by German occupation authorities during World War II. The atrocities bearing the name of the village Lidice had by then become an international symbol of German tyranny, since Nazi authorities had openly admitted to having carried out a "punitive measure", whereas in other cases, especially in eastern Europe, they had sought to hide mass murder from public view. It was to Lidice that western journalists used to refer when filing reports on the forced resettlement of ethnic Germans from Czechoslovak territory, reports that showed a certain degree of understanding for the measures being carried out.