SUMMARIES

TOWARDS COEXISTENCE: EMPEROR SIGMUND AND THE END OF THE HUSSITE REVOLUTION

Winfried Eberhard

This study examines the structure of the negotiating process which led to an understanding being reached by the Hussites on one hand and Emperor Sigmund and the Basle council on the other. These negotiations can be seen as representing the opening chapter of a history of tolerance in Bohemia, born out of the necessity to reestablish political and social unity within a new order which had to transcend the religious antagonisms. After both sides had refrained from the use of violence, they had to overcome their contrasting monistic and fundamentalistic goals first. During the negotiations of 1434-36 it was above all the politicians who managed to do so, since their main interest was to stabilize the existing rule. A prerequisite for the compromise to be reached was that both parties accepted the primacy of politics over religion. Against objections raised by the Council, the emperor made concessions with respect to the autonomy of the Hussite estates. This was the factual beginning of the coexistence of two confessions in Bohemia and Moravia. Thus, objectively the emperor started the learning process which would eventually lead to public tolerance.

THE SETTLEMENT OF THE BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN BAVARIA AND BOHEMIA, 1764

Hans-Joachim Häupler

1706-1708, during the War of the Spanish Succession, Emperor Joseph I. issued orders that areas near Waldmünchen, Furth im Wald, Bayerisch Eisenstein, and the Rachel montain, which had long been claimed by both Bohemia and Bavaria, be annexed to become part of Bohemia. This unilateral step was not recognized by Bavaria, and negotiations about the border were opened in Prague in 1763. When these negotiations were about to fail just a few months later, the Elector of Bavaria, Max III. Joseph, sent his secretary von Erdt to Vienna in order to negotiate directly with Empress Maria Theresia. The so-called Hauptgrenzvertrag (Main Border Treaty), which stipulated that the disputed areas be distributed equally among the two parties, was signed in Prague on March 3, 1764. During the subsequent surveying of the territory new tensions came to the surface. The result was that von Erdt had to travel to Vienna again and the empress had to intervene once more. Subsequently, twelve sub-treaties were concluded which defined the legal position of private landowners, whose