MANORIAL DOMAIN AND SUBJECT PEASANTS IN THE BOHEMIAN STATE UNDER THE STÄNDESTAAT.
NEW CZECH INVESTIGATIONS ON THE ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE 15th AND 16th CENTURIES

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There is still no comprehensive Czech economic history. Marxist investigations which dealt with this theme in the past decade focused above all on agriculture as the production basis of the mediaeval economic world. In this connection a study by F. Matějek appeared in 1959 on "The Great Feudal Estates and the Subject Peasants in Moravia" etc. and one by A. Mika in 1960 on "The Subject Population in Bohemia in the First Half of the 16th Century." The two works converge roughly, with Mika devoting attention more to the subject population, and Matějek tracing more closely the development of the great feudal estates and comparing it with Polish and Silesian conditions. The studies are of fundamental significance for European economic history, because they deal with a period in which the income basis of the manorial economy shifted from rentals to the private manorial farm, when, as it were, the "noble rural life" originated.

In posing such themes attention must be devoted inductively to certain questions which Marxist Czech research has attempted to comprehend since the summary of Czech history in the form of theses in 1954: 1) the so-called second serfdom after the Hussite wars, 2) the progress of social differentiation in the 15th century, and 3) the deeper causes of the development of private manorial farm enterprises. Both authors deal with these questions with noticeably more realism than did the authors' collective of 1954. They reject directly the deterioration of the position of the subject population, in other words, a "second serfdom"; they describe the process of social differentiation in the countryside as insignificant in the period under consideration; particularly in Matějek's formulation of the question, which in this respect is more thorough, they find the cause of private manorial management in the incentives from long-distance trade and in the refinement of production (beer), rather than in the exploitation of the subject peasants on the local markets, according to the theses of 1954.

Finally there remains the question whether the manorial economic forms of the 15th and 16th centuries may be described as "early capitalism." Only Mika has taken up a position more precisely here. Of course the West-
ern reader must first acquaint himself with Marxist terminology in order to notice that Mika has not only asked for a purely functionalistic concept of capital, but that his judgment depends upon whether “power as the midwife of capitalism” (according to Marx) had already become conspicuous in this period. He denies this question. This not only distinguishes, to his advantage, his presentation from the uncritical deductions in the relevant Soviet Textbook of Political Economy of 1955 (4th ed.), but also approaches O. Brunner’s views of an aristocratic guiding image for the social order, which until the end of the 18th century also dominated the economic world. Apart from the systematic aspect, both studies offer valuable individual data.

THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN WEST GERMANY AND BOHEMIA-MORAVIA IN THE AGE OF INDUSTRIALIZATION

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Great distances involved and great transport difficulties prevented an intensive direct trade between West Germany and Bohemia-Moravia up to the beginning of the industrial age; moreover, various intermediary centers, located closer by, such as Nürnberg, Leipzig, and Linz, offered trading fairs. In individual cases connections extended further west, to the Frankfurt fairs, Cologne, Aachen, and Wesel, and were able to obtain luxury goods from Belgium and France, English cloth, or metalware and weapons from the Lower Rhine. Later, as the process of industrialization advanced and the obstacles to transport diminished, and the machine factories of the Rhineland took their place alongside those of England and Belgium, machines and other metalware were procured from here. But not only this exchange of goods makes the relations between West Germany and the lands of Bohemia and Moravia in the age of industrialization interesting: above all, it is the men from the Rhineland and Swabia who contributed to pushing industrialization ahead in this area. Without doubt, the members of the higher nobility who resided in Moravia and Bohemia had a considerable share in the industrial development of this area; they had the workers at their disposal, they owned, above all, the estates with the mineral resources required. They were the owners of the flocks of sheep whose wool satisfied for the most part the needs of the Moravian cloth factories into the 1840’s. However, though it was possible to manage in the manufactories to a large degree with unskilled or semi-skilled workers, the transition to the machine-run factory required special skilled labor. It had