Munich political economist Otto Zwiedeneck Edler von Südenhorst; the
important historiographer Johann Loserth, who was born in Fulnek in
Moravia and whose special interest was in the history of the Bohemian
area; the chemist Zdenko Skraub, the son of a cathedral choirmaster from
Prague; Anton Mell, the director of the Styrian Provincial Archives and
Professor for Austrian History, who was born in Graz, but was the son of
an imperial-royal officer who came from Königgrätz; and lastly, but in his
importance as Professor Ordinarius for Zoology by no means last, Karl
Ritter von Frisch, whose family came from Hohenelbe, but who himself
was born in Jüngebunzlau.

All coming from the Bohemian-Moravian area, the personalities named
were active as important academic teachers and in numerous cases as lea-
ding politicians in Styria.

THE SECOND CZECHO-SLOVAK REPUBLIC
AS REFLECTED IN CONTEMPORARY
CZECH PRESS OPINION

Otto Böss

The short time in which the Second Czecho-Slovak Republic existed,
from October 1938 to March 1939, represents an interesting period, not
only with regard to foreign policy, but also to domestic politics, and con-
stantly offers the historian the possibility of posing new questions.

The present study is based primarily upon the Czech daily press of these
six months and attempts to show the attitude of journalism with respect
to the manifold questions and problems of that time.

The Munich Agreement had plunged the residual Czech state into a great
crisis at home and with regard to its foreign policy. However, men could
be found who tried to save what could still be saved. In foreign policy
they aspired at first to strict neutrality toward both the Western Powers
as well as the Axis. In domestic politics the main problems developed, on
the one hand, in the area of the party system, which urgently required
reform, both in the field of ideas and with regard to the number of parties
and the replacements in party leadership; on the other hand, the economy
of the country, which had been seriously affected by the cessions, required
reorganization and at the same time forced reconstruction; finally, as a
third factor, was the clarification of the question of the further living to-
gether of the Czechs and the Slovaks.

There are already studies on all of these important points which review
the state of affairs on the basis of archival material and memoirs. However,
no detailed evaluation has as yet been made of the attitude of the Czech press, which, without any doubt, decisively influenced the mood of the population. This investigation attempts to close this gap, as far as this is permitted by the newspaper material from this period, which is only incompletely available in the West.

It can be clearly discerned that the press was entirely aware of its important task in this time of transition and reorganization. In a concrete and temporally limited situation it made an important contribution to preventing the decay of the domestic political structure. Immediately after the crisis it repeatedly kept the consciousness of the great sacrifices before the eyes of the people, and warned it to maintain composure and faith; it dropped the matter of the mistakes that had been committed, and was able to place the advantages of the limitation to a smaller area ahead of the disadvantages; in domestic affairs it propagated the simplification of the party system, and the importance of the sensible living together of the Czechs, Slovaks, and Carpatho-Ukrainians, and appealed for a forced economic development as the basis for the new statehood; it advised caution in foreign policy, neutrality, and incorporation into a new Mitteleuropa, and finally, referring to the principle of self-preservation, even recommended leaning upon the Third Reich.

The study places emphasis on the treatment of these points, assuming that they were the most decisive ones in the period of transition, and as long as it had not yet become all too apparent that the days of the Second Republic would be numbered.

ON THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Heinrich Kuhn

In the year 1958 every sixth Czech or Slovak over twenty years of age was a member of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (CPCS). In relation to the population of the country the CPCS is thus one of the strongest Communist parties of the world, since in the Soviet Union, for example, only every thirty-fifth inhabitant is a member of the party (CPSU).

Before the Second World War the relative strength of the CPCS was quite different: The Communists played a considerable, but by no means outstanding, role in the political life of Czechoslovakia. This has changed fundamentally since 1945.

However, the focus in this investigation is not on the history of how the Bolshevization of Czechoslovakia came about after 1945, but on the social