VICTORY AND DEFEAT: ECONOMIC NATIONALISM IN SLOVAKIA BEFORE 1918

Roman Holec

In this contribution, the relationship between industrialization and its social and economic effects on one hand and the rise of nationalist thinking on the other is analyzed. At the outset, the author notes that “beginning with the early 19th century economic antagonism, tied as it was to growing nationalism, acquired a national (political) dimension and, conversely, national (political) conflicts had their economic aspects as well”, whence he derives his notion of economic nationalism as a “concept or movement in which political and economic aspects were glued together by national emotions”. Now the author proceeds to examine the “offensive” as well as the “defensive” sides of this phenomenon in the Habsburg monarchy, where he deals with the politico-economic conflicts between the two parts of the Empire and with Hungaro-Slovak and Slovak-Czech economic relations. He concludes that after the founding of Czechoslovakia, inherited politico-economic conflicts and disproportions had a strong and lasting influence on the relationship between Czechs and Slovaks.

FREEMASONRY AND MODERNIZATION IN EARLY 20TH CENTURY SLOVAKIA

Lubomír Lipták

Following decades in which the lodges concentrated on philanthropic activities and supporting the arts, it was not before the 1890s that Freemasonry entered public consciousness, in connection with the dispute about the so-called ecclesiastical legislation in Hungary, and at the beginning of the 20th century a debate started in the lodges on the issue of Masonic participation, both by lodges and by individual members, in the social changes underway. By analyzing that debate in terms of social history, the present contribution offers rare insights into a cultural and historical dimension of Slovak life before World War I. The issue of the actual significance of Masonic influence is also treated, with regional and social differences being taken into consideration.

SLOVAKIA AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK ADMINISTRATION

Leon Sakolovský

Nonwithstanding a continuous history of Slovak settlement on the territory of today’s Slovak Republic, beginning as early as the 6th century A.D., Slovaks lacked a sovereign state of their own after the expulsion, in 833, of Prince Pribina of Nitra by the Moravian duke, Mojmír I, and this situation lasted until well into the 20th century.
This situation was reflected in there being no Slovak national administration. This was different at regional level, where certain elements of the Slovak territorial administration did exist as long as 1918. The author of the present contribution first offers an outline of historic developments, before progressing to discuss all twelve administrative reforms implemented in Slovakia after the establishing of the Czechoslovak state. That all these reforms were conceived by persons with no firsthand knowledge of the local situation, that they neglected geographical facts and the natural pattern of settlement, and that they were even instituted without the population consenting expressly or at least tacitly is, according to the author, one of the reasons for Czechoslovakia eventually breaking up.

**SLOVAKIA'S IMPORTANCE FOR THE GERMAN REICH, 1939-1945**

*Tatjana Tönsmeyer*

This contribution is based on a master’s dissertation submitted at Marburg university in 1994. The author attempts to counter a notion not infrequently found in published studies, according to which the establishing of a Slovak state in March, 1939, was but a by-product of the dissolution of Czechoslovakia and the institution of the “Protectorate” over Bohemia and Moravia. She analyzes what specific political, military, and economic importance the Slovak state had for the Third Reich, examining in particular the realm of political propaganda. The most important factors being considered are Slovakia’s function as a “showcase” of the Reich, the role attached to Slovakia within German plans for a new order in the Danube region, Slovak participation in the Holocaust and in the military operations of the Reich as well as the Slovak contribution to Germany’s wartime economy. What finally emerges is the picture of Slovakia as the ideal “satellite”.

**THE DEPORTATION OF SLOVAK JEWS, 1944-45**

*Gila Fatran*

Deportation of Jews from Slovakia in 1942 was brought to a close with the transport of a group of mentally ill persons on October 20 of that year. When, in 1943 and in the spring of 1944, the Germans raised the demand that the transports be reinstated, the so-called working group that had sought cessation of the transports in 1942, succeeded in garnering effective support and, in some cases, managed to stave off the threat. In the Slovak cabinet meetings of September 11 and 15, 1944, the decision was taken to concentrate the Jews resident within Slovak boundaries in the camp Sered, the one camp which after the outbreak of the Slovak National Uprising was not on rebel territory. The author traces the destiny of some 25000 Jews living in Slovakia at that time, of whom around 14500 where deported and eventually killed, with particular attention being devoted to the multitudinous reactions from abroad.