**SLOVAKIA AFTER THE FEBRUARY 1948 COUP D'ÉTAT**

Michal Barnovský

In this contribution, the events of February 1948 are briefly outlined, but above all their direct political effects in the following six months are traced. In doing so, the author explains the difference that existed in the first postwar years up to the communist takeover between political developments in Slovakia and in the Bohemian lands, and he points out the almost synchronous - with only minor intervals between the various branches of the administration and between the center and the regions - political change as a characteristic element of the February coup. In contrast to the rank-and-file descriptions of this period of Czechoslovak history which are rather Czech-biased, the emphasis on Slovak developments in this article does not only bring to the fore some less well-known aspects, it also supports the theory that the change brought about by the February coup was more profound than is generally assumed.

**THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC: A NATION MISSED BY THE LIMELIGHT**

Karin Schmid

This contribution questions the customary attitude of so many researchers both of Czechoslovak history and of developments in the two successor states, who tend to recognize Slovak matters only in relation to those in the Bohemian lands. The author asks to what degree this particular perspective leads to a fair judgment, to what degree perception is identical with reality, and to what degree current negative opinions on Slovakia, for instance with respect to the breakup of Czechoslovakia, the constitutional system, and the path to democracy, a market economy and the rule of law, are justified. She attempts to give a balanced and differentiated answer and pleads for adopting an outlook on Slovakia without the widespread negative bias, as a result of which this nation might eventually emerge from the shadow cast by its former "bigger brother".

**SLOVAK HISTORIOGRAPHY, 1990-1994**

Pavol Petruf

The aim here is to give a brief appraisal of developments in Slovak historiography following the turnaround of November, 1989, and of the most important results of historical research. The article comprises three parts. The first points out some general tendencies of historical research in the period examined, the second outlines research activities specifically devoted to Slovak history, and the third those concerning history in general. Overall, the author stresses the fact that the earlier conceptual sterility has been overcome and that there is a great deal of new studies on new questions, while he also demonstrates the unsatisfactory level of reflexion concerning theory of science, the lack of preliminary work in the field of contemporary history, and the difficulties encountered by those attempting to publish synthetic histories, where conditions improve only slowly.