national conditions by the 1870s and 1880s. This is why various strata of the Czech and German population called for changes in the demarcation lines between the chambers of commerce. At about the same time, Czech industry (mostly agricultural) demanded the creation of a new chamber of commerce in eastern Bohemia incorporating also the Czech districts of the Reichenberg chamber. This project, however, had not been realized by 1918. In an "open letter" the Germans came out in favour of the establishment of a chamber of commerce of their own whose main object was to be the promotion of the new lignite basin. This proposal also was not carried out. With only a few alterations, the territorial division of Bohemia into chamber of commerce districts survived intact until 1918 and even continued to remain an important administrative organization until 1938. Of some importance was the fact that in 1884 — due to changes in the laws governing elections to the chambers of commerce — the Czech bourgeoisie gained the majority in the senates of the central Bohemian chambers of commerce of Prague (with Pardubitz) and Pilsen.

**ON MARSHAL FOCH'S TRIP TO WARSAW AND PRAGUE IN THE SPRING OF 1923**

*Manfred Alexander*

In the spring of 1923 the occupation of the Ruhr by France and Belgium seemed to offer the first occasion where the formal Franco-Polish and informal Franco-Czechoslovak alliance against Germany could have been applied. In these months of growing tension in the Ruhr, a high French military official paid visits to the capitals of the allies, Warsaw and Prague, which necessarily aroused the suspicion that weightier plans were being pursued than indicated by the official declarations. And indeed, Marshal Foch, a known advocate of French annexation of the Rhineland, discussed in Poland questions of a Polish-French military undertaking against Berlin, for which idea, however, he gained no support from Pilsudski. The triumphal facade of Foch's journey through Poland only concealed concrete conflicts and opposing interests that were more decisive for Polish-French relations of those years than any emotional affirmations of spiritual links. The atmosphere during Foch's visit to Prague was markedly cooler, but viewed in the longer term, he achieved a greater success there than in Warsaw, for the direct antecedents of the Franco-Czechoslovak friendship treaty of 1924 date from this visit.

Examination of the course and effects of Foch's journey throws into relief the problems of French security policy in East-Central Europe, stemming from a multiplicity of conflicts between France's allies and their respective neighbours and between each other.