ABSTRACTS
FROM „ISLANDS OF DEMOCRACY“ TO „TRANSNATIONAL BORDER SPACES“
State of the Art and Perspectives of the Historiography on the First Czechoslovak Republic since 1989
Ines Koeltzsch/Ota Konrád

The article provides an overview over the developments of the historiography on the First Czechoslovak Republic since the end of the Cold War. In the first part the authors focus on the Czech historiography in the 1990s, when the First Czechoslovak Republic experienced a revival in the public as well as in the historiography and was often idealized as an “island of democracy”. Though not exclusively, these writings were dominated by the paradigm of national history. This has changed since at least the first decade of the 21st century. Recent writings on the First Czechoslovak Republic, which are discussed in the second part, analyze Czechoslovakia between the World Wars as a dynamic social, political, economic and cultural space with permeable and shifting borders in- and outside. Furthermore they place Czechoslovakia in its broader regional, European and global contexts. Finally, the authors suggest the term “transnational border spaces” as formulated by Johannes Paulmann and Martin H. Geyer to outline these major changes and to open up further perspectives on the research of the First Czechoslovak Republic within a European and global history.

BEYOND NATIONALITY? COLLECTIVE VIOLENCE IN THE BOHEMIAN LANDS, 1914-1918
Ota Konrád

This contribution deals with spontaneous outbreaks of violence which happened with increasing frequency in the Bohemian lands during the two final years of World War I. The author interprets this type of violence as a special form of communication meant by those people who suffered from the breaking down of supplies of any kind, even in regions far from military operations, to express their increasing remoteness from the order in effect at the time. These were not hysterical outbreaks of anger and frustration, but surprisingly structured statements expressing a general change of mood during the final war years. Basing his arguments on comprehensive