

# SUMMARIES

## HISTORY OF PRAGUE UNIVERSITY

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The founding of Prague University in 1348 by the Emperor Charles IV was already preceded by efforts for the establishment of a College by Wenzel II, the son of Premysl Ottokar II. However, since Wenzel's plans were frustrated by the resistance of the aristocracy, and at that time no Bohemian State Chancellry existed, the deed of foundation was prepared in the Emperor's Chancellry. The foundation began therefore as a University of the Holy Roman Empire, and not of the State of Bohemia.

Eleven patents prepared on 7th April, 1348, with some exceptional legal contents, among them the University patent, show clearly that the State of Bohemia was not at all excluded from the Holy Roman Empire, according to Charles' conception, but a privileged part of it. The author, Canon Nikolaus Sortes from Laon, modelled the Deed of Foundation on those prepared by Frederic II for Naples University and Conrad IV for Salerno. Although the co-operation of the Pope is not mentioned in the Deed, Clemens VI did take part in the preliminary discussions. He sanctioned the introduction of a "studium generale", that is, the foundation of the University, and declared the academic degrees gained in Prague valid for the whole of Christendom. Paris as "Magister University", with divisions according to faculty, and Bologne as "Scholars University", with divisions according to nationality, could have served only indirectly as examples for Prague, where both principles were combined. The professors were united according to their faculty (Theology, Law, Medicine, Art) while the student body was arranged according to their national regions.

The rising national and clerical disputes were mirrored in the university life of Prague. The Kuttenberg Decree of 1409 eliminated the equal rights of the four nations which were till then represented, Bohemia now having three votes, and the others only one, in university affairs. As a result, a large part of the German university population left Prague and founded a new College in Leipzig.

After the acquisition of Bohemia by the Hapsburgs a new College was established in 1562 by Ferdinand I in the Jesuit St. Clemence, while the old Caroline University was protestant. In 1654 Ferdinand III united the two colleges and gave the university the name Carolo-Ferdinandea, which it held till 1918. The original teaching language, Latin, gave way almost completely after 1784 to German, but in 1848 the supremacy of this language

was annulled. The number of lectures given in the Czech language increased considerably after 1860, and in 1882 the university and its property was divided into two parts, German and Czech. After the founding of the C.S.R. the Czechoslovakian part was named „Universitas Carolina“.