

THE LOST ISLANDS; A CONTRIBUTION TO  
RESEARCH INTO THE NATIONALITY DISPUTE  
AND THE ASSIMILATION PROBLEM  
IN MIDDLE MORAVIA

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This is an investigation into the development of the nationality problem in Austro-Hungary, for the district of Middle Moravia, from the eighties to the First World War. Material for the investigation is supplied by German

and Czechoslovakian regional newspapers, election statistics, by the programmes of national defensive and offensive organisations on either side, and by the memoirs and reports of authoritative persons involved. In addition, there is a series of comprehensive theses dealing with the national and political situation of Moravia. The author examines, in particular, the national development up to the "Moravian Settlement" of 1905, the struggle for the Chamber of Commerce, and the great national-political significance of the flourishing Czechoslovakian Savings Bank and co-operative organisations, the formation and political activities of the Czech national fighting organisation (Národní jednota pro Severní Moravu) founded in 1885, and the activities of the German organisation for protection of national interests (Bund der Deutschen Nordmährens). She also investigates the effectiveness of German and Czech educational organisations, whose work consisted mainly in trying to prevent the assimilation of German children into Czech schools and vice versa by building schools of their own in areas of Czech or German minority.

The position of the Church in the nationality conflict is examined in a separate section. The Church was drawn into the national dispute through the strength of the rising generation of Czech priests on the one hand, and the shortage of German priests on the other, and was capable, through the activities of the Czech country clergy alone, of becoming a significant instrument of Czech national politics. The figure of the Archbishop Kohn of Olmütz makes the complexity and ambiguity of this struggle particularly clear. On the other hand, the section concerning the role of the Jewish part of the population in the national dispute makes it apparent that Czech anti-semitism was provoked by very different causes and produced very different consequences from those of German anti-semitism. The Jews, who were originally closely allied to the Germans, found themselves as a result of German anti-semitism, in an isolation which forced them, in spite of Czech animosity, to join the Slavic side, or at least to withdraw from German societies and organisations. The result of this, particularly in small places, was a weakening of the German element.

The Moravian Settlement of 1905 ("Mährischer Ausgleich") and the "Lex Perek" of 1907, which was a supplementation of the Settlement covering the educational system, brought these national disputes to some sort of conclusion. But in the course of the disputes numerous isolated German speech-areas, or islands, had become Czech.