

SUMMARIES

PRE-CELTS AND CELTS, TEUTONS AND SLAVS, CZECHS AND GERMANS IN THE SUDETEN LANDS

Ernst Schwarz

Our knowledge of the peoples who succeeded one another in the Sudeten lands has grown considerably in the last few decades. More recent research has stressed the carriers of the Lusatian Culture (c. 1200—800 B. C.). For a time they were described as northern Illyrians, but then it emerged that the Illyrians had stayed within the confines of the western part of the Balkan Peninsula. The Veneti, once neighbours of the Germanic tribes, had an independent Indo-European language of their own.

The Indo-European bearers of the Lusatian Culture can, for the time being, only be described as „pre-Celts“. There is nothing which convincingly demonstrates the belief of some Czech and Polish scholars even today that they were forerunners of the Slavs, for they spoke a *centum* language, whereas Slavic was among the *satem* languages. The Germans carried the term „Wends“, derived from „Veneti“, over to the Slavs. In the course of the great Celtic migrations, Celts (Boii) came to the Sudeten lands, beginning in the Fourth Century B. C., and acquired a dominant position over the population already there. Already in the era before Christ, Marcomanni, Hermunduri and Quadi appeared in northern Bohemia, and they remained there into the Sixth Century A. D. The remnants of the Celtic and pre-Celtic population were made tributary during this time. The Sudeten Teutons moved in c. 535 to Raetia and Noricum, the last remnants going probably in 568 with the Langobards to Italy. Together with the Avars, the Slavs appeared with a new culture (especially simple pottery of the so-called „Prague type“). They encountered only feeble Germanic remnants. Attempts which have been made to claim that Slavs had penetrated as far as the Elbe already in the first centuries after Christ (or at least in the 4th and 5th centuries) have run aground on the fact that Germanic peoples can be shown to have been east of the middle and lower Elbe and in the Sudeten lands into the 6th century, but no Slavic names; the names of the main rivers, moreover, are non-Slavic.

The names of rivers and mountains were preserved from pre-Celtic, Celtic and Germanic times and, to the extent that they were adopted by the advancing Slavs, have remained to this day. Pre-historical studies have identified Slavs in this area from the last decades of the 6th century on; they first occupied without any resistance the fertile regions of Bohemia and Moravia, and the wave which followed in the 7th century clearly showed

Avar influences. At this time Bohemia was the main land of „Samo“. The thesis advanced by Bretholz in 1921 to the effect that the Sudeten Germans were descendants of Marcomanni and Quadi who had remained behind cannot be substantiated — for names, dialects and historical sources show convincingly that these Sudeten Germans were part of a new eastward German movement starting in the 12th century. The Sudeten lands should thus be viewed in this regard no differently than the other East German regions.