

THE NATIONAL SITUATION IN BOHEMIA DURING THE „TEMNO“ IN THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE FRAMEWORK

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The „Temno“ of the 17th and 18th centuries — the age of the „decay“ of Czech language and culture — has long been one of the most controversial chapters in Bohemian historiography. The Austrian „imperial historiography“ of the

465

19th century, clinging as it did to the idea of a unitary Cisleithanian state (since 1867), viewed the period from the Thirty Years' War to the awakening of the Czech nation as an epoch of centralization and the crystalization of an Austrian *Staatsidee*.

The Battle of the White Mountain and, above all, the Revised Ordinance of 1627 effected a profound restructuring of society which shook the old Bohemian nobility and, first and foremost, the knights. Profound economic changes enhanced the importance of the German language in the Bohemian economy and administration and promoted the Germanization of the upper Czech strata.

The Thirty Years' War also sharply changed the settlement structure of Bohemia. But it is difficult to trace the causes and sociological background of the resulting partial expansion of the German-speaking areas of settlement. Generally speaking, it should be stressed that the heartland of Bohemia was exposed to greater devastation than the less fertile peripheral areas. In the case of Prague and other towns of inner Bohemia, the development of the language situation can be studied by using civil registers to examine the new citizens.

The cause of the increased migration of Germans into this area after 1627 may be found in the social restructuring within the Bohemian *Stände* and in the revival of the handicrafts mainly in the capital but also in the provincial towns. A considerable role in the growth of the urban citizenry was played by arrivals from areas outside Bohemia. The migration into devastated villages, however, came from those areas that emerged relatively unscathed from the war, especially the German regions on the border of Bohemia. The further course of events also clearly shows that while one can speak of a *qualitative* strengthening of the German part of the population (because of the arrival of qualified artisans in the towns), there was — due to the overall relatively small number and significance of the towns — no marked *quantitative* expansion of the German population. The relatively high percentage of German tradespeople in Bohemia had a favourable impact on the process of industrialization: already during the age of Mercantilism, a large number of manufacturies were situated in the peripheral areas settled by Germans.