

THE GERMAN BOHEMIAN QUESTION, 1918—1919, AND THE AUSTRIAN-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONSHIP

Hanns Haas

The German Bohemian question heavily burdened relations between Czechoslovakia and Austria in 1918—1919. In their bilateral relations, the political representatives of the two states had to set aside the territorial claims resulting from the national state doctrine, at least to the degree imposed by the exigencies of the smooth building of the new state structure. But Austrian political circles (the Czechoslovaks are not dealt with here) were unable to follow in the internal political sphere the same road of a rational national policy that they took in the agreement with Prague.

On the basis of newly accessible sources, the article describes the subjective self-understanding of the Austrian Social Democrats and the Vienna Govern-

ment, and by means of an analysis of the policy vis-à-vis German Bohemia, elaborates the objective function of this policy in the above-outlined sense. The author deals with the economic negotiations between the two new states, the administration of German Bohemia, the attempts at a German-Czech settlement, as well as the attitude of the German Bohemian population itself and the activity of the Bohemian, Viennese and foreign governments. A second part will deal with developments up to the Renner-Beneš agreement of January 1920.