

# CONDITIONS IN THE BOHEMIAN SUDETENLAND IN THE YEAR 1940 ACCORDING TO REGENSBURG SD REPORTS

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The annexation of the Sudeten German areas by the German Reich in October 1938 led not only to the creation of the „Sudetengau“ but also to the union of some remote areas with surrounding German *Länder*, an example being the incorporation of the northern Bohemian Forest into Bavaria. Conditions in this „Sudeten Bavaria“ are examined here on the basis of Bavarian archival sources. Attention is centered on an SD report of 1940 which brings

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into focus all the problems involved and demonstrates that from the political, economic and cultural point of view, the union with Bavaria was a mistake. The documents reveal various reasons for this fact: the incorporation of the Bohemian Forest took place without the assent of the government in Munich, and indeed even against its will; some of the boundaries, moreover, were fixed in an arbitrary fashion. This extremely poor and remote area meant only economic problems for Bavaria that were made insoluble not only by the outbreak of the war but also by the governing methods of the centralistic Reich. What is more, the sharp conflict between the state leadership in Munich and the NSDAP *Gau* leadership in Bayreuth made the Bohemian Forest into a bone of contention. This, in turn, had a highly negative impact above all on the administration. It is thus only understandable that the wish for incorporation into the Sudetengau grew ever stronger.