

BOHEMIA AND THE GERMAN BOHEMIAN
QUESTION IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THE
EVOLUTION OF THE CZECH NATIONAL STATE IN
1918, AS REFLECTED IN REPORTS OF THE SAXON
LEGATION IN VIENNA

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On the basis of legation reports from Vienna, examines the smoldering problems concerning Bohemia in the closing phase of the First World War, especially the situation of the German Bohemians in the evolution of the Czech national state beginning in the fall of 1918. Three German diplomatic outposts were functioning in Vienna at the time: the Imperial embassy, and the Bavarian and Saxon legations. The present study examines the last-named, with its rich collection of reports on the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, and particularly on Bohemia. When in the course of the last year of the war, signs of internal disintegration emerged ever more clearly in the Danube monarchy, „Bohemian questions“ became a real focal point of the reports that the legation sent from Vienna to Dresden. These reports are full of problems relating to the emancipation of the Czech state, as well as the question: „What will happen to German Bohemia in view of this development?“ Under the immediate impact of events, they speak of various hitherto little-noticed processes in the behavior patterns of the Czechs and German Bohemians — not to mention the German Austrians and Saxons.