

T. G. MASARYK'S PRÄSIDENTSCHAFTSDEMOKRATIE

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T. G. Masaryk was elected president by the National Assembly, consisting of Chamber of Deputies and Senate, and not by the people; there was, in other words, no *Präsidialdemokratie* in Czechoslovakia. The initiative of the head of state which was often decisive in domestic questions, and the practical cooperation between President and Prime Minister were nothing more than mere elements of a *Präsidialdemokratie*. Masaryk exercised his presidential office as a charismatic leader always guided by democratic principles. To preserve the rights and duties granted him under the Constitution (some of which indeed bore the mark of a *Präsidialdemokratie*) he needed a small circle of trusted associates, which com-

monly came to be known as the „Castle“. The goal of this group, which was subject to great fluctuations, was smooth guidance and control in the interest of the idea of the state as a whole and the consolidation of the state. T. G. Masaryk as head of state created and practiced a system whose actions and orientation were those of a *Präsidentenschaftsdemokratie*.