

THE GERMAN RETALIATORY MEASURES AFTER
THE CZECH STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1939

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The first serious clash of the Czechs and the German occupation force during the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia were the student demonstrations in October and November 1939 and the harsh retaliatory measures by the Germans which followed: the closing of the Czech institutions of higher learning and the shooting and arrest of Czech students. Based on hitherto inaccessible sources, the author gives a new version of these events, against the background of the conflict within the Protectorate between State Secretary K. H. Frank and *Reichsprotektor* von Neurath, or between the SS and the administration. He shows above all that SS circles in Prague and Berlin had a great interest in provoking the Czechs to anti-German violence. This was aimed not only at furnishing a pretext for more severe action against those Czech circles — above all in the student body — which stood in opposition to the *Reich*, but also represented an attempt to eliminate the political influence of *Reichsprotektor* von Neurath, who was considered a moderate vis-à-vis the Czechs.