

SUMMARIES

THE OLDEST SLAV SETTLEMENT OF BOHEMIA

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Comparative linguistics was the first discipline to explore the origins of the European peoples — using complicated methods to discover an Indo-European *Urvolk*, which then disintegrated into such component stocks as the Teutons, Celts and Slavs after they left their „*Urheimat*“. Not much is heard of this theory nowadays. Today the ethno-genesis of the Slavs, for instance, is the object of study not only of linguists, but of historians, anthropologists and archaeologists. But they also have not gotten beyond mere suppositions, because they proceed from abstractions, not historical processes.

In the first half of the sixth century A. D., Bohemia was part of the Lombard empire, which at thi time embraced southern Moravia, parts of Lower Austria, the Burgenland, and all of western Hungary — a huge territory over which the Lombard lords could only be thinly distributed. The bulk of the inhabitants were peasant settlers of various origin, who — as the subjugated basic population stock — had to contribute payments in kind and services to the ruling Lombards. When the Lombards migrated south around or after the middle of the sixth century, the basic population remained behind; this can be seen, for instance, in the sixth-century settlement near Priesen (Březano), Laun district, whose excavation was one result of the lively activity of Czech regional studies. The older house ground plans contain courser and finer remains of vessels from the *Völkerwanderungszeit*, while in the later ones pottery fragments of the Prague type predominate. But there are also a number of mixed forms which make it seem most probable that the first Slav inhabitants of the settlement near Priesen had not migrated there but rather emerged from the older basic population stock. The author attempted as early as 1954 to demonstrate a similar point in his book *Die Anfänge der slawischen Besiedlung Böhmens und Mährens* (The Beginnings of Slav Settlement of Bohemia and Moravia).