

THE CAREER PERFORMANCE OF GRADUATES  
OF A HIGHER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL:  
RESULTS OF A SURVEY AMONG *Matura* DEGREE  
HOLDERS OF THE FORMER GERMAN STATE  
TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL IN PILSEN

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After 1870, Austria-Hungary established state technical high schools (*Staatsgewerbeschulen*), which comprised higher vocational, master mechanics', technical, and continuation schools. Admission to the *Gewerbeschulen* was open to those who had completed the lower gymnasium or *Bürgerschule* (at age fifteen), and the four-year course led to the *Matura* examination. These schools offered preparation for senior technical occupations. One of the first *Staatsgewerbeschulen* with German as language of instruction was founded in Pilsen; it survived until 1945.

In 1977, 128 members of the alumni association of this school — most of whom live today in the Federal Republic of Germany — completed a questionnaire on their vocational activity. The most important results were as follows: Most of the graduates who came from the upper strata of the lower class or the lower strata of the middle class and completed the *Bürgerschule* were engaged in a technical occupation (such as construction or enterprise management). They were rarely unemployed and attained professional positions that were, as a rule, higher than those of graduates who came from engineering schools in the German Reich. 43.5 % of their children qualified for university, and 36 % were university graduates. The article also presents information on the development of this school and gives some insight into its curriculum.