A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF THE PEOPLES OF THE SUDETEN LANDS

Ernst Schwarz

On the basis of a manuscript entitled „The Foundations of the History of the Sudeten German People Prior to the Hussite Wars“, which was lost in 1945 and recently recovered, presents addenda to the author’s book History of the People of the Sudeten Lands (Handbuch der Sudetendeutschen Kulturgeschichte, Vols. 3 and 4), published in 1965/66. Recent books and monographs on the subject are also discussed. The above-mentioned manuscript provide noteworthy data from unpublished municipal registers of Bohemia and Moravia to which German scholars today do not have access. In addition to this, it was possible to utilize the findings of a survey conducted before 1943 on the incidence of field-names of Czech origin, in the collection for the former Sudeten German areas numbering about a quarter of a million items.

Some Czech scholars agree with the author that personal, particularly family, names of the pre-Hussite period can throw light on the language spoken by their bearers — and have reached largely similar conclusions. Others, however, view this method skeptically. But they overlook the fact that the situation in the individual historical epochs was different. The abandonment of the German or Czech language and the consequences of mixed marriages and political change began to have a strong impact only after the 14th century. On the other hand, the Volksstumskampf that led to national isolation slowly began only in the 19th century.

In the light of these changing factors, the author discusses critically the works of Chaloupka and Hoslák, repudiating their method of projecting 19th and 20th century data back on to earlier periods and of considering regional onomastic sources in isolation.

Understanding the encounter of two peoples over the course of the centuries requires — as a number of Czech scholars are indeed already doing — the avoidance of national biases, as well as recognition of the fact that it is not enough to exploit only documents, but that the linguistic data also have to be considered. Above all, research must be kept free of contemporary political points of view.

THE NATIONAL SITUATION IN BOHEMIA DURING THE „TEMNO“ IN THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE FRAMEWORK

Harald Bachmann

The „Temno“ of the 17th and 18th centuries — the age of the „decay“ of Czech language and culture — has long been one of the most controversial chapters in Bohemian historiography. The Austrian „imperial historiography“ of the
19th century, clinging as it did to the idea of a unitary Cisleithanian state (since 1867), viewed the period from the Thirty Years’ War to the awakening of the Czech nation as an epoch of centralization and the crystalization of an Austrian Staatsidee.

The Battle of the White Mountain and, above all, the Revised Ordinance of 1627 effected a profound restructuring of society which shook the old Bohemian nobility and, first and foremost, the knights. Profound economic changes enhanced the importance of the German language in the Bohemian economy and administration and promoted the Germanization of the upper Czech strata.

The Thirty Years’ War also sharply changed the settlement structure of Bohemia. But it is difficult to trace the causes and sociological background of the resulting partial expansion of the German-speaking areas of settlement. Generally speaking, it should be stressed that the heartland of Bohemia was exposed to greater devastation than the less fertile peripheral areas. In the case of Prague and other towns of inner Bohemia, the development of the language situation can be studied by using civil registers to examine the new citizens.

The cause of the increased migration of Germans into this area after 1627 may be found in the social restructuring within the Bohemian Stände and in the revival of the handicrafts mainly in the capital but also in the provincial towns. A considerable role in the growth of the urban citizenry was played by arrivals from areas outside Bohemia. The migration into devasted villages, however, came from those areas that emerged relatively unscathed from the war, especially the German regions on the border of Bohemia. The further course of events also clearly shows that while one can speak of a qualitative strengthening of the German part of the population (because of the arrival of qualified artisans in the towns), there was — due to the overall relatively small number and significance of the towns — no marked quantitative expansion of the German population. The relatively high percentage of German tradespeople in Bohemia had a favourable impact on the process of industrialization: already during the age of Mercantilism, a large number of manufacturies were situated in the peripheral areas settled by Germans.

**THE PEASANT UPRISING ON THE LIECHTENSTEIN ESTATE OF MÄHRISCH TRÜBAU—TURNAU, 1706—13**

*Gustav Korkisch*

The peasant uprising on the Liechtenstein estate of Mährisch Trübau—Türnau in 1705 occurred simultaneously with the insurrection of the subjects of the large Liechtenstein-ruled territories of Eisenberg, Goldenstein, Hohenstadt and Aussee; it extended from the Altvater mountains almost to Olmütz. Due to the almost complete lack of source material in the bigger archives, this peasant uprising has virtually been ignored in the historical literature on the subject. Detailed material on it can be found only in the house archive of the ruling Liechtenstein princes, in Vienna.