

WILHELM VON MEDINGER, THE INTERNATIONAL
ORDER AFTER 1918 AND THE SHADOWS
OF THE MAN FROM LA MÀNCHA

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Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the death of the Sudeten German politician Wilhelm von Medinger, this is the first attempt at a systematic clarification of those aspects of his political career that are still of interest today. Medinger's responses to the political situation of his day were of a most unusual intensity and persistence for a minority politician. This was historically conditioned by the formative influence of the state and the liberal ruling strata of the Hapsburg monarchy; the trauma of the War and the collapse of 1918, a worldwide phenomenon; the most unaccustomed position of the Sudeten Germans as a harassed

minority in the young Czechoslovak Republic. At home and above all in the international arena, he stood up for parliamentary democracy, a foreign policy of peaceful understanding, and economic cooperation, even if he could not entirely free himself of certain German prejudices and his, in part, idealistic efforts were not crowned by success.