

J. W. TITTA AND THE *DEUTSCHER VOLKS RAT*
FÜR BÖHMEN

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The physician Dr. Titta was no political statesman but nonetheless one of the principal figures in the interplay of forces between Germans and Czechs in Bohemia; a man whose political influence far surpassed that of the prominent professional

politician. His efforts for the preservation of *Deutschtum* in the linguistic border town of Trebnitz led him to the idea of founding a large, independent, nonpartisan roof organization of all the German parties and organizations, a body of a purely defensive nature without any political tendency. This was the „Deutscher Volksrat für Böhmen“. This study shows how the organization came into being developed, and what became of it. Dr. Titta and the *Deutscher Volksrat* were involved especially in dealing with the sensitive language problem and the question of national delimitation in Bohemia. In 1918 the *Deutscher Volksrat* was — as the German consul-general in Prague reported back to the Foreign Office in Berlin — the only organization that was above the parties. But it was powerless and thus doomed to failure. After the ČSR was founded the lifework of Dr. Titta was gradually destroyed. There were repeated calls after his death for a union of Germans following the model of Dr. Titta's *Volksrat*, but political developments ultimately took different roads.