

SUMMARIES

AN EPOCH AT THE CROSSROADS

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The author of this contribution takes the occasion of the publication of the collective work, *Renaissance in Böhmen*, to go beyond the art historical concerns of the volume in order to trace the general social contours of the era in great strokes. On the one hand, the development of the Bohemian lands during this period, which is delimited by the Prague defenestrations of 1419 and 1618, has a particular position in the European context. Bohemia had been assured relative internal stability through the religious tolerance decreed by the Kuttenberg Provincial Diet in 1485, which was broadened with the adoption of the *Confessio Bohemica* in 1575. The stability was expressed in the remarkable increase in prosperity of all social strata. On the other hand, this same Bohemia became involved in a world political conflict of the first degree. Running through Bohemia was the border between two world views, whose irreconcilable polarity would determine the picture of the coming era: Calvinism and tridentine Roman Catholicism.