

PRAGUE HISTORIANS ON THE FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF JOSEF PEKAŘ

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The so-called unofficial social scientists of Czechoslovakia – those historians, philosophers, sociologists, political scientists and literary specialists, who were forbidden

to publish after the Prague Spring – have again provided proof of their productivity and commitment with an omnibus volume on the life and work of the Czech historian Josef Pekař, who died fifty years ago. The articles and documentary materials contained in this volume provide a comprehensive picture of Pekař's activity, his scientific methods, the tendencies of change in his work, his political outlook, and his personality. Although not explicitly politically motivated, these studies have an implicitly political character: in their unconditional scholarly method, they precisely mirror the deficiency of a social system and its official historiography, which on ideological grounds still maintains the verdict on one of the most significant historians of Czech history.