

# REGULATION OF CONFLICT AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION

## The Structure of the First Czechoslovak Republic

*Peter Heumos*

The First Czechoslovak Republic is considered to have been a comparatively stable democracy. In this study of the resolution of social conflict and the political organization of the state, Peter Heumos has evaluated the accuracy of this estimation. He defines the First Republic as a proportional system in which previously agreed upon legislation, the scattering of political responsibility, and the transferring of social conflict to the workshop level thwarted the development of an opposition. Correspondingly, the *Pětka*, a group comprising the leaders of the government coalition parties, eliminated the Parliament as the decisive governing body. The fragmentation of the parties, the trade unions, and the interest groups resulted in a lack of political integrative ability among the people. It is here that Heumos finds a reason for the breakdown of democracy in 1938: the level of formalization was low and social integration was preferably personally mediated.