

LIBRARY ORGANIZATION IN BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA
DURING THE PERIOD OF NATIONAL SOCIALIST
DOMINATION, 1938–1945

Robert Luft

This article concerns the history of the local and research libraries in the *Reichsgau* Sudetenland and in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. Separated into German- and Czech-language libraries, their development as institutions and their significance for the Sudeten German and the Czech societies during the National Socialist period is traced. The author also considers changes in the collections, employees, and conditions of usage. Due to the existing situation (a result of the Czechoslovak Library Law of 1919), the high density of the library network, and the special conditions of the Bohemian area, during the war years the libraries maintained – like the Czech culture as a whole – a certain peculiarity. The attacks on the libraries did not go beyond the level then obligatory in Germany and were different from the radical actions in occupied Poland and the Soviet Union.