

THE GERMAN NATIONAL SOCIALIST WORKERS' PARTY IN THE SUDETENLAND – NATIONAL WORKERS' PARTY AND “FASCIST MOVEMENT”

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The DNSAP, born of the of the nationalist trade-union movement in northern Bohemia in 1903–1904, was, until well into the 1920s, a German nationalist, ideologically radical, but internally democratically structured, party with a higher than average percentage of workers. It officially supported Sudeten German autonomy. Particularly at the local level, it cooperated constructively in the political formation process of the First Czechoslovak Republic. From the end of the 1920s, the DNSAP displayed an extraordinary increase in membership and voter support in municipal

elections, broadened its social basis and united a great part of the potential voters of the other Sudeten German parties behind it. Prior to its official prohibition in October of 1933, the DNSAP had developed into an "umbrella" party of the Sudeten Germans. The internal change of the party from a *national workers' party* to a *fascist movement* with increased ideological, organizational activity modeled on Reich German National Socialism occurred about the same time. This study examines the manifest relationship between the "quantitative" and "qualitative" change of Sudeten German National Socialism and elaborates upon the features of the "late" DNSAP as a "fascist movement" in the sense of Karl Dietrich Bracher's conception of fascism.