

THE POSITION OF THE VOLKSDEUTSCHE IN THE PROTECTORATE OF BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE GERMANIZATION OF THIS REGION

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In this article, the author examines the situation of the Germans in the Protectorate, that is, the German population that overwhelmingly already lived in this area before 1939. His point of departure is the fact that, in the Nazi plans, these Germans were to play a decisive role in the Germanization of Bohemia and Moravia and to build so-called footholds around which the later compact German settlements would grow. In comparison to the Czechs, however, the number of Protectorate Germans was relatively small. Thus next small German "areas of interest" were established which were to split off from the connected Czech settlement area. In order to reach this goal, the significance of "Germandom" was to be stressed in all areas of the Protectorate. The occupation administration at the top with the *Reichsprotektor* and the *Oberlandräte*, who developed various initiatives, was from this point of view especially important, and planned and advanced a sort of a double strategy of Germanization consisting on the one hand of restrictive measures *vis-à-vis* the Czech nation and on the other of wide-ranging support of the Germans. Gradually, however, the influence of the war also made itself felt in the realm of Germanization policy: the plans of the National Socialists were in many respects reduced and their final realization was delayed until the expected German victory.