

THE SETTLEMENT OF THE BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN BAVARIA AND BOHEMIA, 1764

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1706–1708, during the War of the Spanish Succession, Emperor Joseph I. issued orders that areas near Waldmünchen, Furth im Wald, Bayerisch Eisenstein, and the Rachel mountain, which had long been claimed by both Bohemia and Bavaria, be annexed to become part of Bohemia. This unilateral step was not recognized by Bavaria, and negotiations about the border were opened in Prague in 1763. When these negotiations were about to fail just a few months later, the Elector of Bavaria, Max III. Joseph, sent his secretary von Erdt to Vienna in order to negotiate directly with Empress Maria Theresia. The so-called *Hauptgrenzvertrag* (Main Border Treaty), which stipulated that the disputed areas be distributed equally among the two parties, was signed in Prague on March 3, 1764. During the subsequent surveying of the territory new tensions came to the surface. The result was that von Erdt had to travel to Vienna again and the empress had to intervene once more. Subsequently, twelve sub-treaties were concluded which defined the legal position of private landowners, whose

possessions had come to be situated on the other side as a result of the new border. This process took until 1769 to be completed. Since then, the border between Bohemia and Bavaria has not given cause for trouble. If one disregards the period 1938–1945, the border has remained unchanged up to this very day.