

DISTURBING VICTIMS: THE CZECH (NON-)REMEMBERING OF THE PERSECUTEES

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This study shows that the Czech society not always duly acknowledges the suffering which the fellow citizens who were persecuted, jailed or expelled had to endure. Moreover, politics and even historiography have developed more fascination with the perpetrators or with heroes who might be glorified in the interest of political goals than with the down-to-earth victims, who might be suspicious because of their ideas or their fate, or who might simply appear too "normal". For concerning oneself with their fate raises the question who prepared the ground for the persecutions, who made possible that they could happen and who carries thus at least a moral responsibility for the suffering endured by the victims. In the end, the victims become the guilty, or at least their existence is seen as rather disturbing.