

THE PROBLEMS OF A NEW BEGINNING:
SOME REMARKS ON CONCEPTS AND METHODS
OF CZECH RESEARCH INTO CONTEMPORARY
HISTORY AFTER 1989

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On the basis of selected publications by the Prague *Ústav pro soudobé dějiny* (Institute for Contemporary History) as well as further publications devoted to the contemporary history of Czechoslovakia, the author demonstrates that the methodic and methodological problems being felt by Czech researchers into contemporary history can be detected, among other things, in the unquestioned usage, even now, of inherited patterns of thought and in the fact that the breaking away from the Marxist-Leninist code often leads to personalist views being adopted or historicist positions being used as a line of retreat. Modern research methods however, such as those represented by structural history, have not been taken up so far.