

THE CZECH DEBATE ON THE EXPULSION OF THE GERMANS AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

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The author summarizes and analyzes the Czech discussion on the expulsion of the Germans, which has been going on since the late 1970s among dissidents and emigres and since 1990 among the Czech public. He examines the arguments used and whether they have been taken up in the political debate in view of the demands made by the Sudeten German expellee organization *Sudetendeutsche Landsmannschaft*. While propagandistic publications both of Czech and of Sudeten German origin did not escape attention, the author arrives at the conclusion that the debate has its merit. He argues against any efforts to disavow one's history or at least the bitter parts of it: "For an historian, passing a judgement appears not only justified, but even necessary, when he does not merely want to collect and arrange facts."