

## CZECHS AND SUDETEN GERMANS: SHEDDING MEMORIES IS NOT EASY

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This study analyzes attitudes and patterns of thought and argument that are frequently found in the present debate between Czechs and Sudeten Germans. Special attention is paid to the Sudeten German concept of the *Heimatkultur* and to the way the multi-cultural past of the Bohemian lands is treated by current Czech history concepts. The author establishes that there is a continuity between these patterns of thought and those that were current in the interwar times, and this is where she puts the blame not only for the tragical end of the coexistence of Czechs and Germans in the Bohemian lands, but also for political tensions and conflicts of the present. She points to the necessity of a critical appraisal of traditional patterns of thought as a precondition not only for coming to terms with the troubling past, but also for coping with present problems and conflicts.