

THE BADENI LANGUAGE DECREES FOR MORAVIA:
FLIRTING WITH THE EUROPEAN IDEA

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Fitting well into the framework of the contemporary debates about a common Europe, this study examines the Badeni language decrees for Moravia dating back to 1897, which up until now have not received the same attention as the project of a language decree for Bohemia. The author interprets it as a final effort, undertaken with explicit support from the part of the Crown, to seek, by the expedient of bilingual administration in bilingual crown lands, a transnational solution for the nationalities conflict as opposed to a concept based of the notion of national autonomy. When this effort failed, a complete separation of the nationalities was initiated, definitely with the so-called *Mährischer Ausgleich* of 1905. Thus, this study proves that historic experience offers invaluable advice for the current efforts directed at bringing about a common Europe.