

SLOVAKIA AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK ADMINISTRATION

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Nonwithstanding a continuous history of Slovak settlement on the territory of today's Slovak Republic, beginning as early as the 6th century A.D., Slovaks lacked a sovereign state of their own after the expulsion, in 833, of Prince Pribina of Nitra by the Moravian duke, Mojmir I, and this situation lasted until well into the 20th century.

This situation was reflected in there being no Slovak national administration. This was different at regional level, where certain elements of the Slovak territorial administration did exist as long as 1918. The author of the present contribution first offers an outline of historic developments, before progressing to discuss all twelve administrative reforms implemented in Slovakia after the establishing of the Czechoslovak state. That all these reforms were conceived by persons with no firsthand knowledge of the local situation, that they neglected geographical facts and the natural pattern of settlement, and that they were even instituted without the population consenting expressly or at least tacitly is, according to the author, one of the reasons for Czechoslovakia eventually breaking up.