

# SLOVAKIA'S IMPORTANCE FOR THE GERMAN REICH, 1939-1945

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This contribution is based on a master's dissertation submitted at Marburg university in 1994. The author attempts to counter a notion not infrequently found in published studies, according to which the establishing of a Slovak state in March, 1939, was but a by-product of the dissolution of Czechoslovakia and the institution of the "Protectorate" over Bohemia and Moravia. She analyzes what specific political, military, and economic importance the Slovak state had for the Third Reich, examining in particular the realm of political propaganda. The most important factors being considered are Slovakia's function as a "showcase" of the Reich, the role attached to Slovakia within German plans for a new order in the Danube region, Slovak participation in the Holocaust and in the military operations of the Reich as well as the Slovak contribution to Germany's wartime economy. What finally emerges is the picture of Slovakia as the ideal "satellite".