

SLOVAKIA AFTER THE FEBRUARY 1948 COUP D'ÉTAT

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In this contribution, the events of February 1948 are briefly outlined, but above all their direct political effects in the following six months are traced. In doing so, the author explains the difference that existed in the first postwar years up to the communist takeover between political developments in Slovakia and in the Bohemian lands, and he points out the almost synchronous – with only minor intervals between the various branches of the administration and between the center and the regions – political change as a characteristic element of the February coup. In contrast to the rank-and-file descriptions of this period of Czechoslovak history which are rather Czech-biased, the emphasis on Slovak developments in this article does not only bring to the fore some less well-known aspects, it also supports the theory that the change brought about by the February coup was more profound than is generally assumed.