

## THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC: A NATION MISSED BY THE LIMELIGHT

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This contribution questions the customary attitude of so many researchers both of Czechoslovak history and of developments in the two successor states, who tend to recognize Slovak matters only in relation to those in the Bohemian lands. The author asks to what degree this particular perspective leads to a fair judgment, to what degree perception is identical with reality, and to what degree current negative opinions on Slovakia, for instance with respect to the breakup of Czechoslovakia, the constitutional system, and the path to democracy, a market economy and the rule of law, are justified. She attempts to give a balanced and differentiated answer and pleads for adopting an outlook on Slovakia without the widespread negative bias, as a result of which this nation might eventually emerge from the shadow cast by its former "bigger brother".