

CZECH NATION AND CATHOLIC DENOMINATION BEFORE THE FOUNDING OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL STATE AND AFTERWARDS

Martin Schulze Wessel

The article sketches the function of religious denomination in the modern national movement of the 19th century and highlights the consequences of the founding of a Czechoslovak national state for the relation between dominant nation and Catholic denomination, which is described as a struggle for preeminence (*Kulturkampf*) comparable to events in other European national states. The author examines both the church-state relationship and the relationship between nation and denomination. And he proves that the argument in the pertinent debates was national and historical, not theological in character. And that, moreover, the attempt of the "progressive" parties and societies to create, by way of founding a national state, an anti-clerical nation, triggered a counterreaction: an activation and centralization of Catholic parties and societies. At the end of the first decade in the history of the new republic it had become obvious that no fundamental change in the relationship between nation and denomination had come about.