

DISCUSSION

THE SUDETENDEUTSCHE HEIMATFRONT (PARTY)
1933–1938: TOWARDS DETERMINING ITS POLITICAL
AND IDEOLOGICAL POSITION

When the historians Christoph Boyer (Dresden) and Jaroslav Kučera (Prague) last year published, in the framework of a collective volume on regional and local research on the subject of National Socialism in international comparison, an article on *Die Deutschen in Böhmen, die Sudetendeutsche Partei und der Nationalsozialismus* (Germans in Bohemia, the Sudeten German Party, and National Socialism)¹, they were sharply criticised by Friedrich Prinz in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* (FAZ): "It is a representation which, ideologically, is largely coherent with the old Czechoslovak state ideology"². Since the two authors were not given the opportunity for a reply in the FAZ, they approached *Bohemia*. The journal's editors accepted the offer and in turn approached well-known experts – apart from Friedrich Prinz also Ronald Smelser, Václav Kural, and Ralf Gebel – for their opinion on this controversy, which is discussed not only in the German and the Czech general public, but also among the historians of both nations. Regrettably, only the last-named three took the opportunity.

¹ Nationalsozialismus in der Region. Beiträge zur regionalen und lokalen Forschung und zum internationalen Vergleich. Ed. by Horst Möller, Andreas Wirsching and Walter Ziegler. Munich 1996, 273–285.

² Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, August 15, 1996.