

DISCUSSION

HISTORIANS' DIFFERING VIEWS ON CZECH DEMOCRACY

Eva Broklová, well-known Prague-based historian and head of the T. G. Masaryk Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, is the author of one of the most influential works on the First Czechoslovak Republic. At the same time, she belongs to the most outspoken critics of the analyses prepared in the Collegium Carolinum, home of the *Bohemia* journal. Reacting on Eva Broklová's criticism, its editors asked the authors of the studies in question to elaborate on their position. The present issue carries two studies by Eva Broklová and statements by Ferdinand Seibt, Peter Heumos, and Eva Hahn, for the readers to make their own judgement. It is the hope of the editors that this will be the starting point of a broader debate. The aim is a critical assessment of several aspects of the political system of the First Republic, of continuities and discontinuities of Czech political culture in the twentieth century, and of T. G. Masaryk's concept of democracy. Another question hopefully to be discussed is whether the perspectives and attitudes, and taken by Collegium Carolinum historians are warranted or whether they are nothing but another form of German anti-Czech prejudice.