

## THE ORGANIZATION TODT IN PRAGUE

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The longer the war continued, the greater became the economic and strategic importance of the Bohemian region for Nazi Germany's wartime economy, which was in the process of becoming a planned economy. In the Protectorate, important plants of the machine-building industry were situated, while in the Reichsgau Sudetenland, the synthetic oil plant at Brüx (Most) was the focus of Allied bombing and Nazi countermeasures. A cornerstone of these reactions was the Organization Todt. Assigned to the Ministry of Armament, but enjoying a great deal of independence, it combined technical know-how and entrepreneurial skills with rather military views and manners.

The author examines the Organization Todt in order to illustrate some aspects of the wartime economy and the occupational regime in the Protectorate during the last year of the war which have been neglected so far. First, there is the question of organizational structure, in particular how to draw a line between the Prague-based "Einsatzgruppe VII" of the Organization Todt, which was also responsible for Silesia, on one hand and "Wehrmacht", SS, Party branches and civil service in the occupied territory on the other. But moral issues, such as the relentless exploitation of non-nationals for the illusory military objectives of the Nazi regime, come to the fore as well. Including prison inmates and Jews, the use of forced labor in the Bohemian lands by the OT amounted to 70 000 persons. The circumstances in which these had to serve are a focal point of the present contribution.