

## THE SOCIAL SITUATION OF MINERS IN THE OSTRAVA-KARVINA REGION, 1945-1955

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The extensive increase of coal production in the Ostrava-Karvina mining region between 1945 and 1955 was made possible by utilizing several categories of forced labour: In 1945 and 1946, interned Germans were put to work there, and following their expulsion, up to 1950, volunteers from the armed forces took their place. From 1950 to 1954, the technical battalions were supplemented by auxiliary battalions, and from 1949, on a smaller scale, by prisoners. In addition, up to 1951 inmates of forced labour camps worked in the coal mines. The wage structure for the workers, formed after the Soviet model and introduced in successive stages in 1947, 1949 and 1951, was among the factors contributing to a decrease in the numbers of long-term employees and a corresponding increase in the numbers of unskilled volunteers. Forced labour was housed in special camps, volunteers in hostels where living conditions were not much better. The labour problem of the Ostrava-Karvina mining region, however, remained, and even when thousands of flats were allocated to the workers, this brought only a partial solution.