

## OLD IMAGES AND NEW PERSPEKTIVES: RECENT WORKS ON SLOVAK HISTORY

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The splitting up of former Czechoslovakia resulting in two national states has caused, as far as the Slovaks are concerned, an increasing demand for their "own history", which is met by several new comprehensive histories and historical dictionaries. Many of these syntheses offer the national state as the logical goal of Slovak history, with the historical subject being mostly a mixture of territory and nation. Some of the newer works are openly nationalist and anti-Semitic and entirely uncritical of the 1939-45 Slovak state, a fact which has brought about some controversy among Slovak historians. Some contributions, however, do make use of newer ethnologic research and offer a more differentiated view of Slovak society. Although in recent years some commendable works on inter-war Slovak history have appeared abroad, the present article detects strong political or personal motives for dealing with Slovak history even with many non-Slovak authors, resulting either in yet another account coloured by national stereotypes or in the making up of new historical legends.