

WHERE NATION-STATE BECOMES AN ABSURD
NOTION:
HLUČÍNSKO ACCORDING TO VILÉM PLAČEK

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The recent past of the Hultschiner Ländchen (the region around the town of Hlučín) offers a wealth of insight on how avowed nation-states have handled the nationality problem, due to its many twists and turns and the fact that its indigenous population defies any attempt at ethnic categorization. The long-term (1742-1920) affiliation with Prussia, the failed attempts to become part of the First Czechoslovak Republic (1920-1938), the wartime years, once again with Germany, and finally the second “coming home” to Czechoslovakia created a special identity in the Hlučín region. Opening with Vilém Plaček’s monography, “Prajáci aneb k osudům Hlučínska 1742-1960” (The Prussians, or Some Remarks on the Fate of the Hlučín Region 1742-1960), this review essay covers numerous other contributions by Czech researchers devoted to this historical region on the periphery. Chronologically, the focus is on the first half of the 20th century.