

## INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 1945-1968. RESULTS OF A RESEARCH PROJECT

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This report summarises results of a research project which is carried out at the Collegium Carolinum and was financially supported by the Volkswagen Endowment in 1998-2001. The principal question looked at is to what extent the industrial labour force could be mobilised for the central aims of the state socialist system and politically shaped in its interest. The level predominantly analysed is the industrial plant. Among the most important topics are the development and long-term democratisation of trade-union branches at plant level, the unions' cultural policies in the plants, workers' resistance against politically motivated differentiation according to performance by means of the socialist work initiatives (Stakhanov work, shock work, socialist emulation etc.), the protest and strike movement, of remarkable intensity despite massive police and state terror under Stalinist rule (1948-1953) precisely in this period, and finally the consolidation of a social-political, cultural, and organisational "structural conservatism" which, among other things, led to demands for the reestablishment of the unions' organisational basis of the First Republic being made during the Prague spring.