

NATIONAL OR TRANS-NATIONAL HISTORY?
HISTORIOGRAPHY CONCERNING SLOVAKIA
IN A EUROPEAN CONTEXT

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Taking as a starting point the debate about Milan Ďurica's controversial book, "Dějiny Slovenska a Slovákov" (A History of Slovakia and the Slovaks), and evaluating mainly biographical studies and the history of bilateral relations and of research into identities, this contribution examines two competing interpretations of national Slovak history which developed during the 90s. The conclusion is that what has hitherto been regarded as a great deficiency of Slovakia's historic development from the traditional perspective of national historiography can now, on a European background, be adjudged rather promising beginnings (concerning, for instance, research into nations changing their sovereign, into loyalties of the populace, hybrid identities and into personal networks). The study aims at demonstrating that in this context Slovakia even has the potential to become a preferred object of trans-national European historiography, a historiography which examines structures, severed developments and fields of contact among hitherto seemingly definite groups and territorial units or looks at national phenomena and their development from a comparative angle.