

## SLOVAKIA RESEARCH IN NORTH AMERICA

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Research into Slovak matters in North America is characterized to a large extent by the generally very high degree of market orientation in science. As a small nation of minor political importance, Slovakia is largely ignored by the established research community, as the country of origin of a considerable number of immigrants, however, it forms the subject of quite a few studies. Their quality differs greatly: there is a broad spectrum ranging from synopses with a distinctly nationalist orientation to a rather small number of innovative studies in some separate areas. A relatively recent approach, important in that it has inspiring qualities, is offered by ethnic studies. On the whole, the balance the author draws up is far from enthusiastic, with doubts concerning mainly the uncritical approach of many synoptic works and the lack of thought devoted to a basic notion of what "Slovak history" is, ought to be and can be.