

ABOUT THE "RIGHT TO ONE'S OWN HISTORY"
THE 1939-1945 SLOVAK STATE IN HISTORIOGRAPHY

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This contribution examines developments since the breakdown of communist rule in Slovak historical research concerning the wartime state. While before 1989 this period had been taboo to a large extent, during the first half of the 1990s the main activity was measuring the extent of gaps having hopefully to be closed. The climate changed fundamentally when in 1995 Milan S. Ďurica's "Dejiny Slovenska a Slovákov" (A History of Slovakia and the Slovaks) appeared, since a discussion by historians about a book with obvious mistakes and weaknesses was exploited as an instrument in an identity debate in which the importance of a state was being questioned. The entrenchment thus caused can, in the opinion of our author, only be overcome by new research, a methodological prerequisite being a rethinking concerning the epistemological limits of the current positivism and, going hand in hand with it, the understanding that the interpretations rejected are inseparable from the terminology used. As regards deficiencies concerning neglected subject matters, the front rank is occupied by a societal history of the wartime Slovak state, with this authoritarian state being no longer indiscriminately termed "fascist".