

SLOVAK HISTORIOGRAPHY AND REGIONAL HISTORY (19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES)

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Historical science in Slovakia perceives Slovakia's history on three distinct levels: as the past of a relatively independent entity, mainly in connection with an ethnic Slovak population and its national history, as the past of a region which formed part of wider territorial entities, and as the past of the different parts or regions of Slovakia. During the 1990s, Slovak historiography also started to look at Slovakia within a larger European context. All these approaches show traits of regional history, albeit with differing content. 20th-century Slovak historiography bears the imprint of Slovak society coming to terms with the changes in its situation during that century. The process of Slovak emancipation and nation building was completed at the end of the 20th century. This fact is directly reflected in Slovak historiography and its approach to regional history in all three variants mentioned above. Although understanding national history as a whole is inseparably related to a certain knowledge and thus recognition of regional history, Slovak historiography is rather slow to allocate room for regional matters.