

NATIONAL IDENTITY AND "RECOLLECTION
POLITICS" IN SLOVAK HISTORIOGRAPHY:
CRITICAL OBSERVATIONS FROM THE VIEWPOINT
OF A RELATED SCIENCE

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The first point made by the author is the observation that after 1989 the world has become much more "ethnic" and that this development manifests itself in a growing exploitation of everything "national" on one hand, and in social science and the humanities becoming more and more interested in questions of national identity on the other. In the newcomer national states in East Central and Southeast Europe the situation is characterized by the fact that national ideology and symbols are just emerging and sciences which have so far been refused freedom and independence must come to terms with their past, with their own relations to those in power. This is especially true for historiography which has always been a "national" science. This tradition creates great difficulties when it comes to catching up with international developments and acquiring new theoretical and methodological paradigms. Taking a closer look at the areas "national identity" and "politics of recollection", the author then analyses the distinct trends in Slovak historiography since the 1990s and examines their position with respect to both the theoretical and methodological concepts offered by social sciences and Slovak national myths and stereotypes.