

CIVIL SERVANTS FROM THE BOHEMIAN LANDS IN SLOVAKIA, 1853-1860

Helmut Slapnicka

The attempt, undertaken by the Austrian government after having thwarted the 1848/49 revolution, to completely integrate Hungary in the Austrian state compound and to put it on an equal footing with the other principal territories of the empire presupposed that the Austrian legal order be extended to the empire's eastern half, which would above all advance the equality of all citizens and bring about limitless rule of law. Applying these laws was entrusted to trained civil servants who were familiar with the law and who knew the local language. Transferred to the two districts in which the majority of ethnic Slovaks lived, Pressburg/Bratislava and Kaschau/Košice, was a large number of civil servants and judges of all ranks from the Bohemian lands. When, however, the reforms were reversed and the previous status reestablished in 1859/60, several thousands of civil servants had to be redeployed. That those serving in Upper Hungary not infrequently were especially gifted becomes evident when looking at their often steep careers after their involuntary leaving Hungary, with a few examples being quoted in some detail.