

CZECH ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE CONTEXT  
OF TENSIONS BETWEEN NATIONAL AND  
CONFESSIONAL PROGRAMS, AND THE FOUNDATION  
OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL CHURCH

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This contribution examines the role and importance of anti-Semitism in the context of various camps developing in Czech politics up to 1918 and during the first years of the national state's existence. The author demonstrates how closely political and confessional issues were linked with regard to the emergence of groupings as well as their eventual falling apart. Thus, the rise of the Young Czech party was not immediately accompanied by growing anti-Semitism since, among other things, the new Czech national party sought to highlight its differences from the Old Czechs by defining itself as anti-clerical and enlightened. The decisive factor for the emergence of a clerical anti-Semitism was the experience of the concordat being repealed (1868), the result being that the Catholics believed to have lost the Habsburg monarchy as "their" confessional state. Czech anti-Semitism acquired a new role after the Badeni language decree had been repealed. The vehement anti-Semitic sentiment now spreading among the Young Czechs brought them, as far as certain conflicts then being virulent were concerned, in close proximity to the clerical parties they normally were at strife with. A resolution of the tensions between confessional programs and national, enlightenment-oriented ones may be discerned in the founding of the Czechoslovak Church, which adopted Jan Hus, enlightened symbol of the Czech national movement, and thus effectively re-confessionalized even the sphere of politics.