

SUMMARIES

THE CZECHOSLOVAK LAND REFORM OF 1919: REORGANISING SOCIETY AS THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH THE REPUBLIC IS BUILT

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The 1919 land reform was meant to be a central project of the youthful Czechoslovak Republic with considerable influence on the structure of the political system. Whereas in the beginning nationality politics played an important part in the way the reform was advertised, the reforms themselves initially focused on the central areas with their Czech majority, if only for practical reasons. This opened possibilities for Germans to contribute to the reforms in a constructive way, but the German parties deliberately rejected this option in favour of a strictly negative stance. The claim however that the German population was systematically discriminated against, which has often been made with reference to complaints brought before the Nations' League, even in relatively recent papers, cannot be substantiated taking a close look at how the land reform was put into practice. That the land reform has indeed proved detrimental to the relationship between Germans and Czechs must be attributed to "nation" becoming more and more dominant in any argument, whether it merited this position or not.