

THE HUSSITE REVOLUTION. ABOUT THE ORIGINS
OF A RESEARCH PARADIGM IN CZECH
HISTORIOGRAPHY IN THE 1950s AND 1960s

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The present study deals with literature on the Hussite movement from the 1950s and 1960s, the main focus being on threads having been picked up from the relatively sophisticated research scene of the interwar period. Nodl uses works by František Graus and Josef Macek in order to demonstrate to what extent Marxist historians benefited from works by Bedřich Mendl, Josef Pekař and Jan Slavík. To the former, everything revolved around the social question, in which they determined the reason for societal crisis and, eventually, the revolutionary movement. In the 1960s, scholars dispensed with schematic explanations under the influence of West European medievalist research, and a new generation of Hussitologists (Ivan Hlaváček, František Hoffmann, Jaroslav Mezník) was able to publish works devoid of any

ideology. But only Robert Kalivoda's "Husitská ideologie" (The Hussite Ideology), a completely new interpretation of Hussitism representing the first bourgeois revolution, fundamentally challenged the patterns of interpretation offered by Graus and Macek. Kalivoda's work, however, remained largely unknown and has not had much of an influence on developments since the 1980s, which led scholars such as Šmahel back to the sources, and on the other hand into establishing a dialogue with West European medievalist research.