

SUMMARIES

“REVOKE THE LANGUAGE DECREE!”
GERMAN OBSTRUCTION POSTCARDS DURING THE
BADENI CRISIS, 1897-98

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The language decree ordained in 1897 for the Bohemian lands by Prime Minister Kazimierz Badeni, caused vehement protest within the Habsburg monarchy as well as abroad, and almost led to a crisis of the Empire. Apart from numerous speeches in Parliament and during public gatherings, newspaper articles and militant pamphlets, the storm of indignation was publicistically expressed in what was called “obstruction postcards”. This contribution presents 16 selected examples of these picture postcards, their message laden with nationality politics, it acquaints the reader with the principal topics and motives used, and assesses the obstruction postcards with a view to the overall context in which they were used.