

THE EXPULSION OF GERMANS FROM CZECHOSLOVAK  
TERRITORY AND THEIR FORCED RESETTLEMENT  
IN WESTERN MEDIA REPORTS

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Using the "New York Times" and the London-based "Times" as a yardstick, this contribution demonstrates how western newspapers established, in their coverage of Czechoslovak matters, a link between the expulsions of ethnic Germans and the crimes perpetrated by German occupation authorities during World War II. The atrocities bearing the name of the village Lidice had by then become an international symbol of German tyranny, since Nazi authorities had openly admitted to having carried out a "punitive measure", whereas in other cases, especially in eastern Europe, they had sought to hide mass murder from public view. It was to Lidice that western journalists used to refer when filing reports on the forced resettlement of ethnic Germans from Czechoslovak territory, reports that showed a certain degree of understanding for the measures being carried out.