

THE ROUTE TOWARDS THE DECREE OF KUTNÁ HORA:
FROM A RECONCILIATION AMONG NATIONS TO AN
UNRELENTING NATIONALISM

Martin Nodl

Due to the impression created by the issuing and subsequent enforcement of the Decree of Kutná Hora, the coexistence of the university nations at Charles University in Prague during the pre-Hussite era is often viewed as conflict-laden. The reactions, later on, of those former members of Prague university who took up work at the universities in Leipzig and Vienna after 1409, as well as the reactions of the Czech masters, many of whom welcomed the exodus of the Germans, lent a semblance of a xenophobic nationalism (with roots allegedly reaching as far back as the 1380s) to the relationship of nations at Prague university. The present contribution aims at demonstrating that quarrels about filling vacancies among the masters and about the reform of the university statutes in 1384-85, and the debate about the custodians and sub-custodians of the rights of the alma mater in Prague in the 1390s, were the only conflicts motivated by the parties belonging to differing ethnic communities to become relevant at this university before 1409. Thus, it would seem rather inadequate to call the relationship among the university nations conflict-laden.