

CZECH RESEARCH INTO NAZI GERMAN RULE IN
OCCUPIED BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA
AN EVALUATION PROMPTED BY THE PUBLICATION
OF A STANDARD WORK

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The driving force behind the two authors undertaking an evaluation of Czech research activities concerning developments in the Bohemian lands for the period of German occupation and their findings, has been the publication, in 2006 and 2007 respectively, of two part-volumes belonging to the book series “Velké dějiny zemí Koruny české” (A Comprehensive History of the Lands of the Bohemian Crown) and devoted to the period 1938-1945. The resulting article emphasizes a number of factors the authors consider problematic. These are: a lack of efforts which would place the occupation authorities in the context of overall Nazi German politics, caused among other things by a certain disregard for research conducted abroad; the absence of an integrating perspective encompassing both regional varieties of Nazi German rule over formerly Czech territory: on the one hand, the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, and on the other hand the “Reichsgau Sudetenland”; the fact that the Second Czech republic is often rather simplistically adorned with the label of “period without freedom”; a certain neglect of aspects of societal development, of the history of everyday life and of social and economic history; the preponderance of accounts devoted to Czech efforts at resistance, with a systematic evaluation of the behaviour of various social groups under Nazi German rule completely lacking so far.