

THE FORGOTTEN CONTINUITIES OF THE PARAGON OF DEMOCRACY

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In her brief commentary to Miloš Havelka's study, Zavacká makes the point that a discussion of the crisis of Czech democracy since the 1930s ought to take into account long-term continuities to a greater degree than has so far been the case. Although xenophobic and anti-pluralist tendencies were marginalized in the First Republic with the *raison d'état* being the main consideration for this course of action, they did exist in the range of political thought and were connected with political ambitions of their own. That Czech society after 1945 was susceptible to nationalist politics exploiting social demagoguery was thus not an abrupt breach of tradition, but rather a return to another, parallel line of tradition. Moreover, the radicalism of postwar Czech society was not altogether out of step with the contemporary European mainstream.