

FAMILIAR ENEMY IMAGES
THE TRANS-NATIONAL CONNECTIONS OF SLOVAK
ANTI-SEMITISM AROUND 1900

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This contribution asks what was the place and importance of anti-Semitism for the processes of trans-nationalisation of Slovak nationalism in Europe around the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. Referring first to recent methodological and theoretical research on the formation of an European public opinion and on pre-World-War-II anti-Semitism, it then proceeds to analyzing the ideological discrepancy between the emancipationist discourse of international campaigns against the efforts aimed at a “Magyarization” of Hungary on one hand and their often anti-Semitic undertones on the other. To what extent did these campaigns reflect the trans-national nature of contemporary anti-Semitism? That question is examined first by taking a close look

at the cooperation between the non-Magyar nationalities of Hungary and cisleithanian representatives of the Christian Social orientation during the 1890s. Further examples are the boost which the idea of Czecho-Slovak “mutuality” received around the turn of the centuries and the efforts aimed at recruiting celebrities such as the authors Björnstjerne Björnson and Lev Tolstoi, who were regarded as moral authorities throughout Europe, for the cause of the Hungarian Slovaks.