

TOWARD A SOCIALIST LANDSCAPE? THE CHANGE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE SLOVAK CARPATHIANS

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In the course of the 20th century, the typical landscape of the Slovak Carpathians saw considerable changes. In socialist Czechoslovakia, starting with the 1960s, the consequences of economic planning by the government, of industrialization, tourism and, most of all, of the transformation of agriculture caused by collectivization resulted in considerations about how to alter or to protect the specific appearance of a given landscape. Conservationists, planning authorities, and people involved in tourism discussed, among other things, the importance of the traditional appearance of the mountain landscape. Drawing upon a study by conservationist Milan Pacanovský, the present contribution takes a detailed look at those debates. The author examines if and to what extent a specifically socialist landscape did exist and whether to achieve it was an aim in itself. On a superior level, the author asks what kind of political implications have determined changes of the landscape in the Slovak Carpathians.