

PARALLELS AND DIFFERENCES:
POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD
AMONG ETHNIC HUNGARIANS IN SLOVAKIA
AND AMONG SUDETEN GERMANS

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Political activism (i. e. seeking participation instead of refusing to get involved) in the First Czechoslovak Republic is a phenomenon that has hitherto received scant attention by researchers. This is especially true for activism among ethnic Hungarians. The present study aims at both sketching the basic features of Hungarian activist politics and at comparing it to the Sudeten German variant. In the first part, the author examines the conditions that gave rise to Hungarian activism and introduces its most important actors. A second part deals with József Szentivány's failed attempt at inducing the Hungarian National Party to support the Prague government. Had it done so, the party would have approximated its line to that of the ethnic German activists, especially the Farmers' Union. The final part discusses why Hungarian activism differed from the German one in both appearance and dynamics and why it had considerably less success.