

ABSTRACTS

THE TREATMENT OF HUS AND HIS ERA IN RUSSIAN AND SOVIET HISTORY AND LITERATURE

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In Russia, Hussites have always been described in a positive way, both in scholarly publications and in popular literature. Often they were treated with a great deal of sympathy. This affection, however, had its origins in the ideology-laden conceptions of history which were used to explain and endear Hussitism to the Russian public, with the dominant ways of interpretation having changed several times over, at times in a fundamental way. Sometimes there was a search for alleged “Orthodox Christian” roots of Hussitism, at other times Hussites were used to illustrate the “community of fate” to which all Slavic peoples allegedly belonged and which was said to be fundamentally different from “aggressive Teutonism”. There were times when Hussitism was interpreted primarily as a vehicle of social protest, or it was seen as a peasant war, or even a “revolutionary movement” that failed to grow into a revolution properly. Today, however, opinions vary widely as to what kind of role to attribute to the Hussites in Russian historical reflection.