

NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION POLITICS IN STATE  
CENSUSES. THE BOHEMIAN LANDS 1880-1930

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The study opens with a methodological examination of concepts of nationality and ethnicity and goes on to compare national classification in the Bohemian Lands under two different political and ideological systems – the Habsburg monarchy (1867-1918) and the First Czechoslovak Republic (1918-1938). The author focuses on how those two regimes sought to determine the ethnic composition of their territory, whereby he seeks to answer the following questions: What does it mean when a census defines nationality by means of “language of daily use”? What were the advantages and the limits of determining, in the Habsburg monarchy, nationality in this way, and, on the other hand, of directly asking a person’s nationality, as in the First Republic? Why did the Habsburg authorities elect to collect data for language of daily use, not family language or directly nationality as perceived by each respondent? Did this correspond to the rationale of a supranational state? On the other hand, what caused Czechoslovak state organs to ask respondents for their ‘national-

ity', and what means were tried to ensure the best possible returns for Czechoslovak nationality? How did Czech nationalists and politicians react to categorization according to language of daily use in the Habsburg monarchy and, in contrast, ethnic German activists and politicians to directly registering nationality in the First Republic?