

PARLAMENTARIAN CAREERS WITHIN THE SUDETEN
GERMAN PARTY

A Biographical Group Study

Mikuláš Zvánovec

The 1935 Czechoslovak parliamentary elections saw the Sudeten German Party (SdP) emerge as the party with the greatest number of votes. The present study represents a biographical group analysis of the members of the parliamentary club which was formed by this newly founded party together with the Carpathian German party (KdP). Based on biographical data it examines social and educational background, professional careers and political activities of its members. Generational patterns and internal factions are thus becoming apparent, with special attention being devoted to the men belonging to the so-called Comradeship (Kameradschaftsbund, KB). In a long-term perspective, the author subsequently looks at the parliamentarians' careers both in the National Socialist state and post-war. He arrives at the conclusion that the SdP/KdP parliamentary club was a relatively heterogeneous grouping of former members of the 'negativistic' parties prohibited under Czechoslovak law. Its members were, however, mostly middle-class males of comparatively young age. The author also demonstrates that the integration of the parliamentarians into the NSDAP after 1938 went relatively smoothly despite a lot of inter-factional skirmishing. These internal quarrels were finally overcome only after the Germans had been expelled from Czechoslovakia, in the ranks of the West German compatriot organization Sudetendeutsche Landsmannschaft (SL) and its subdivision from the nationalistic right wing, the 'Witiko society'.