

## NIKOLAI DANILEVSKI AND CZECH PAN-SLAVISM

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The Russian scientist Nikolai Danilevski (1822—1885) left behind as his main work the book *Russland und Europa*, which became the authoritative text of Russian Pan-Slavism. In this book, Danilevski, whose orientation was a Greater Russian, nationalistic one, called for a sizable expansion of Russia and the incorporation of the West and South Slavs into a federation which he termed the „All-Slav Confederation“. Inevitably, this idea was sharply rejected by Austria-Hungary and Turkey. His approach to history was marked by a cyclical theory, for which reason he has been described as a forerunner of Oswald Spengler. In the present study, the attempt is made to show that related notions of a coming (Slav) epoch were in the last analysis influenced by the late medieval Joachimite doctrine of the Three Ages of the world; in one instance, in the case of Soloviev, this can be proven directly.

Danilevski attached particular importance to including the Czechs in his scheme, the area of Bohemia and Moravia necessarily representing in his ideas of expansion a key bastion of the united Slavs against the hostile Germans and against Western Europe in general. He believed that Hussitism had been especially significant in the preservation of old Slavic traditions. It is shown that Danilevski's book was unable to exert any significant impact on the Czechs, in view of the Western orientation of the Czech Pan-Slavists of the 19th and 20th centuries. His exacting demands with regard to the structuring of the All-Slav Confederation no doubt also played a role here.