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In the 19th century the period called „Temno“ (the time of darkness) was, as already indicated by this name, considered as purely a phase of tragedy and misery. In the early 20th century elements of revising this view can be found, e. g. in the works of Pekař, especially in his „Kniha o Kostí“. His views underwent criticism on the part of Kamil Krofta. On the whole the „Temno“ seemed to awaken relatively little interest until later times.

In the last twenty years Czech historiography paid more attention to the economic and political development of Bohemia during the 17th and 18th centuries. Much emphasis was put on the peasant revolts, and among those particularly on the great rising of the peasantry in 1775. Scholars like Husa, Petrán, Kočí, Oldřich Janeček published useful works in this field, and Janeček even saw in that rebellion a conscious tie between Hussitism and modern social-revolutionary movements.

Perhaps of even greater significance is the study of economic developments in the fields of manufacture. Here the leading role was played by Arnošt Klíma, particularly in his very substantial work „Manufakturní období v Čechách“ (The Time of Manufacture in Bohemia), a specialized and thorough work published in 1955 and followed up by a more general treatment of the period in question in his „Čechy v období temna“ (Bohemia in the period of darkness). In these works Klíma explains his views regarding

the development from feudalism through mercantilist industrialization to modern capitalism, including the influence upon the abolition of serfdom.

On the whole the role of the Habsburgs is evaluated by modern Czech historiography, generally in agreement with earlier treatments, in a highly critical way. In its sharp criticism of enlightened despotism and especially of the role of Emperor Joseph II, recent Czech historiography has probably gone rather too far. Positive evaluation of phenomena of the Temno can be found, on the other hand, in the treatment of the cultural development of Bohemia in the period in question.

There is a steadily growing number of works relating to the visual arts of the Baroque period, many of them beautifully illustrated. Even more important is the treatment of the Czech literature in the 17th and 18th centuries. This includes older forms as well as the revival of historiography. It also gives us a lively understanding of the forms of poetry and prose developing in those phases, to some extent open, to another anonymous popular writings, including the remarkable so-called „Ovčácká poesie“ (Shepherds poetry). Some of these treatments go back to the work of Jaroslav Vlček published first in the thirties of this century, others found an excellent treatment by Josef Hrabák in the great History of Czech Literature published since 1959 by the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences.