

IMAGE CULTIVATION, DIVERSIFIED: CZECHOSLOVAK
POLICY ON CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN,
ASIAN, AND LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS DURING
THE PERIOD OF NORMALISATION

Brigitta Triebel

The present study examines Czechoslovak foreign cultural policy in Africa, Asia, and Latin America in the 1970s and 1980s. For one part, it offers an overview on the development of Czechoslovakia's cultural relations with developing and newly industrialised nations following the turning point of 1968. On the other hand, the author looks for the "Slovak factor" in the framework of normalisation-period foreign cultural policy. Federalizing the Czechoslovak state had created scope for Slovak politicians, and they, in turn, used that scope in foreign politics. Thus, the (Slovak) ministries of education, culture, and health and the Academy of Sciences extended their cooperation with nations such as Algeria, Egypt, or Vietnam. On a Slovak level, institutions, competences, and resources emerged within this framework that the Slovak part of the federal state could use to act on its own. Slovakia did use this potential, among other things, to show itself off to the partner countries as a nation of its own and as a "success story" with regard to societal development, modernisation, and national emancipation.