

LUDWIG CZECH AND THE GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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During the tenure of Czech's predecessor Josef Seliger, the German Social Democratic Workers' Party in the Czechoslovak Republic (DSAP) achieved a major victory in the elections of 1920. By a substantial margin it became the largest German party in the country. Under Czech, in office from 1921 until 1938, the DSAP lost its leading position. The text attempts to present the reasons why the DSAP failed under Czech's leadership and why it also failed to become a serious, state-loyal challenger of the negativist Sudeten German Party (SdP). The latter benefitted from the effects of the world economic crisis and the support of neighboring Hitler-Germany. Although Ludwig Czech was one of the most important Sudeten German politicians during the first republic, he has thus far received little attention in historiography. The text also encourages continued research concerning Czech. As a Moravian, lawyer and socialist of Jewish origin, he saw himself not really as a Sudeten German, and for this reason he was most likely principally opposed to ethnic politics.