

ABSTRACTS

THE GERMAN-CZECH “PRIVATE COMPROMISE” OF ARTHUR SKEDL (1914/15)

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This study analyses the final phase of the efforts to reach an agreement concerning the nationality question in Bohemia prior to 1914. Arthur Skedl, a professor at the Prague German University, reacted to the parliamentarians' inability to reach a compromise by drafting his own original proposal for a “national compromise”. It was to be separately discussed and refined by a German and a Czech committee which, as agreed with Governor Franz von Thun, were to be comprised not of active politicians but rather of former deputies, academics, and officials. A potential agreement between these two committees on the basis of Skedl's proposal would then be submitted to the plenum. Skedl's attempt to realise his “private compromise” was interrupted by the start of the First World War, however. The secret initiative was leaked in 1915 and caused uproar in both nationalist camps. What is fascinating about the episode are not only Skedl's approach and the contents of his proposal, but also the remarkable scepticism among academics and officials regarding the ability of the elected politicians to come to an agreement in the nationality question.

THE POLITICAL PUCK

Ice hockey, Czechoslovakia, and Switzerland in the Cold War era

Fabian Brändle/Christian Koller

Ice hockey reflected the contours and conflict lines of the Cold War perhaps more clearly than any other sport during the second half of the twentieth century. Beyond the obvious contrast between North America and the Soviet Union, this also applied to the role of Czechoslovakia and the neutral countries in Europe. This article is the first to analyse the Swiss–Czechoslovak ice hockey relations during this period. Besides actual matches between teams from the two countries and their problematisation in light of the general criticism of sports contacts with the Eastern Bloc, this also includes the resonance of games between Czechoslovak and Soviet teams in the Swiss press. The article also considers the role of Switzerland as a transit country or destination for athletes and coaches fleeing Czechoslovakia after the suppression of the Prague Spring, as well as the latter's merits and achievements in top-level Swiss ice hockey. Starting in the 1980s, this also began to include the sons of displaced Czechs and Slovaks.