

THE INVENTION OF NATION(AL LITERATURE)

A comparative analysis of Czech, Polish, and Belarusian
literary forgeries in the 19th century

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The notion that the protagonists of the nineteenth-century nationalist movements focused on finding and collecting key cultural texts has become a commonplace in historical research. But besides inventorying actual (literary) artefacts, the phenomenon of inventing texts was likewise widespread, and this fact is highly significant for the analysis of nationalist movements. Such literary falsifications offer a special form of insight into the *imagined communities* of developing nationalist campaigns, since they had to compensate for their lack of authenticity by purposefully satisfying the (national) expectations of the implied readership. This contribution investigates this “invention of nation(al literature)” through comparative analysis of three Eastern and East Central European text corpora: the Bohemian “Rukopisy královédvorský a zelenohorský” (Königinhof and Grünberg Manuscripts), the Polish “Pszczółka Krakowska” (Cracow Bee), and the “Belorusskie narodnye predaniya” (Belarusian Folk Legends).

LAWS FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONALITY
MOTIONS BY THE SUDETEN GERMAN PARTY IN 1937 AS
AN EXAMPLE OF NON-TERRITORIAL CONCEPTIONS
OF AUTONOMY

An intellectual history study

Oskar Mulej

In its parliamentary motions put forth in April 1937, the Sudeten German Party sought extensive national autonomy for the Germans in Czechoslovakia. Subsumed under the term “Volksschutzgesetze” (nationality protection laws), the six proposals tabled in the Czechoslovak parliament included plans for a comprehensive reorganisation of the state along national lines. This contribution argues that these motions are thus an example of non-territorial autonomy (NTA), albeit employing an explicitly racial and openly illiberal conception of collective rights, nationality, and the relation to statehood. There were various different reasons why the Sudeten German Party, which otherwise emphasised territoriality using terms like “Volksboden” (national soil) or “Volkstumsgrenze” (ethnic border), employed this non-territorial approach: Besides tactical motives, the proposers were also driven by considerations regarding legal theory as well as direct references to European minority policies.