

### “CRIMINAL REFUGEES”

Writing “Eastern Jews” into the Czechoslovak Nation-State (1918-1919)

*Michal Frankl*

The article analyses discourses of Jewish refugee criminality in Czechoslovakia after the end of the First World War. In the Czech-language press, Jewish refugees were depicted as the perpetrators of serious crimes, including improper trading, which took advantage of the shortages of food and other basic commodities, smuggling, and forging currency. The author treats these accusations as a type of moral panic which not only reflected dramatic wartime and post-war changes and economic distress but which was also part of the process of nation-building. The discursive exclusion of Jewish refugees therefore not only built on antisemitic stereotypes and established notions of Jewish criminality, but also contributed to the formation of the borders, citizenship, and legal order of the new Czechoslovak state.

### “VIOLENT CRIMINALS AND CURRENCY RACKETEERS”

The Perception of Forced Illegality at the Austrian-Czechoslovak Border  
before and after the “Anschluss” of Austria

*Wolfgang Schellenbacher*

This contribution focuses on escape and smuggling at the Austrian-Czechoslovak border in the 1930s. It investigates changes in public discourses and state practices developing in reaction to the wave of refugees from the ranks of the Austrian leftist opposition in 1934 and further intensified as a result of the political transition in Austria in the year 1938, when increasing numbers of displaced Austrian Jews began to arrive in the border regions. The study shows how the restrictive Czechoslovak admission policy of the late 1930s was progressively interwoven with a “moral panic”, generating an image of refugees associated with ascriptions of criminality.