

Ein allgemeines Fazit lässt sich angesichts der angesprochenen Heterogenität der einzelnen Beiträge kaum ziehen. Wenn sich der Rezipient bewusst darauf einlässt (und damit zufrieden gibt), dass hier nur ausgewählte Aspekte des Themas behandelt werden konnten und sollten, wird er sicherlich mannigfache Anregungen und Gewinn daraus ziehen können.

Weimar-Wolfshausen

Winfried Irgang

Czechoslovakia in a Nationalist and Fascist Europe, 1918-1948. Hrsg. von Mark Cornwall und R. J. W. Evans. (Proceedings of the British Academy, Bd. 140). Oxford University Press. Oxford 2007. XVI, 224 S., 2 Ktn. ISBN 978-0-19-726391-4. (£35,-; \$74,-)

The book under review consists mainly of papers presented at the first conference organized by the Forum of British, Czech, and Slovak historians in Dundee 2002. Two more conferences were held in Pardubice (2004) and Nitra (2006).¹ The subject of most of the articles in this volume is the history of Czechoslovakia in the inter-war period. However, for a better understanding of the topic in its historical context some of the authors go back to the 19th century while others deal with post-WWII developments. The articles deal with various themes, some with "classical" issues such as the German question, the position of Slovaks in the common state and British policy towards Czechoslovakia in 1938 and between 1945 and 1948. However, there are also contributions on social and economic history and the history of literature. Though the history of politics prevails, the unacquainted reader may find a broader perspective on the various issues of public life in Czechoslovakia in the mid-war period.

The second factor contributing to the readability and interest of the book is the different national and cultural settings of the authors. The articles of British and Czech scholars are well balanced and contributions by US and German historians are included too. It should be mentioned though that, unfortunately, the collection lacks an entry from a Slovak scholar.

In the following lines I shall shortly describe each of the articles in order to create a complete picture of the book and thus show what a prospective reader will find in this compendium. The introduction of R. J. W. Evans is followed by Jan Rychlík's article on the mutual Czech-Slovak relations between 1918 and 1939. The author elaborates his topic very carefully and explains the rise of the so-called "autonomy issue" (mainly articulated by Andrej Hlinka's Slovak People's Party) within the Slovak political field. Eagle Glassheim tries to identify the roots of fascism among Bohemian nobility from the 1880s up to 1938. He addresses a very interesting topic, but he does not see any clear difference between the views of the old-established Czech-loyal aristocracy and the views of Adolf Hitler's admirers among German aristocrats, which is historically and philosophically incorrect. The next Study of Melissa Feinberg discusses the feminist question in the First Czechoslovak Republic. She shows how the ideas of the Czech feminist movement have been underpinned by and supplemented with Czech nationalism and republicanism. She demonstrates, as well, how differently the various streams of this movement considered the role of women in society. The subject-matter of Robert Pynsent's study is the literary representation of the anabasis of Czechoslovak legions in Russia. He demonstrates how the harsh and cruel reality of war was idealized to serve and foster the egalitarian and republican ideology of the newly created state. However, on the other hand, he points out the anti-Semitism and Germanophobia of many of the

¹ Further details of the Forum can be found at the following website: <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~bcsforum> [19.05.2010].

legionaries. Catherine Albrecht deals with the Czech and German national defence associations in *Sudetenland* between 1918 and 1938. Here she demonstrates the conjunction and intersection of economic protectionism with political nationalism. She argues that the radicalism of these views undermined the democratic values of both Czechs and Germans. R. J. W. Evans is concerned with the mutual relationships between Hungarians, Czechs and Slovaks. He sets the topic in broader context and elaborates it from 1850 to 1950. He starts with the feelings of sympathy among many Czechs with Slovaks during the period of forced Magyarization, proceeds with the analysis of the situation in newly created Czechoslovakia and concludes that under Soviet hegemony the antagonism in mutual relations was not articulated, but did not disappear. This became evident after the fall of communism. Mark Cornwall in his contribution to the history of the Henlein movement in Czechoslovakia addresses the older interpretations, which are reductionist and openly underpinned by a pro-Czech point of view. He argues that the Henlein movement cannot be considered as pro-Nazi from the very beginning of its existence. The next contribution of Vít Smetana compares the British Policy towards Czechoslovakia in 1938-1939 and 1947-1948. The author tries to find some similarities in British attitudes during these different periods and concludes that the policy of non-interference was determined mainly by the fact that Czechoslovakia was too far out of the area of British interests. Tatjana Tönsmeier elaborates the problematic of the war-time Slovak state. She questions the prevailing view of puppet-state emphasizing that the Slovak politicians like Josef Tiso tried to adopt or to develop a culturally specific model of authoritarianism, which became a subject of political conflict between them and non-critical admirers of Nazi-Germany like Vojtech Tuka. Mark Diamond's article deals with the overlap and interplay of the Sokol movement with Czech nationalism. He finds two different traditions upon which the movement was based. The nationalist accent of the movement was of great importance during mid-war Czechoslovakia. On the other hand the social-egalitarian tradition helps the communists to utilize Sokolists in their takeover strategy. The study of Jiří Kocián is concerned with the relations of Czechs and Slovaks from the eve of the end of World War II to 1948. He describes the competing political views on the position of Slovakia within the common state and points out that state-centralism employed by communists fostered latent apprehension on the both sides. The penultimate contribution of Zdeněk Radvanovský addresses the issue of the transfer of Germans from Czechoslovakia and its impact on the border regions. He demonstrates how the decisions made on the level of "big-world" politics in order to secure national "homogeneity" opened the doors to cruel violence and to various gold-diggers. He also notes how they deformed the socio-spatial structure of the land for a long time. In the last article Keith Robbins employs the personal history method and following his own journey describes the reappraisal and transformation of the attitudes of British historians towards the policy of appeasement in the Munich days.

All in all I am of the opinion that this compendium provides a good starting point for further analysis of this problematic in the British context. Some non-traditional views (especially those of Cornwall and Tönsmeier) could be of use to Central European historians as well, because the historical discourse concerning the controversial issues of Czech-German, Czech-Slovak and Slovak-Magyar relations is still dominated by nationalist and stereotypical perspectives of history-writing.

Bratislava

Peter Švík

Yeshayahu A. Jelinek: The Carpathian Diaspora. The Jews of Subcarpathian Rus' and Mukachevo 1848-1948. With a Photographic Essay and Maps of Paul Robert Magocsi. East European Monographs. Classics of Carpatho-Rusyn Scholarship, Bd. 13.) Columbia University Press. New York 2007. 412 S. ISBN 978-0-88033-619-2 (€ 47,99.)