



Abstracts

Dan Gawrecki: The Situation with Regard to Language and Nationality in the Teschen (Cieszyn/Těšín) Region before 1880

The Teschen region experienced complex and throughout its historical development variable ethnical structure. At the beginning of the 19th century, Silesians were still considered to be a single nation, which had been divided as a result of the Habsburgs' defeat in the Silesian Wars. Language was not considered a criterion for national identity. At first the Czech and Polish communities worked together in the national political fight against Germans, but from 1880s onwards the Czech-Polish rivalry with strong manifestations of animosity prevailed. The tensions escalated during the censuses in 1880, 1890, 1900 and 1910 when respondents declared one or another language of daily use (Umgangssprache). Thousands of immigrants especially from Galicia but also from Bohemian and Moravian midland streamed into the industrial parts of Teschen region. The battle to "recruit" these migrants was a characteristic feature of the nationalist agitation in the censuses.

Andrea Pokludová: The Czech/Czechoslovak National Council and the Censuses in the Period 1910-1930

This article analyses in the first part activities of the Czech National Council (NRČ) in the last Cisleithanian census, when it played the role of an authoritative national institution, organizing private censuses among Czech minority communities, publishing educational materials and using print media in a modern way to promote its interests and communicate its position on the census to readers abroad. The second part is focused on activities of the Czechoslovak National Council in the population census 1921 and 1930. The author monitors media discourse and the language of propaganda between the members of NRČ and in the network of co-workers.

Daniel Hadwiger: "To Show the World that We Are not Barbarians but Germans": The Role of the Nationalsozialistische Volkswohlfahrt in France and Annexed Alsace (1940-1944)

The article deals with the transnational engagement of one of the biggest German welfare organizations during the Second World War in France and Alsace. The Nationalsozialistische Volkswohlfahrt (NSV) provided food and clothing to refugees in the North-East of France as also in the de facto annexed Alsace between June and October



1940. The aim of the article is to analyse the reasons of the German “humanitarian” activity for the benefit of civilians in North-Eastern France and Alsace. The NSV’s activities were part of a larger occupation policy which should present particularly in the first months of occupation the humane aspects of a superior Germany. In the end, the German distribution of food to the occupied population didn’t succeed to win the majority for collaboration, but shows the importance of propaganda and racial categories during Germany’s occupation of Europe in the Second World War.

Tomáš Hemza: The Personal Structure of the Regional Committees of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in České Budějovice, Ostrava and Prague, 1945–1951

The article is concerned with the staffing of the apparatus of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in three regions (České Budějovice, Ostrava and Prague) in the period between 1945 and 1951. The study describes the developmental determinants that had a significant influence over the organizational framework and personal structure. The study provides a basic overview of the staffing based on the three traits: year of birth, the period of joining the Party and the original vocation. In the first three years, regional party organizations struggled with a fundamental lack of financial resources and therefore could only afford to employ a limited number of political employees. Significant part of political personnel consisted of pre-war party members, who were also largely involved in the anti-Nazi resistance movement. After February 1948, all three monitored party apparatuses underwent a massive increase in the number of political employees. Positions in party apparatus were gradually occupied by younger employees, mostly post-war party members from the ranks of factory workers without political experience. After the inner party purge in 1951, these young political employees controlled regional party apparatuses not only by sheer numbers, but also by holding leading posts.

Tomáš Gecko: Competitors in the Same Boat. Business Strategies of the Leading Players on the Czechoslovak and Austrian Cement Markets (1918–1938)

The paper aims to broaden the understanding of the business strategies of leading players on the Czechoslovak and Austrian cement markets between 1918 and 1938. It also aims to expand the empirical knowledge regarding the state interventionism, monopolization of the market and its cartelization. First, the paper outlines the structural characteristics of the interwar Austrian and Czechoslovak cement industry. The peculiarity of the cement industry in comparison with other dominant branches of heavy industry in Central Europe (engineering, metallurgy, chemical industry etc.) lies in the specificity of inputs and outputs, which are significantly influenced by the geographic location of the cement plant. Next, the paper compares the business strategies of dominant players on both markets (Králov Dvůr in Czechoslovakia and Perlmoos in Austria). Both cement plants responded to the structural changes after the dissolution of the Austria-Hungary quite differently, which closely corresponded with the structural changes on both markets. Králov Dvůr preferred the path of “extensive” growth, while Perlmoos opted for more “intensive” means of development.