



Abstracts

Filip Keller: Apprentice Is not a Martyr Anymore: Youth Training for Working Class Occupations and the Late Socialist Stability as a Generational Problem

The paper deals with the preparation of young people for blue-collar occupations in Czechoslovakia in the 1970s. The topic is set in the context of exploring the dynamics of the duration and the fall of the state-socialist dictatorship, which is conceived primarily as a generational problem. Its focus of attention is on ideological tools (especially the formation of a specific collective memory) for the construction of the workers' 'class' identity and social practice associated with career choices, theoretical, vocational and 'political' training of apprentices. Through their analysis, the paper raises the question of the possibilities and limits of the process of renewal and reproduction of basic ideological formulas at the time of political and social 'normalization', and their changes in the emerging 'scientific and technological revolution' and ongoing generational renewal. It seeks an answer to the question whether the Communist Party, traditionally resting its position of power on the workers, is able to secure this support in view of these new historical and social conditions.

Jakub Kunert: The Credit Registration Centre and efforts to organise credit registers in Czechoslovakia in the first half of the 20th century

The present paper considers the creation of an institution that was intended to reduce the credit risk that the Czechoslovak financial institutions faced at the time of the first Czechoslovak Republic. Through sharing of debtors' records, a central credit records office sought to eliminate those who successfully exploited the financial institutions' competitive environment and drew on more than one credit facility. The idea of limiting the risk to creditors, monetary institutions, by means of sharing some of the information about their clients had emerged at the time of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After the establishment of the republic, the financial institutions became aware of the positive aspects of the credit records system and strove to institute it at national level. At first, interest in it was evinced by the major banks, which in this way tried to reverse the predatory acquisition policy pursued by the newly established banks. The requirement for the creation of a nationwide credit records database was also incorporated in the Act on the Bank of Issue. However, there was



a delay of ten years compared with the establishment of the Czechoslovak National Bank in 1926. Nevertheless, a number of local associations of financial institutions were created on a private basis, and they shared data on their debtors. The paper focuses on the attitudes of the financial institutions regarding the nature, extent and obligatory nature of the national debtors' register and the causes of the delayed implementation. In the conclusion it also deals with the functioning of the system until its dismantling in 1950 when its existence was no longer warranted due to the existence of a single bank providing short-term loans.

Milena Lenderová: When the Bread Cringes: Cooking and Food in the Bohemian Lands 1914–1918

World War I brought radical changes in eating habits and possibilities in the rear. Both home and public catering adopted procedures saving time, raw materials and energy. Catering options also varied over the course of the four war years; in the first two less popular staples were used (tomatoes) or less popular in Czech cuisine (rice, corn, oats). In the cities, every piece of land was used to grow vegetables and rabbits were kept in the back yards. Consumption of sugar, meat and butter was drastically reduced. In the spring of 1916, the government introduced a rationing system that worsened the supply situation. Wartime cookbooks, which were published before 1916 and on which the study is based, became an inaccessible standard due to the rationing system.

Jakub Střelec: In the Name of Unions and Nation. The Development of Welsh Labour Historiography in the 1950s — 1990s

This article deals with the development of Welsh labour historiography after the Second World War by situating Welsh labour historiography into a broader context of social history. The aim of this article is to analyse the methodology of Welsh labour historiography, as well as to discuss in how far it was influenced by the emergence of a “new social history” represented by British Marxists. Furthermore, the article examines to what extent Welsh labour historians responded to the challenges of postmodernism. In the first part of the article, the book “Rebecca Riots” (1955) by Welsh labour historian David Williams is compared with the works of British Marxists Eric Hobsbawm and George Rudé. This is followed by two analyses: (1) an examination of the Welsh labour journal “Llafur” founded in the 1970s, and (2) an analysis of the influential book “The Fed” (1980) by Welsh labour historians Hywel Francis and David Smith dealing with the development of the Welsh mining trade-union organization. The last part of the article thematises the impact of postmodernism on Welsh labour historiography. In general, the article discusses the advantages and disadvantages of Welsh labour historiography and it argues that Welsh labour historiography could make a considerable contribution to the development of social history by introducing some concepts, such as a focus on the academic and non-academic spheres.