

DIE ÄRA BACH IN BÖHMEN: SOZIALGESCHICHTLICHE STUDIEN ZUM NEOABSOLUTISMUS, 1849–1859. By *Christoph Stölzl*. Veröffentlichungen des Collegium Carolinum, vol. 26. Munich and Vienna: R. Oldenbourg, 1971. 360 pp. DM 38.

The history of Bohemia, after 1860, is the history of a growing Czech nationalist movement and of the conflict of that movement with the "ruling" Germans. Explanations for the vigorous progress of the Czechs have generally been sought in the demographic and political changes that took place after the year 1860, the year of the opening of the constitutional regime in the Habsburg Monarchy. Christoph Stölzl has little patience with such an approach and contends that the decisive period for what happened after 1860 is the decade that preceded it: the neoabsolutist period of the 1850s associated with the name of Minister Bach. According to the author, that decade brought a basic shift toward industrialization and saw the emergence of models of social and political behavior that determined the main lines of Bohemia's history in the next half-century. He shows how the Czech-speaking peasants, artisans, and workers began, in the fifties, to shed their ethnic neutralism and identify themselves with the Czech nationalist movement. Each class did so for its own reasons and looked for its own specific social and organizational supports. The case of the workers was particularly interesting. Bach's bureaucrats failed to solve the "social question," and this drove the Czech-speaking workers, hitherto uncommitted on the national question, into the arms of the Czech nationalists. The German-speaking workers had no comparable place of refuge; they were unable to identify with the German-oriented administrative elite which had let them down, and failed to establish a rapport with the "Bohemian German nation." As a result, the Bohemian Germans proved in the future no match for the vigorous nationalism of the Bohemian Czechs.

Stölzl's account is documented from police and administrative records of Bach's officials, and the amount of labor invested in it is prodigious. Its great merit is that it seeks to understand nationalist problems by reaching beyond the realm of nationalism into the realm of social policy and behavior. It shows how and why each social group was drawn into the Czech nationalist movement and describes the institutional means through which this was accomplished. It is a study of social mobilization and the concomitant growth of national consciousness. With his "social history" approach, Stölzl follows the course earlier charted for nineteenth-century Bohemian history by his mentor Friedrich Prinz, and it all adds up to a promising trend in West German historiography. Stölzl's case is convincingly presented. The approach is imaginative. The perspectives are tempting.

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KAPITALISTICKÁ INDUSTRIALIZACE A STŘEDOEVROPSKÁ SPOLEČNOST: PŘÍSPĚVEK KE STUDIU FORMOVÁNÍ TZV. PRŮMYŠLOVÉ SPOLEČNOSTI. By *Pavla Horská-Vrbová*. Prague: Academia, 1970. 223 pp. Kčs. 22.

This recent work by one of Czechoslovakia's leading economic historians is both exciting and disappointing. It is exciting because it brings to general scholarship