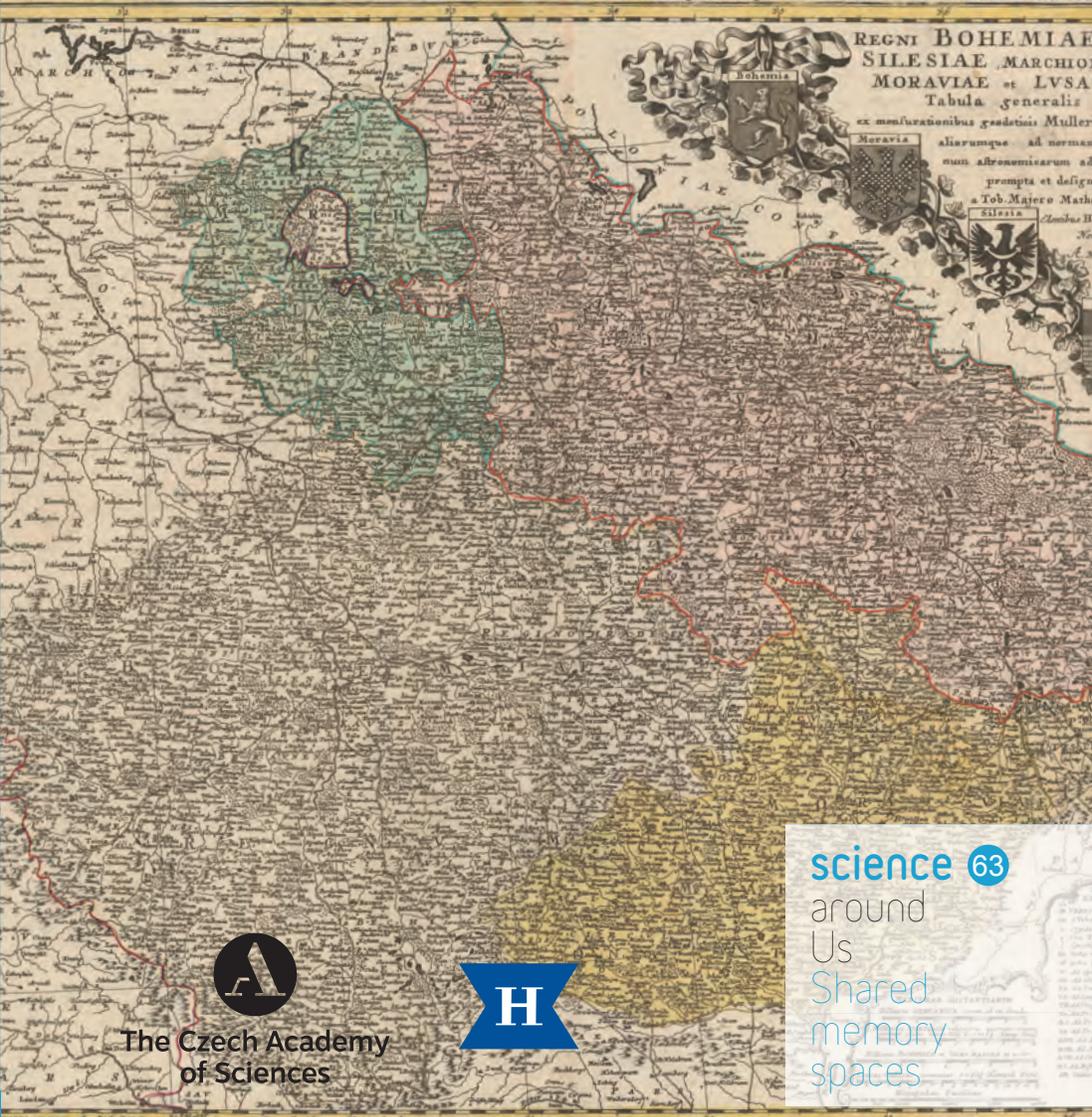


English edition

Institute of History, CAS

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The Czech Academy
of Sciences



science 63

around
Us

Shared
memory
spaces

Current research programme of the **Institute of History of the CAS** follows in the research plan *Český dějinný prostor v evropském kontextu* [Czech Historical Space in the European Context]; in 2014–2020, it concentrates on the issues of Czech, Czechoslovak and general history of the 9th–20th centuries, which are more closely specified on <http://www.hiu.cas.cz/cs/veda-a-vyzkum/obecna-charakteristika.ep/>. The priorities of basic research at the Institute of History of the CAS are covered by internal research programmes, which reflect current theoretical-methodological procedures and international historiographical discourses, emphasising the role of the historical science in the maintenance of national memory and formation of national identity and culture in the broadest sense. They include:

- *Český dějinný prostor v evropském kontextu* [Czech Historical Space in the European Context] – long-term continual research;
- *Vybrané problémy českých a středoevropských dějinných procesů* [Selected Issues of Czech and Central European Historical Processes] – partially, analytically or synthetically focused research;
- *Prameny hmotné a duchovní kultury* [Sources of Material and Spiritual Culture], their opening to the public, protection and research (for more details, see <http://www.hiu.cas.cz/cs/veda-a-vyzkum/obecna-charakteristika.ep/>).

The research programmes support and accompany the topic of selected circles and programmes of the Strategy AV 21 (<http://www.hiu.cas.cz/cs/strategie-av21.ep/>).

In an effort to increase the availability of processed sources and of the acquired knowledge to the broad researcher public, including foreign researchers, the Institute of History started to create **digital databases and portals** (<http://www.hiu.cas.cz/cs/databaze/ep/>).

Bibliografie dějin českých zemí [Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands] (<http://biblio.hiu.cas.cz/>) follows in the project of the bibliography of historical sciences and related disciplines (from 1905, the Institute of History has been ensuring this task since 1956). Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands covers all scientific and professional works on Czech history issued both in the Czech Republic and abroad. It contains more than 350,000 records of professional literature from 1990 (selected entries from 1895). The database has been publicly accessible since 2002; about 15,000 records are added to it annually.

The summary catalogue *Bibliografie české a slovenské historiografie* [Bibliography of Czech and Slovak Historiography] (<http://portaro.eu/hucentral/>) came into existence in 2016 based on the cooperation of the Institute of History of the CAS, the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the National Archive in Prague. It provides access to the databases *Bibliografie dějin Českých zemí* [Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands], *Bibliografie dějin Slovenska* [Bibliography of the History of Slovakia] and *Bibliografie českého archivnictví* [Bibliography of Czech Archival Science], which contain almost 500,000 records among themselves. The catalogue, searchable in Czech, English, German and French, is intended above all for foreign users.

Centennial roots

The Institute of History came into existence at a time when the Czechs came to understand an independent state as a natural framework for their future life and as an institution that bears a significant part of the responsibility for the cultural and scientific development of the Czech lands. The stimulus to the establishment of the institute came from the community of Czech historians shortly after the end of WWI and the disintegration of Austria-Hungary; it was formulated in a memorandum by the young, initiative and polemically disposed researcher Václav Hrubý. The Czechoslovak government seriously addressed the proposal and on 17 February 1920 assigned the Ministry of Education and National Enlightenment the task of establishing such a history institute. As the activity of the new institution was supposed to primarily focus on making sources on Czech history accessible in critical editions, it was named the **Czechoslovak State History Publishing Institute** (*Československý státní historický ústav vydavatelský*), or shortly **State Institute of History in Prague** (*Státní historický ústav v Praze*).

Starting with 1921, this institute and its legal successors have passed through Czech history as silent registering witnesses, reflecting its peripeteia to a significant extent. Extensive editorial activity was developed in the first period under the guidance of Václav Hrubý (1921–1925), Jan Bedřich Novák (1926–1933) and Bedřich Mendl (1933–1939). At first, it was concentrated on making medieval charter material accessible within the work *Regesta diplomatica nec non epistolaria Bohemiae et Moraviae*. Editions of other late medieval and early modern sources followed soon after – *Archiv Koruny české* [*Archive of the Crown of Bohemia*] for the reign of Charles IV, the massive *Listář a listinář Oldřicha z Rožmberka* [*Letter and Charter Registry of Oldřich of Rožmberk*], *Desky dvorské* [*Court Tablets*] and *Czech Desky zemské* [*Land Tablets*] and, in cooperation with the Czechoslovak Historical Institute in Rome, also editions of the letters and document agenda of papal nuncios to the imperial court of Rudolf II and other Habsburgs (*Epistulae et acta nuntiorum apostolicorum apud imperatorem 1592–1628*).

Under the leadership of the excellent archivist and historian František Roubík (1939–1952), the institute survived the difficult time of the Nazi occupation and the first years after WWII with dignity as a heuristic-editorial centre. At the time of the foundation of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in 1952, it was incorporated into the significantly enlarged **Institute of History of the CSAS** (*Historický ústav ČSAV*). Headed by the historian of the Hussite period and Italian Renaissance Josef Macek (1952–1969), it took over its earlier editorial programme, with its main objective being research into Czech and, in the modern period, Czechoslovak history ranging from the Early Middle Ages to the 20th century.

The Sovietisation of Czech science in the 1950s corresponded to the then conception of the institute as a central scientific workplace in the sphere of historical sciences, isolated from universities, as well as to the all-penetrating politicisation of historical publications and hard assertion of Marxism-Leninism as the only admissible ideology. A certain thaw came in the 1960s, along with a possibility of freer scientific research, which brought many results of permanent importance in the study of earlier and sometimes also modern history. One of them was the publication *Sedm pražských dnů* [*Seven Days of Prague*], in which the employees of the Institute of History of the CSAS provided an uncensored collection of documents about the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact armies



The Emmaus Monastery - one of the former places of the Institute of History
(photo: Jaroslav Novotný, Institute of History, CAS)

with a minimum time distance. By spreading the book in a timely fashion, they made the falsification activity of pro-Soviet propagandists much more complicated.

The control by the “normalisation” power would have undoubtedly come even without the issuance of this publication, but it was precisely its reminder that hung over the employees of the institute as a sword of Damocles for two more decades. Politically directed reorganisation in the late 1969 led to the establishment of the **Institute of Czechoslovak and World History of the CSAS** (*Ústav československých a světových dějin ČSAV*), successively led by Oldřich Říha (1970–1974), a representative of orthodox Marxist historiography, and the specialist in economic history Jaroslav Purš (1975–1989). Political purges drove many highly qualified scientists including František Šmahel, a rising star of world medieval science, out of the institute and created conditions for a new wave of pro-regime politicisation of historiography, which asserted itself the most in publications about the period of Socialism.

Although research into earlier history was declared a phase-out sphere and was to be gradually liquidated, valuable works focused on the periods of the Middle Ages and Early Modern Era were emerging, above all thanks to skilful manoeuvring of Josef Janáček, the then head of the Department of Earlier Czechoslovak History. Thanks to his merit, through scientific education of a rather numerous group of young historians, the continuity of research into Czech history from the early historical period to the 18th century was preserved. In contrast, the management of the institute was unable to coordinate

the creation of more extensive summary works and even its main task – the synthetic compilation *Přehled dějin Československa* [*An Overview of the History of Czechoslovakia*] – failed after publishing two volumes rich in content, also edited by Josef Janáček (1980–1982), but reaching only to 1848.

The possibilities of research cooperation with abroad partially opened and the pressure on the cancellation of research into earlier history abated in the second half of the 1980s, proving that the twenty-year effort aimed at a “normalisation” of Czech historiography had ended in utter fiasco. Nevertheless, this period left its mark on Czech historical science. Like other humanities and social disciplines, it faced the difficult task of overcoming the consequences of a long-time lag behind the developments in Western Europe and North America.

New paths

The far-reaching social transformations that took place at the turn of 1989 and 1990 enabled the institution to return to its “pre-normalisation” name **Institute of History** (*Historický ústav*) and start a new chapter of its development. It is inseparably connected with the personage of the internationally renowned Hussite historian František Šmahel, the institute’s director in 1990–1998, who managed to give the institution a new form and scientific programme in the difficult conditions of reorganisations, financial reduction, a danger to the very existence of the humanities at the Academy, the loss of its premises and movement from the city centre to the periphery of Prague. At the same time, multilateral contacts with foreign partners and open cooperation with universities made it possible to receive impulses from foreign historiographies and pass on the outcomes of domestic research to the new generation of scientists. The journal *Český časopis historický* – *The Czech Historical Review* became a leading forum of Czech historiography under Šmahel’s redaction, following in the solid tradition from the time of Jaroslav Goll, Josef Pekař and Josef Šusta, quickly reaching the standard scientific level and acquiring renown both in this country and among foreign Czech studies scholars.

The editorial programme of the State History Publishing Institute was successfully revived in the 1990s, the publication of major series was restored (*Archiv český* [*Czech Archive*], *Prameny dějin českých* [*Sources for Czech History*]) and a foothold for foreign research created in the renewed Czech Historical Institute in Rome, which from 1994 added research into modern and contemporary history and into the development of Czech and European historiography to its focus on the Late Middle Ages and Early Modern Era. The Institute of History gained a firm structure, which did not make it possible to cover all necessary topics but in connection with support from grant agencies enabled a new development of systematic research into Czech, Czechoslovak and partially general history of the Middle Ages, the Early Modern Era, the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. Although the period after 1945 was for a large part concentrated in the newly founded Institute of Contemporary History (*Ústav soudobých dějin*) of the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS), it was soon clear that the Institute of History would remain a strong player on the Czech scene especially in the history of diplomacy and international relations, historical geography and themes from European history.

The Prague-based Institute of History of the CAS entered the new millennium with a branch in Brno, an edition centre in České Budějovice (a joint workplace of the Institute

of History of the CAS and the Institute of History of the University of South Bohemia founded as of 1 January 2004) and a base for foreign researchers in Rome. It became a part and parcel of the network of domestic and foreign academic institutions that deal above all with Central European history from the Middle Ages to the present. Apart from many other directions and forms of international cooperation, the collaboration with the strong Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw and other scientific workplaces in Poland has particularly proved itself in the effort to assert Czech and Central European history on the European and global scientific forum.

Through monographic research by individual researchers, the Institute of History of the CAS gradually covered selected topics from the more than millennial period ranging from Great Moravia to the Second World War and further on to the present in view of Czech, European and American history. In accordance with the development of historical science in the world, the focal point of research gradually shifted from the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Era to modern history. It was also in these fields that historians of the younger and middle generations proved successful, asserting themselves in international competition and winning not only domestic, but also foreign prizes. In view of its mission in the services of historical science, the institute continued with earlier editorial undertakings, but also created new extensive editorial series focusing on the Early Modern Period (*Prameny k českým dějinám 16.–18. století* [*Sources for Czech History of the 16th–18th Centuries*]), on the 19th and 20th centuries (*Programy politických stran* [*Programmes of Political Parties*], *Dokumenty československé zahraniční politiky* [*Documents of Czechoslovak Foreign Policy*] and others).

Much attention was concentrated on works of a broad cultural scope, in harmony with the need of encyclopaedic systemisation of the quickly growing but atomised pieces of knowledge from the humanities and social sciences. This concerns above all the *Aka-*

Institute of History of the CAS, Prague - Prosek
(photo: Jaroslav Novotný, Institute of History, CAS)



demická encyklopedie českých dějin [Academic Encyclopaedia of Czech History] (issued since 2009) and *Biografický slovník českých zemí* [Biographical Dictionary of the Czech Lands] (19 volumes have been published since 2004). The effort to map the Czech historical space in the multiple-volume *Historický atlas měst České republiky* [Historic Atlas of Towns of the Czech Republic], in the *Atlas církevních dějin českých zemí* [Ecclesiastical History Atlas of the Czech Lands] and in the monumental *Akademický atlas českých dějin* [Academic Atlas of Czech History] from 2014 has received a good response. These organisationally very exacting works placed increased demands on the scientific discipline that brought together interested professionals across the boundaries of scientific disciplines and institutions.

After the Institute of History gained accreditation in Czech history at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in 2003, its research workers have participated in teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate students at several universities, above all in Prague, Brno, České Budějovice, Hradec Králové and Pardubice, let alone occasional lectures at many domestic and foreign universities. Thanks to that, many of them have acquired the scientific-pedagogical degrees of associate professors and professors, thus ensuring a high qualification structure of the Institute of History of the CAS.

In cooperation with university teachers as members of editorial and scientific councils, the Institute of History ensured regular issuance of two leading periodicals in the discipline – *Český časopis historický* – *The Czech Historical Review* and *Slovanský přehled* [Slavonic Review] and of a number of specialised anthologies that have gradually become regular journals. Of them, much response has been aroused abroad above all by *Historica. Historical Sciences in the Czech Republic*, Middle Ages focused *Mediaevalia Historica Bohemica*, Early Modern Age focused *Folia Historica Bohemica*, *Moderní dějiny* [Modern History] and interdisciplinary *Historická geografie* [Historical Geography]. Apart from prevailing Czech texts, ever more works are published in English and other congress languages, which has strengthened the influence of Czech historiography in the international scientific community.

The Institute of History continually developed its library with a selected fund reaching approximately a quarter-million volumes, one of the largest libraries within the Czech Academy of Sciences and the richest one in the Czech state from the viewpoint of historical sciences, with regard to the acquisition of scientific periodicals and monographic publications. The library and research room, opened to the professional public for reference study, constantly attracts much attention not only among researchers, but also among more ambitious students of history. The book inheritance donated by the German historian Volker Press (1939–1993) became an extraordinary enrichment for the institute's library, containing above all German and West European literature published in the 1950s–1980s and significantly filling the acquisition gaps from that period. The library was followed by the bibliography group, providing its service for the whole branch and related disciplines and fulfilling the spirit of the intentions set up already upon the foundation of the institute (1921): “to support all editorial undertakings”.

The Institute of History significantly changed itself in the late 20th and early 21st centuries also from the perspective of the position of women. History, which had often been understood as a domain of men in the previous generations, became a milieu inherent to many university-educated women and the institute, which represents this discipline in the broad chronological scope in the Academy, lost its character of a masculine



Josef Janáček (left) and Miloslav Kudelásek
(photo: archive of the Institute of History, CAS, 1979)

workplace. Where all leading positions had been occupied exclusively by men before 1989, women assumed a 50% share in the closer management of the institute already in the 1990s. Afterwards, the 19th century historian Pavla Vošahlíková assumed the post of the chairwoman of the scientific council, and after the departure of the Early Modern Era historian Jaroslav Pánek (director in 1998–2005) for the position of vice-president of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Institute of History was headed by the Americanist Svatava Raková (2005–2012) and then by the historical geographer Eva Semotanová (2012–2017). What is even more important, women masterfully assumed the representation of whole branches of historical research at the institute, including methodology, historical geography and cartography, Enlightenment research and, naturally, the history of women, while substantially participating in all other research directions. Such a significant share of female researchers in the activity of the institute and of the whole discipline enriched historical sciences not only with novel questions, but also with new factuality, a sense of order and of social communicativeness of science. This transformation was accompanied by a constant rejuvenation of the institute, which has been proved by the appointment of the Early Modern Era society and culture historian Martin Holý (b. 1978) as director as of 1 June 2017.

The Institute of History has gone along a rather complicated path in the search of its permanent residence. Shortly after the end of WWII (4 June 1945), a group of representatives of learned societies and independent scientific institutes asked the Czechoslovak government to provide the impressive former Česká spořitelna building in Národní Avenue for the purposes of scientific research; the Board of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and later the Academic Council and the Office of the Czech Academy of Sci-

ences found their seat there. The aim of the proposal was to transfer many scientific institutions into dignified premises, including the State Institute of History, which then had offices in the absolutely unsuitable premises of the monastery of St Thomas in the Lesser Town. It did not happen, but the Institute of History moved several times within Prague, to the Lobkowitz Palace at Prague Castle, the renewed monastery Na Slovanech with a separate unit in Panská Street and later Římská Street, the cramped conditions in Puškin Square up to its present location in a new building in Prosek. It has not succeeded to return to the city centre, but the north-eastern edge of Prague has been connected with the centre by a fast underground line, which significantly improved the accessibility of the institute, its library and conference hall not only for its scientific and other employees, but above all for external scientists, for whom the institute became a place of study and consultations, conference meetings and editorial board sessions.

Towards a deeper understanding of the past

In 1990–2016, the employees of the Institute of History produced hundreds of book publications and thousands of articles, research overviews and reviews as well as minor reports, newspaper texts or radio and television appearances. Naturally, each published text tells about the level of its author and his or her professional interests. Solid work adds to the understanding of the component topics and may arouse interest within a certain circle of professional readers. Like in all disciplines, however, only a fraction of publications entail a really fundamental scientific shift and possibly also a more permanent influence on the public. Only a longer time horizon will show the results through which the Institute of History has added to the general knowledge. Here, we can briefly point out at least some results that seem to be more substantial in the sum of the research and publication activity of the institute.

The merit of František Šmahel, the first director of the renewed Institute of History, was that the institution's message was clearly formulated already in early 1990: it was not to be superior to other professional workplaces (as it might have been, to a certain extent and mostly only formally, in 1952–1989) but to act as the central **servicing workplace for the discipline**: “The Institute of History will see its main task in providing service to the historical community as a whole and through it to the developing democratic and pluralistic society. Within society-wide tasks, the IH will focus on the preparation of overviews of Czech and general history, bibliographic and other dictionaries, general and specialised encyclopaedias, bibliographies and textbooks. The preparation of critical editions of sources, the organisation of scientific conferences and the coordination of basic research projects exceeding the framework of a single workplace will remain the institute's primary task.” (F. Šmahel, *Nová etapa Historického ústavu ČSAV [New Stage of the Institute of History of the CSAS]*, *Bulletin Historického ústavu ČAV [Bulletin of the Institute of History of the CAS]*, 1990, No. 1, p. 2.)

The subsequent development – particularly the financial and staff cuts, but also the emergence of a number of brand new scientific workplaces in the discipline of historiography and the introduction of the grant system – created significant obstacles to this ambitious programme. This was true above all of the creation of large collective works. Nonetheless, the main features of Šmahel's programme remained valid and a significant part of the original intentions was gradually fulfilled.



František Šmahel
(photo: Jaroslav Novotný,
Institute of History, CAS)

Foundations of historiographical work

Quality works that build the foundations of the discipline are least visible, but usually most permanent through their usability. In this respect, the **bibliography** group led by Václava Horčáková has permanently performed very solidly, managing to register and organise – in both printed and electronic forms – the torrent of information about newly issued publications. Her long-time participation in the creation and perfection of the international information network was appreciated by the entrusting of the fifth European conference on historical bibliography to her and her colleagues in 2013 and by the fact that a summary of representative results of Czech bibliography was issued by Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2015).

By work on the critical **issuance of historical sources**, the Institute of History returned to the traditional series that had come into existence in the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries, while gradually adding new ones. However, it faced a fundamental problem, particularly for Latin sources – a lack of editors willing to dedicate themselves to this difficult, rarely appreciated activity. Members of the older generation managed major works of medieval studies: Jaroslav Eršil published Vatican sources on the history of Hussitism, Jana Zachová contributed to making medieval diplomatic and narrative sources accessible again and Božena Kopiczková was instrumental in the interpretation of Hussite epistolography. Their places were gradually assumed by historians of the middle and younger generations, linguistically equipped and able to cope with the demands of auxiliary historical disciplines and of the editorial practice.

The institute's services to the historian community included also works on the **history and present state of historiography**, registering both domestic and foreign researchers (*Lexikon současných českých historiků – The Lexicon of Contemporary Czech Historians*, 1999; *Scholars of Bohemian, Czech and Czechoslovak History Studies*, I–III, 2005), which make structural changes in the branch and the achieved results more transparent and assess historical sciences in a deeper retrospect, whether it concerned prominent personalities and institutions or the characteristics of specific historiographical genres and their comparison in the Euro-American perspective. A monograph seeking to capture the literary character of historical works came into existence thanks to Milan Řepa (2006).

In a remarkable deviation from the framework of Czech and Central European sources, Svatava Raková's edition of the *Federalist Papers (Listy federalistů, 1994)* offered a breakthrough into early modern American history and extended the Czech horizons in viewing the history of political culture and Euro-American intellectual relations. She later followed in this research by a number of monographs that presented the "encounter", the colonial period of North America and the beginnings of the United States as an integral part of the civilisational development of the West while making the topics and methods of American historiography closer to the Czech milieu (i.a. *Anglické kolonie v Severní Americe v 17. století. Modely politické kultury [English Colonies in North America, 17th Century: Models of Political Culture]*, 1997; *Podivná revoluce. Dlouhá cesta Američanů k samostatnosti: 1763–1783 [A Strange Revolution. Long Path of the Americans towards Independence: 1763–1783]*, 2005).

Historical geography could develop the foundations laid by the institute's former director František Roubík, which had brought a valuable result in the 1965 *Atlas československých dějin [Czechoslovak History Atlas]* to a significant breadth. This area has undergone an unprecedented boom – above all thanks to Eva Semotanová – since the 1990s. It led to the formation of a team including external collaborators capable of the continual issuance of *Historický atlas měst České republiky [Historical Atlas of Towns of the Czech Republic]* (since 1995, 28 volumes so far) and the development of research into the transformations of the landscape and other topics. From lists of maps and registers of map collections, E. Semotanová advanced – partially through individual, partially through collective research – to the synthesis *Historická geografie Českých zemí [Historical Geography of the Czech Lands]* (1998, 2002) and to the issuance of numerous atlases which have added to more thorough spatial understanding of Czech history thanks to reproductions of period maps as well as reconstruction maps (i.a. *Atlas zemí Koruny české [Atlas of the Lands of the Bohemian Crown]*, 2002; *Ottův historický atlas – Česko [Otto's Historical Atlas – Czech Republic]*, 2007; *Ottův historický atlas – Praha [Otto's Historical Atlas – Prague]*, 2016). The atlas presentation of Kłodzko/Glatz as an exemplary Central European region with significant transformations of the population (2005) already met with international success, but the peak of the effort so far is the monumental *Akademický atlas českých dějin [Academic Atlas of Czech History]*, which maps administrative, political, social and cultural aspects of the development of this area from prehistory to the present day by summing up important data on Czech and Czechoslovak history and by means of probes into selected topics of current research (2014). The Academia Publishing House devoted an extraordinary effort to this collective work of transdisciplinary character, and the multiple prizes it has received empha-



Jaroslav Pánek
(photo: Jaroslav Novotný, Institute of History, CAS)



Svatava Raková
(photo: Jaroslav Novotný, Institute of History, CAS)

use the model combination of serious themes and perfect visual presentation of history as a union of people, space and time.

The service mission of the Institute of History included also the effort to contribute to a **cultivation of the historical awareness** of Czech society. This activity was particularly intensive right after the fall of the totalitarian regime and its obligatory Marxist interpretation of history. In an effort to help disoriented teachers, who lacked basic teaching aids in the early 1990s, the employees of the institute quickly published numerous minor publications on crucial issues of Czech history, a two-volume secondary school **textbook** in 1991–1992, and school history atlases and even a chrestomathy of sources as an aid to more complex education of teachers and seminar works at secondary grammar schools in the mid-1990s.

The work on textbooks professionalised later, and the **pedagogical activity** of the employees of the Institute of History at universities, their **science-popularisation work through both publications and lectures** and cooperation with radio, television and film naturally became even more developed. Over the course of time, popularisation-competent employees became occasional or regular contributors to mass news media and commentators of political events, putting an emphasis on the historical roots and a wider context of current events. Along with their occasional entry into society-wide discussions, they started to fulfill the role of public intellectuals, among whom historians must not be missing in any civil society.

New image of the Middle Ages

The work of Dušan Třeštík, an expert in the earliest history (*Počátky Přemyslovců* [*The Beginnings of the Přemyslids*], 1997; *Vznik Velké Moravy* [*The Rise of Great Moravia*], 2001;

Mýty kmene Čechů [Myths of the Tribe of the Bohemians], 2003), and Josef Žemlička, who devoted his life to the Přemyslid period (*Čechy v době knížecí* [Bohemia in the Ducal Period], 1997; *Počátky Čech královských* [The Beginnings of Royal Bohemia], 2002; *Přemysl Otakar II.*, 2011; *Království v pohybu* [Kingdom in Motion], 2014) gave rise to a complex of systematic monographs that comprehensively processed the history of the Czech lands in the Early and High Middle Ages and became one of the interpretative models of 9–13th century history. František Šmahel's fundamental works in Hussitism (*Husitská revoluce* [Hussite Revolution], I–IV, 1993; ²1995–1996; *Die Hussitische Revolution*, I–III, 2002), completed at the Institute of History in the first half of the 1990s, became an internationally acknowledged linchpin of the whole set of research into the Hussite period.

At the very end of the 20th century, the core of research into the Luxembourg era and Hussitism shifted to the Centre for Medieval Studies of the Institute of Philosophy of the CAS, which however remained in close contact with the medieval scientists of the Institute of History. Jaroslav Mezník's important monograph *Lucemburská Morava 1310–1423* [Luxembourg Moravia 1310–1423], 1999) came into existence in the Brno branch of the institute, clearly showing how much poorer the Czech science was during the “normalisation” period because of the exclusion of this courageous person from academic life and his imprisonment for dissident activity. Jaroslav Boubín focused on the period of George of Poděbrady and its thought, presenting new views of George's European policy. His precise works provided access to and an interpretation of the work of Petr Chelčický (*Petr Chelčický. Myslitel a reformátor* [Petr Chelčický. Thinker and Reformer], 2005).

The history of medieval aristocracy within the conception of Robert Šimůnek first oriented on the administrative system of aristocratic dominions, and then on historical-anthropological perspectives and particularly symbolic self-presentation. Research into ecclesiastical history – centred on Pavel Krafl – focused on the development of canon law, particular ecclesiastical law-making and justice. The publication of sources on the history of Jews in the Czech lands developed in Czech-German cooperation, above all thanks to Lenka Blechová and Eva Doležalová, resulting also in contributions to a deeper understanding of the relations between Christians and Jews in the Middle Ages. The young generation of medieval scientists (Dana Dvořáčková-Malá, Jan Zelenka) has undertaken research into the court society and culture in the Middle Ages, presenting a number of remarkable publications on these issues over the past decade.

Penetration into the pre-modern period

The research has gradually narrowed from the original idea of a focus on a synthesis of the history of the Habsburg monarchy and a synoptic outline of the periods before and after the Battle of White Mountain (1620). Within the framework of the emerging network of institutes with Early Modern Period interests, however, it has purposively focused on the ecclesiastical history of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation period. In the early 1990s, Jiří Mikulec consistently submerged himself in the then neglected post-1620 period and created a number of analytic monographs on serfdom, re-Catholicisation and social aspects of religious life in the Baroque. This research overlapped into the sphere of the history of piety, mentalities and a historical-anthropological perspective of people and society in the 16th–18th centuries, which later enabled a systematic processing of these issues (*Církev a společnost raného novověku v Čechách a na Moravě* [Church



Eva Semotanová
(photo: Jaroslav Novotný, Institute of History, CAS)



Martin Holý
(photo: Jaroslav Novotný, Institute of History, CAS)

and Society of Early Modern Era in Bohemia and Moravia], 2013; *Náboženský život a barokní zbožnost v českých zemích [Religious Life and Baroque Piousness in the Czech Lands]*, 2013; *České země v letech 1620–1705: Od velké války k dlouhému míru [Czech Lands in 1620–1705: From the Great War to the Long Peace]*, 2016).

The predominant focus on the post-1620 period has not eclipsed the interest in the ecclesiastical history of the 16th and early 17th centuries, which resulted also in a comparison assessment of the relationship between the confession and ethnicity during the Reformation period. A collective monograph on social and political preconditions of religious tolerance and the origin of the 1609 Letter of Majesty on Religious Freedom (2013) became a result of international importance. A promised perspective has been created by Czech-German cooperation on the preparation of the regesta edition of the Acts of the Unity of the Brethren – *Acta Unitatis Fratrum*.

Martin Holý's effort significantly strengthened the stream of historical research into Early Modern Period history and particularly the history of the education and upbringing of the nobility within the system of Early Modern schooling and the international relations in the process of a cultivation of the privileged strata in the 16th and the first half of the 17th centuries (*Zrození renesančního kavalíra [The Birth of a Renaissance Cavalier]*, 2010; *Ve službách šlechty. Vychovatelé nobility z českých zemí [In the Services of the Aristocracy: Educators of the Nobility from the Czech Lands]*, 2011; *Vzdělanostní mecenát v zemích České koruny /1500–1700/ [Educational Patronage in the Lands of the Bohemian Crown /1500–1700/]*, 2016). The work of Jiří Hrbek shifted the research into the history of the aristocracy with a special focus on the noble family of Waldstein/Wallenstein predominantly into the post-1620 period (*Barokní Valdštejnové v Čechách [Baroque Waldsteins in Bohemia]*, 2013; *Proměny valdštejnské reprezentace [Transfor-*

mations of Waldstein Self-Presentation], 2015). The monographic and editorial processing of the Černín diary from the travels in Southern Europe with the participation of Eva Chodějovská (*Heřman Jakub Černín na cestě za Alpy a Pyreneje [Heřman Jakub Černín and his Travel across the Alps and Pyrenees]*, I–II, 2014) considerably enriched our knowledge of the cavalier journeys in the second half of the 17th century.

Individual collective or authorial monographs have covered other aspects of the history of the Early Modern Period. They dealt with crucial moments of the constitutional development, some aspects of the economy (particularly the financial burden on towns) in wartime or the history of the population and social relations through an in-depth probe into the transformations of the family in rural areas of Bohemia. Attempts have also appeared on the depiction of Habsburgs as emperors and kings of Bohemia or of selected aristocrats and representatives of the church through their biographies.

Nineteenth century in us

A turn to the modern conception of social history has been particularly distinctive on the basis of the 19th century. Research by Pavla Vošahlíková (*Jak se žilo za časů Františka Josefa I. [Life in the Times of Franz Joseph I]*, 1996; *Zlaté časy české reklamy [Golden Age of Czech Advertising]*, 1999; *Rákoska v dílně lidskosti. Česká škola v 19. století očima účastníků [The Cane in the Workshop of Humanity: Czech School in the 19th Century Seen through the Eyes of the Participants]*, 2016) and Aleš Vyskočil (*C. k. úředník ve zlatém věku jistoty [Imperial and Royal Civil Servant in the Golden Age of Certainty]*, 2009) focused not only on society as the whole, but also on the neglected strata of craft journeymen and civil servants. Milan Hlavačka and Pavel Cibulka processed the issues of poverty, the marginalised strata and care for the poor (*Chudinství a chudoba jako sociálně historický fenomén [Pauperdom and Poverty as a Phenomenon of Social History]*, 2014) and also of the ideological and institutional background of social policy in the broad time range from the cancellation of serfdom to WWII (*Sociální myšlení a sociální praxe v českých zemích 1781–1939. Ideje – legislativa – instituce [Social Thought and Social Practice in the Czech Lands 1781–1939: Ideas – Legislation – Institutions]*, 2015). Topics outgrowing the 19th century and concerning general stages of the development of modern society have been opened, namely patronage (*Collective and individual patronage and the culture of public donation in civil society in the 19th and 20th centuries in Central Europe*, 2010) and the phenomenon of collective memory, the formation of identities and institutional or state manipulation through an instrumentalised interpretation of history (*Paměť míst, událostí a osobností. Historie jako identita a manipulace [Memory of Places, Events and Personages. History as Identity and Manipulation]*, 2011), or the “second life” of relics of the 19th century at present (*Devatenácté století v nás. Modely, instituce a reprezentace, které přetrvaly [Nineteenth Century in Us. Models, Institutions and Representations that have Persisted]*, 2008). Multilateral research into the 19th century has made it possible to synoptically portray the process of the creation of modern society in the Czech lands (Milan Hlavačka et al., *České země v 19. století. Proměny společnosti v moderní době [Czech Lands in the 19th Century: Transformations of Society in the Modern Period]*, I–II, 2014).

The younger generation of historians from Brno followed in the footsteps of the classical work by Josef Válka when processing the history of Moravia as a specific part of the Czech state; especially in the monographs by Milan Řepa, they monitored the develop-



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of the History of the
Czech Lands

ment of national awareness and land identity of its inhabitants (*Moravané nebo Češi? Vývoj národního vědomí na Moravě v 19. století* [Moravians or Czechs? Development of National Awareness in Moravia in the 19th Century], 2001; *Moravané, Němci, Rakušané. Vlasti moravských Němců v 19. století* [Moravians, Germans, Austrians: Homelands of Moravian Germans in the 19th Century], 2014). Research by Pavel Cibulka focused on the history of local Germans and their political organisations (*Německé politické strany na Moravě /1890–1918/. Ideje – programy – osobnosti* [German Political Parties in Moravia /1890–1918/: Ideas – Programmes – Personalities], 2012) significantly enriched the comprehensive image of the history of Moravia.

Research into the history of the 19th and early 20th centuries has produced also significant works about cultural history and history and theory of historiography, which Jaroslav Marek devoted to the issues of historicism and positivism (*Jaroslav Goll*, 1991; *O historismu a dějepisectví* [On Historicism and Historiography], 1992; *Česká moderní kultura* [Czech Modern Culture], 1998), while Martin Kučera focused on Josef Pekař and the dispute concerning the sense of Czech history (*Rakouský občan Josef Pekař. Kapitola z kulturně politických dějin* [Austrian Citizen Josef Pekař: A Chapter from Cultural-Political History], 2005; *Josef Pekař: Spor o smysl českých dějin* [Josef Pekař: The Dispute concerning the Sense of Czech History], 2012; *Tázání o dějinném* [Questions of the Historic], 2012). Selected personalities – including the patriotic civil servant Josef Němec, the husband of the writer Božena Němcová – have been depicted using the bibliographic method (Magdaléna Pokorná, *Josef Němec. Neobyčejný muž neobyčejné ženy* [Josef Němec: The Unusual Husband of an Unusual Woman], 2009).

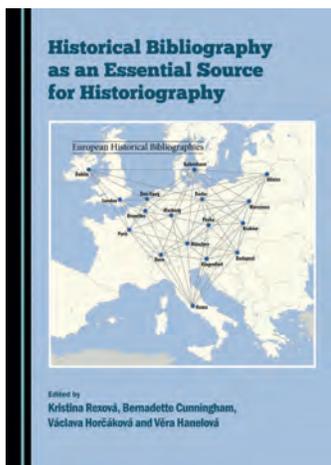
Czechoslovakia in the century of world wars and uncertain peace

Work on 20th century history and systematic editorial activity have elevated the history of political parties and especially of Czechoslovakia's foreign policy in the first three decades of its not self-evident existence to an unprecedented level (*Reflexe dějin Československa 1918–1948 v historiografii na počátku 3. tisíciletí* [Reflection of 1918–1948 History of Czechoslovakia in Historiography of Early 3rd Millennium], 2008). Extensive research in domestic and foreign archives, in which Jan Němeček played a fundamental coordination role, has enabled – in collaboration of the Institute of History of the CAS, the Institute of International Relations and the National (formerly State Cen-

tral) Archive – the publication of the multiple-volume edition *Dokumenty československé zahraniční politiky* [Documents of Czechoslovak Foreign Policy] (Series A for the period of 1918–1939; Series B: 1939–1945), of which 18 volumes had been published by 2016. This enormous source base commented in detail, moreover accompanied by partial editions concerning Czechoslovak-French and Czechoslovak-Soviet relations and continually also by editions of important memoirs of politicians and diplomats, has become the starting point for a more objective interpretation of Czechoslovakia's position in Europe. In this respect, it has moved the Czech Republic closer to the level of more advanced states of the world, in which diplomatic sources are published as a manifestation of political culture and as a necessary part of the corpus of basic knowledge about the country's past and position in the world. Similarly important for the understanding of this country's WWII history is another monumental edition *Zápisy ze schůzí československé vlády v Londýně* [Minutes of Sessions of the Czechoslovak Cabinet in London] (seven volumes covering the whole war period were published in 2008–2016), casting more light on the participation of the Western exile in the liberation of Czechoslovakia and in the creation of the prerequisites for post-war development in Central Europe.

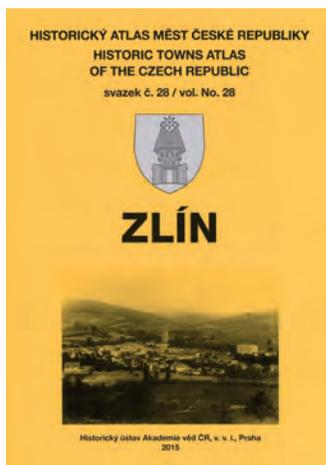
A thorough research of the sources enabled Jindřich Dejmek to approach a synthetic outline of the Czechoslovak Republic's role in neuralgic 20th century Europe and shed light on the contacts between Czechoslovakia and British imperial policy (*Československo, jeho sousedé a velmoci ve XX. století /1918–1992/* [Czechoslovakia, its Neighbours and the Powers in the 20th Century /1918–1992/], 2002; *Nenaplněné naděje. Politické a diplomatické vztahy Československa a Velké Británie /1918–1938/* [Unfulfilled hopes: Political and Diplomatic Relations of Czechoslovakia and the United Kingdom /1918–1938/], 2003). Jan Němeček wrote a model monograph on Czechoslovak-Polish relations and confederation plans during WWII which has met – remarkably for such a controversial theme – with much praise also in the Polish milieu (*Od spojení k roztržce. Vztahy československé a polské exilové reprezentace 1939–1945* [From an Alliance to a Break-Up: Relations between Czechoslovak and Polish Exile Representations, 1939–1945], 2003). Czechoslovak-Soviet relations have been partially treated as well. The diplomatic activity itself and the key stages of its development have been a fundamental subject of monographic research, resulting even in a synthesis of the history of 20th century Czechoslovak diplomacy accompanied by a lexicon of diplomats (Jindřich Dejmek, *Diplomacie Československa* [Czechoslovakia's Diplomacy], I–II, 2012–2013). An extraordinarily thorough knowledge of the sources made it possible for Jindřich Dejmek to depict leading personages of Czechoslovak foreign policy in large bibliographies; such attention has been paid to the historian and diplomat Kamil Krofta and above all to Edvard Beneš in a detailed processing of his intellectual background and political activity (*Kamil Krofta. Historik v čele diplomacie* [Kamil Krofta: Historian as the Head of Diplomacy], 1998; *Edvard Beneš. Politická biografie českého demokrata*, [Edvard Beneš: Political Biography of the Czech Democrat], I–II, 2006–2008).

Research into the internal political, national and religious affairs, including the political system of interwar Czechoslovakia, became a necessary counterpart of the focus on foreign policy (Josef Harna, *Konsensus a kompromis. Budování politického systému první Československé republiky 1918–1922* [Consensus and Compromise: Building of the Political System of the First Czechoslovak Republic 1918–1922], 2013). Research has focused above all on the German minority and the effort to manage the extraordinarily



Historical
Bibliography as an
Essential Source
for Historiography

Historic
Towns Atlas
of the Czech
Republic



difficult national situation of the First Republic during the escalated crisis before the Munich Diktat (Jan Kuklík – Jan Němeček, *Od národního státu ke státu národností? Národnostní statut a snahy o řešení menšinové otázky v Československu v roce 1938* [From a Nation State to a State of Nations? National Statute and Efforts at Resolution of the Minority Question 1938], 2013). In connection with the Institute of History's effort to cover formerly neglected themes of ecclesiastical history, Jaroslav Šebek has concentrated on the depiction of the relations between Czechs and Germans within the Catholic Church both inside Czechoslovakia and in the papal curia's relationship to this issue (*Sudetendeutscher Katholizismus auf dem Kreuzweg. Politische Aktivitäten der sudetendeutschen Katholiken in der Ersten Tschechoslowakischen Republik in den 30er Jahren*, 2010; *Od konfliktu ke smíření. Česko-německé vztahy ve 20. století očima katolické církve* [From Conflict to Reconciliation: Czech-German Relations in the 20th Century through the Eyes of the Catholic Church], 2013; *Za Boha, národ, pořádek* [For God, Nation, Order], 2016).

The mentioned topics were included in a broader framework of the political and diplomatic relations between Czechoslovakia and the Holy See in the interwar period, a framework that documents that Czechoslovak diplomacy basically managed to cope with conflict religious-political situation from the period immediately after WWI and even find a forthcoming foreign partner in the Vatican (Michal Pehr – Jaroslav Šebek, *Československo a Svatý stolec. Od nepřátelství ke spolupráci /1918–1928/* [Czechoslovakia and the Holy See. From Enmity to Cooperation /1918–1928/], 2012). Systematic research into these issues formed the basis of Jaroslav Šebek's significant share in the large synthesis of the ecclesiastical history of the Czech lands in the 20th century (*Handbuch der Religions- und Kirchengeschichte der böhmischen Länder und Tschechiens im 20. Jahrhundert*, 2009) and for the creation of a summary monograph on the relations between the papacy and the Czech lands from the second half of the 19th century to the present (*Papežové moderního věku. Vatikán od Pia IX. po Františka a jeho vztah k českým zemím* [Popes of the Modern Era: The Vatican from Pius IX to Francis and its Relationship to the Czech Lands], 2014, 2015).

While WWI remained eclipsed when compared to the interwar era (European war diplomacy and the artistic presentation of the war life have been partially treated), WWII has been permanently present in the research repertoire of the Institute of History. Systematic research has started into the Second Czechoslovak Republic, a brief but characteristic period of strife between the defeated democratic and upcoming totalitarian regimes. The depiction of the German occupation has also partially shifted from political history to the history of everyday life, including the lives of women (Jan Kuklík – Jan Kuklík, *Druhá republika 1938–1939* [*Second Republic, 1938–1939*], 2004; *Ibid.*, *Dramatické i všední dny protektorátu* [*Dramatic and Ordinary Days of the Protectorate*], 1996; Blanka Jedličková, *Ženy na rozcestí. Divadlo a ženy okolo něj 1939–1945* [*Women at Crossroads: Theatre and Women around It 1939–1945*], 2015; 2016).

Vojtěch Kyncl has enriched the understanding of the occupation period with a research concentrating on the German reprisals in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, assessing the genocide of the Czechs and the Lidice and Ležáky massacres after the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich; a non-traditional approach reflected in a shift from the description of the tragic events during the occupation to the issues of post-war investigation and inconsistent recourse of the criminals, but also to the topic of manipulation with history in the services of politics (*Bez výčitek... Genocida Čechů po atentátu na Reinharda Heydricha* [*With an Easy Conscience... The Genocide of the Czechs after the Assassination of Reinhard Heydrich*], 2012; *Stroje na smrt. Plynové vozy a nacistická technologie konečného řešení* [*Death Machines: Gas Vehicles and the Nazi Technology of the Final Solution*], 2014; *Ibid.*, *Lidice. Zrození symbolu* [*Lidice: The Birth of a Symbol*], 2015; Vojtěch Kyncl – Jiří Padevět (eds.), *Ležáky a odboj ve východních Čechách* [*Ležáky and the Resistance in East Bohemia*], 2016). This research direction was also a response to the pan-European interest in places of memory, particularly in relation to the tragic events of contemporary history.

Apart from an analysis of Czechoslovak military diplomacy and the Czech-Slovak relations during WWII, Zlatica Zudová-Lešková has focused on the neglected topic of the resistance of the exterminated Jews (*Zapomenutá elita. Českoslovenští vojenští diplomaté v letech 1938–1945* [*Forgotten Elite: Czechoslovak Military Diplomats in 1938–1945*], 2011; *Cesty k sebe. Česi v československom demokratickom a komunistickom odboji na Slovensku v rokoch 1939–1943* [*Paths Leading Together: Czechs in Czechoslovak Democratic and Communist Resistance in Slovakia in 1939–1943*], 2009; *Židé v boji a odboji. Rezistence československých Židů v letech druhé světové války* [*Jews in Battle and Resistance: The Resistance of Czechoslovak Jews in the Years of WWII*], 2007). The considerable heuristic and editorial focus on foreign policy could not have omitted the activity of the London Resistance central and the coping with opposition to Edvard Beneš as its leading representative (Jan Kuklík – Jan Němeček, *Hodža versus Beneš*, 1999; *Proti Benešovi! Česká a slovenská protibenešovská opozice v Londýně 1939–1945* [*Against Beneš! Czech and Slovak anti-Beneš Opposition in London, 1939–1945*], 2004).

The international context of Czechoslovak development from the disintegration of the Habsburg monarchy to Czechoslovakia's satellite position after WWII have dominated in the research of the 20th century. It manifested itself in descriptive outlines, numerous innovative editions but also in generously conceived synthetic works. Apart from a continuation in basic research into one of the crucial stages of the Czech history, it included a scientifically underlaid response to sharply politicised attacks against the Czechoslovak Republic as a "failed state" (Mary Heimann, *Czechoslovakia: The State*

That Failed, 2011). Two decades of intensive editorial and interpretative work have eventually yielded the image of a state which was defeated twice and eventually broke up, but which played a democratic and to a certain extent stabilising role in stormy Central Europe. The monographs by Jan Němeček and Jindřich Dejmek and especially the biography of Edvard Beneš have added to a good representation of the Institute of History in this sense.

However, Czechoslovakia's 20th century was not only a sequence of major dramas and economic and political twists, which were the focus of the works by Vlastislav Lacina, Lubomír Slezák and Jan Hájek (i. a., V. Lacina – L. Slezák, *Státní hospodářská politika v ekonomickém vývoji první ČSR* [State Economic Policy in Economic Development of the First Czechoslovak Republic], 1994); it was also a mosaic of millions of human stories. The employees of the Institute of History have provided vivid pictures of some of them. Apart from political biographies of the mentioned statesmen, this includes bibliographic images of many remarkable personages of the 20th century. Among them, Jan Němeček's book on anti-Nazi Resistance hero Josef Mašín and his sons (*Mašínové. Zpráva o dvou generacích* [The Mašíns: A Report on Two Generations], 1998) has attracted the particular attention of the public.

Historical territorial studies – Slavic Studies, Balkans Studies, Hungarian Studies

Within reorganisational changes in the Czech Academy of Sciences, specialists in the history of the countries of the former Soviet bloc were transferred to the Institute of History in 1993 to study the history of a macro-region stretching from Poland to Russia and from the Baltic countries to the Balkans within the framework of general history. Apart from the interest of the individual researchers in Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania, the conception of the modern history of this part of Europe gained three territorial dominants: the Balkans (above all the states on the territory of former Yugoslavia), Russia and Poland, whose specific weight gradually increased in light of very close interconnection with Czech history and the extraordinarily intensive cooperation of Polish and Czech historians.

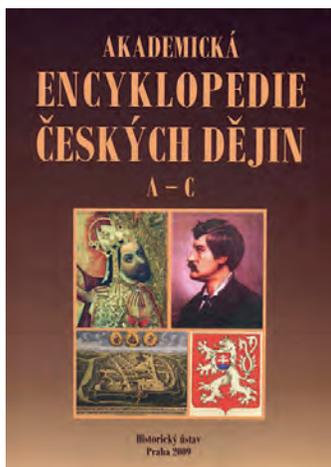
On the background of the stormy changes in the 1990s and in sharp international competition, historical Slavists and Balkanists endeavoured to penetrate the issues of the post-Soviet and post-Yugoslav area. Yugoslavists provided the Czech public, confused about the break-up of the eastern power and the bloody war in Yugoslavia, with substantial summaries of information, the most important of them being the collective synthesis *Dějiny jihoslovanských zemí* [A History of the South Slavic Countries] (1998, 2009). The basic research of individual countries, to which researchers created a closer relationship, developed in the meanwhile. Ladislav Hladký entered the little researched area of Bosnia (*Bosenská otázka v 19. a 20. století* [The Bosnian Question in the 19th and 20th Centuries], 2005); later, František Šístek concentrated on Montenegro (*Junáci, horalé a lenoši. Obraz Černé Hory a Černohorců v české společnosti* [Youngers, Mountaineers and Lazybones: The image of Montenegro and Montenegrins in Czech Society], 2011). Miroslav Tejchman, who had a close relationship to Romania, focused on the WWII period and the time of Ceaușescu's dictatorship (*Balkán ve válce a revoluci: 1939–1945* [Balkans in War and Revolution: 1939–1945], 2008; *Nicolae Ceaușescu. Život a smrt jednoho diktátora* [Nicolae Ceaușescu. Life and Death of a Dictator], 2004), while Pavel Hradečný processed the modern history of non-Slavic

nations of the Balkans (*Řekové a Turci. Nepřátelé nebo spojenci? [Greeks and Turks: Enemies or Allies?]*, 2000; *Řecká komunita v Československu. Její vznik a počáteční vývoj /1948–1954/ [The Greek Community in Czechoslovakia: Its Origin and Initial Development /1948–1954/]*, Praha 2000). The hope that this combination will give rise to the needed Czech synthesis of the history of the Balkans has not come true yet, but one of the prerequisites for its creation was completed by a book dealing with mutual relations between the Czechs and the nations of this part of Europe (Ladislav Hladký et al., *Vztahy Čechů s národy a zeměmi jihovýchodní Evropy [Relations between Czechs and the Nations and Countries of Southeast Europe]*, 2010).

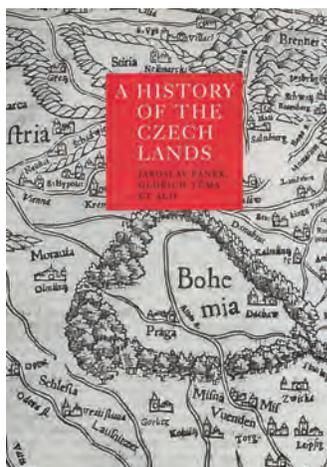
A solidly processed history of Russia is of a considerable importance for each Central European nation, and such synthesis remains a permanent task. In the works by Radomír Vlček (*Ruský panslavismus – realita a fikce [Russian Panславism – Reality and Fiction]*, 2002) and Emil Voráček (*Eurasijství v ruském politickém myšlení [Eurasianism in Russian Political Thought]*, 2004), research at the Institute of History has concentrated above all on the history of political ideas and programmes and also on the processing of the Soviet period with a special focus on the task of the army and the ruling party in the political system (Bohuslav Litera – Emil Voráček – Jan Wanner, *Armáda jako nástroj státní integrace SSSR /1923–1941/ [Army as a Tool of State Integration of USSR /1923–1941/]*, 1997; B. Litera – J. Wanner, *Vnitřní fronta. Sovětský stát a společnost 1941–1945 [The Internal Front: Soviet State and Society, 1941–1945]*, Praha 2000; B. Litera et al., *Formování stalinského mocenského systému [Formation of the Stalinist Power System]*, 2003; B. Litera, *Historie Rudé armády 1917–1941 [A History of the Red Army, 1917–1941]*, 2009). An analysis of internal relations in the Soviet Union came into existence in connection with the preparation of an extensive collective work focused on the origin, peripeteias and collapse of the Soviet bloc (Jiří Vykoukal – B. Litera – M. Tejchman, *Východ. Vznik, vývoj a rozpad sovětského bloku 1944–1989 [The East: The Origin, Development and Disintegration of the Soviet Bloc, 1944–1989]*, 2000).

Next to historical Slavic Studies stand Czech historical Hungarian Studies, represented by the publication activity of Eva Irmanová, highly appreciated above all in Hungary. She has processed crucial topics of the modern history of the Hungarian state, above all the relationship to the peace Treaty of Trianon and the Versailles system, the epoch of Kádárism and the post-war development of the country (*Kádárismus. Vznik a pád jedné iluze [Kádárism: The Origin and Fall of an Illusion]*, 1998; *Maďarsko a versailleský mírový systém [Hungary and the Versailles peace system]*, 2002; *Maďarsko v éře sovětizace [Hungary in the Sovietisation Era]*, 2008). The author has entered the contemporary situation with an analysis of the position of the Hungarian minority in the relations between Slovakia and Hungary (*Maďarská menšina na Slovensku a její místo v zahraniční politice Slovenska a Maďarska po roce 1989 [Hungarian Minority in Slovakia and its Place in the Foreign Policy of Slovakia and Hungary after 1989]*, 2005).

Research into Polish history in the Czech milieu was far from dependent only on specialists in the Polish Studies, as many experts in Czech history focused on it above all in connection with the bilateral relations. This is why research at the Institute of History could concentrate on selected topics of the 19th and 20th centuries. While Roman Baron enriched cultural history of Czech-Polish relations in the sphere of science and education (*Między Polską i Czechami [Between Poland and Czechia]*, 2009; *Ambasadorowie wzajemnego zrozumienia [Ambassadors of Mutual Understanding]*, 2013), Jiří Friedl



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Czech History



A History of the
Lands

focused on the history of Czech-Polish relations during the war and post-war period and on neuralgic points in the modern history of the Polish minority in the Těšín/Cieszyn region (*Státní politika vůči polské menšině na Těšínsku v letech 1945–1949* [State Policy towards the Polish Minority in the Těšín region, 1945–1949], 2011; *Češi a Poláci na Těšínsku 1945–1949* [Czech and Poles in the Těšín region, 1945–1949], 2012). Roman Baron achieved an excellent result by publishing an extensive collective monograph that assessed the results of Czech Polish Studies research from an interdisciplinary perspective, not only in the sphere of historiography, but also of literary science, political science and law, moreover within the comparative framework of Central Europe (*Česká polonistická studia: tradice a současnost / filologie – historie – politologie – právo* [Czech Polish Studies: Tradition and the Present / Philology – History – Political Science – Law /], 2014; *Czeskie badania nad Polską w kontekście Europy Środkowej i Wschodniej* [Czech studies of Poland in the context of Central and Eastern Europe], 2016). It is not only a summary and assessment of the knowledge gathered so far, but also an unexpressed challenge that ought to be followed also by historians focusing on Russia and the Balkans to work on a similar book assessing their results and desiderata and set a programme of future research.

Synthesis effort

Synthesis is always the desired objective of long-term research. Where they had comprehensive results available, the authors of the individual synthesising monographs could participate in the creation of the series *Velké dějiny země Koruny české* [A Great History of the Lands of the Crown of Bohemia] issued by the publishing house Paseka. Among those who significantly partook in the individual volumes are Jiří Mikulec (explanation of the post-1620 period), Milan Hlaváčka (conception of 19th century history) and Jan Gehbart (detailed processing of the development in the Czech lands during WWII and the German occupation).

A synthetic work of another type has been prepared by a team of authors from the Institute of History in the form of the synoptic *Dějiny českých zemí* [A History of the

Czech Lands] until 1945 (the subsequent period was added by researchers from the Institute of Contemporary History of the CAS). The aim of the single-volume compendium was to sum up significant features of the development of the Czech state and the inhabitants living in it with regard to all the strata and ethnic groups. While the overview may be instructive also for the domestic audience, it is primarily intended for the foreign one, which is why the sense of the publication rests in its English edition. Thanks to the cooperation of the Karolinum publishing house and its American Chicago-based partner, it reached the worldwide distribution network as a basic referential handbook on the Czech lands (Jaroslav Pánek – Oldřich Tůma et alii, *A History of the Czech Lands*, 2009).

The synoptic treatises on Balkans countries – *Dějiny jihoslovanských zemí* [*A History of South Slavic Countries*] (1998) and *Dějiny Albánie* [*A History of Albania*] (2008) can be described as successful syntheses of “national” histories. We must also mention the Institute of History employees’ participation in *Dějiny Rakouska* [*A History of Austria*] (2002). Synthetic works on the individual periods have been mentioned in the previous paragraphs; of the latest results, we cannot omit the history of the exile from the Czech lands throughout the Modern Era, from the 16th to the 20th centuries (Zlatica Zudová-Lešková et alii, *Undaunted by Exile! To the Victims of Religious, Political, National and Racial Persecutions in Central Europe with an Accent on the Czech Lands*, 2015), set in the context of European history and successfully presented at the 22nd International Congress of Historical Sciences in Jinan. It turned out also in the Far East that alongside Czech medieval scientists, who acquire deserved international appreciation, historians of later periods are also capable to achieve a positive response to their interpretation of global issues of the modern time.

Institute of History on the international scene

An efficient involvement in international scientific networks is necessary even for the work on internal Czech history, and the more so for broader comparison topics. The Institute of History accepted this fact, fundamentally different from the fearful isolationism of the “normalisation” period, immediately after its restoration. The temporarily more intensive interest in “Velvet” Czechoslovakia and above all the personal authority of František Šmahel fundamentally contributed to the establishment of broad international contacts of the Institute of History already in the early 1990s. At the beginning, the changed situation manifested itself above all in lectures presented at the institute by outstanding European and American historians and in public acknowledgement of their merit for contact with Czech science, expressed in the form of academic medals awarded to them.

A very good deed was the establishment of official contacts with Collegium Carolinum in Munich in May 1990 and the awarding of gold and silver František Palacký Medals to a group of leading **Czech studies researchers** in the same year: Winfried Eberhard (Bochum), Robert Evans (Oxford), Bronisław Geremek (Warsaw), Howard Kaminsky (Miami Beach), John M. Klassen (Langley, B. C.), Jacques Le Goff (Paris), Bernard Michel (Paris), Alexander Patschovsky (Constance), Richard Plaschka (Vienna), Ferdinand Seibt (Munich), Gottfried Schramm (Freiburg im Breisgau) and Ernst Werner (Leipzig). This symbolic act as well as the publication of works by foreign

researchers in the Czech Historical Review created a very important basis for the establishment of close contacts with foreign Czech studies researchers, which simplified the preparation and publication of an extensive bio-bibliographical lexicon of foreign Czech studies researchers (*Scholars of Bohemian, Czech and Czechoslovak History Studies, I–III*, 2005) in the following years and subsequently also the evaluation of the importance of foreign Czech studies for Czech historiography (Jaroslav Pánek et al., *České dějiny v současné zahraniční historiografii [Czech History in Contemporary Foreign Historiography]*, 2008). This erased to a significant extent a stain that had affected international scientific relations with foreign researchers into Czech history in the 1950s–1980s.

The Institute of History fulfilled its international coordination role by entering the network of international scientific relations and an active participation in their activity. Bilateral or multilateral historian commissions became an important tool in this cooperation, including the Czech-Slovak and Czech-Russian commissions based at the institute, as well as the Czech-Austrian, Czech-Slovak-German and Czech-Romanian commissions, the British-Czech-Slovak Forum of Historians and the Polish-Czech Scientific Society. Cooperation was developed also with the Commission for the History of the Czech Lands and Polish-Czech Relations, with foreign learned societies (*Collegium Carolinum* in Munich, *Comenius Academic Club* in New York) and with numerous international scientific councils and editorial boards.

The following **journals** became particularly important for coordinated research into the history of the Czech lands and Central European countries: *Bohemia: Zeitschrift für Geschichte und Kultur der böhmischen Länder / A Journal of History and Civilisation of East Central Europe* (Munich), *Central Europe* (London), *Comenius: Journal of Euro-American Civilization* (New York), *Czech-Polish Historical and Pedagogical Journal* (Brno), *Historia Slavorum Occidentis* (Poznań) and *Kosmas: Czechoslovak and Central European Journal* (College Station, Texas); the employees of the Institute of History have participated as both authors and editors in their issuance.

Starting with 1994, the Institute of History has been involved in international research activity also through its foreign branch, the **Czech Historical Institute in Rome** (*Istituto Storico Ceco di Roma*). It followed in the activity of its predecessors, who tried to form a permanent researcher base in the historical centre of European civilisation in the form of the Czech Historic Expedition (1887–1914) and the Czechoslovak Historical Institute in Rome (1923–1939, 1945–1948). It took over some earlier editorial tasks (*Monumenta Vaticana res gestas Bohemicas illustrantia, Epistulae et acta nuntiorum apostolicorum apud imperatorem*), which apart from their Czech Studies basis represent an important enrichment of research into medieval and early modern history of Central Europe. In cooperation with other institutions (Charles University, University of Pardubice, Masaryk University, Palacký University in Olomouc, National Archive in Prague, Moravian Archive in Brno, Institute of Ethnology of the CAS, Masaryk Institute and Archive of the CAS with the Commission for the Cataloguing and Study of Manuscripts Archive and others) the Czech Historical Institute in Rome significantly broadened its research scope to include research into Czech Studies manuscripts in Roman libraries, the cultural and social activity of Jesuits and other monastic orders in the Early Modern Period, the history of papacy (including the curial finances in the Baroque), the relations between Central Europe and the Vatican

and Czech-Italian relations in the 20th century. Within the prestigious International Union of Institutes of Archaeology, History and Art History in Rome (*Unione Internazionale degli Istituti di Archeologia, Storia e Storia dell'Arte in Roma*), whose member it has been since 1998, the Czech Historical Institute became a distinctive institution in terms of both research and publication. Studies, reviews and reports are published in the periodical *Bollettino dell'Istituto Storico Ceco di Roma*, book monographs within the series *Biblioteca dell'Istituto Storico Ceco di Roma* and complexes of studies and editions in the series *Acta Romana Bohemica*. The series *Codices manuscriptorum Bohemici bibliothecarum Vaticanarum et Italicarum* was founded for the issuance of catalogues of Czech manuscripts (Bohemica).

The elevation of multilateral scientific relations on the standard level made it possible to establish extensive work contacts through a long series of conferences and joint publications and also to seek representation of Czech historiography on the world's most prestigious forum – the **International Congresses of Historical Sciences**. The Institute of History organisationally ensured the Czech attendance at the 17th International Congress of Historical Sciences in Madrid in 1990 (topic *Comenius in World Science and Culture*), participated in the organisation of the general assembly of the International Committee of Historical Sciences in Prague (1992), organised – in cooperation with the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences – the session *Political Culture in Central Europe (10th–20th Century)* at the 20th congress in Sydney (2005) and prepared as many as two panels – the special topic *Frontiers, Massacres and Resettlement of Populations and the round table European Reformation as a Model for Revolutions and Crises for Today's World* – for the 22nd congress in Jinan, China (2015). Although other Czech institutions (the Institute of Contemporary History of the CAS and particularly the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy of the University of Pardubice) also actively participated in the organisation of the international congresses, the Institute of History has confirming its exceptional position in this respect.

Long-term course

The conception of the Institute of History as an important scientific centre and, at the same time, as the central servicing workplace for the discipline, pushed through by František Šmahel in the early 1990s, has basically proved successful. The Institute, affected not only by staff cuts, outflow of qualified forces and, at the beginning, a strong lack of operating funding, but also, more than other workplaces in the humanities, by spatial calamities, managed to survive and achieve a stabilisation. It built its basic infrastructure and adjusted its research and publication activity to the new conditions, including a modified composition of the published journals.

The Institute resigned on an effort to cover all significant periods and topics, which would after all be neither possible nor practical in view of the increased number of historical workplaces in the Czech Republic. It abandoned the former emphasis on economic history and brought the study of the previously neglected ecclesiastical history in the forefront, making use of its branch in Rome. It extended its scope from political history into social and cultural history, which corresponds to the general trends in European historiography, while retaining a very strong direction of research into the development of foreign policy and diplomacy within 20th century history.

As regards the individual periods, it has retained a respectable position in the research of the Middle Ages even after the formation of the excellent Centre for Medieval Studies. Early Modern Era research has been newly constituted with a distinct emphasis on ecclesiastical and cultural history. A modern conception of social history has asserted itself in the study of the 19th century, and a wide range of topics with a clear dominance of the international relations history for the 20th century. While historical Slavic Studies have concentrated to a significant extent on political history of the event type, it has gradually opened also to research into cultural history and the study of ethnic and minority questions. In contrast, historical American Studies has mediated a transatlantic overlap, bringing new topics as well as methodological impulses. The fact that research into Western European history and historiography has not been represented at the institute has been partially balanced by a broader Central European scope of Czech topics, cooperation with foreign Czech Studies researches and the acceptance of impulses from British or French historiography.

The Institute of History has fulfilled its task as a servicing workplace for the discipline also by assuming the burden of long-term issuance not only of source editions, but also of extensive encyclopaedias (*Akademická encyklopedie českých dějin* [*Academic Encyclopaedia of Czech History*] and *Biografický slovník českých zemí* [*Biographical Dictionary of the Czech Lands*]). It has achieved a considerable success and a prominent position in the Czech lands in historical geography and in the creation of historical atlases. The Institute has assumed the obligation to represent Czech historical science at the world forum, managing to fulfill it to an increasing extent over the past quarter-century. This is of particular importance because university workplaces (with the honourable exception of the University of Pardubice and Palacký University in Olomouc) neglect this obligation. The Institute of History of the CAS with a centennial researcher and editorial tradition, re-founded in the late 20th century, has proved its viability and become an indispensable and significant scientific institution at least within the Central European area.



*Documents of
Czechoslovak
Foreign Policy*



*Academic
Atlas of Czech
History*

Biographical data about the personages of political, social, economic, technical, scientific, cultural and other spheres of life in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia is provided by *Generální heslář Biografického slovníku českých zemí* [*General Index of the Biographical Dictionary of the Czech Lands*] (BSČZ – <http://biography.hiu.cas.cz>), which started to come into existence in 1990 and has been accessible to the public since 2015. It contains basic information about approximately 51,000 living and non-living personages (2016), with new information being continually added and made more accurate; it represents a fundamental addition to the printed version.

Mapový portál Historického atlasu měst České republiky [*Map Portal of the Historic Atlas of Towns of the Czech Republic*] (<http://towns.hiu.cas.cz>; <http://towns.hiu.cas.cz/new/index.php>) makes cartographic sources, reconstruction maps and depictions accessible as a model study of the transformations of urban landscape. It is based on the printed *Historický atlas měst ČR* [*Historic Atlas of Towns of the Czech Republic*] (28 volumes, 1995–2015), which documents the development of selected urban settlements in Bohemia, Moravia and Czech Silesia by means of old maps, views, aerial photographs, reconstruction maps and models; it is processed in accordance with the town history framework rules set by the European Commission for the Town History. Thanks to digital technologies, the map portal can publish basic maps from the individual volumes as well as an extensive set of more than 50,000 maps, map atlases and globes preserved in the Czech lands (*Virtuální mapová sbírka* [*Virtual Map Collection*] – <http://www.chartae-antiquae.cz/cs/about>, in whose creation the Institute of History participates), processing the landscape environment in the course of history (*Historické krajiny* [*Historical Landscapes*] – <http://landscapes.hiu.cas.cz>).

The database *August Sedláček ve věku digitálních technologií* [*August Sedláček in Digital Technology Era*] (<http://www.augustsedlacek.cz>) provides access to the gigantic set of source excerpts of the Czech historian August Sedláček (1843–1926) comprised of more than 400,000 file cards with genealogical and topographical records from Bohemia and Moravia. An original methodology and software have been developed for complete processing of the card files; in 2012–2015, it was used to preserve the unique documentation of the history of the nobility and their residences as well as the development of towns, villages, castles, palaces and strongholds in the Czech lands (including documents no longer preserved in the original version). The basic functions of the system are described in a manual, which is available on: http://www.augustsedlacek.cz/sites/default/files/as_pruvodce_cz.pdf (Czech and English language versions).

Ecclesiastical but also cultural, social and political history of the 16–18th centuries gained a new basis in *Bio-bibliografická databáze řeholníků v českých zemích v raném novověku* [*Bio-Bibliographical Database of Members of Monastic Orders in the Czech Lands in the Early Modern Period*] (<http://reholnici.hiu.cas.cz/katalog/>), which came into existence in connection with research by scholarship holders of the Czech Historical Institute in Rome and includes more than 8,250 personal entries (2016).

The *Databáze dějin všedního dne* [*Database of Everyday History*] (<http://biblio.hiu.cas.cz/>) has started to be prepared in cooperation with the Institute of Economic and Social History of the University of Vienna. Its aim is to create a documentary collection of old memories, family chronicles, diaries and other biographical memories as well as pictorial sources documenting the lives of ordinary people from the middle of the 19th century to the 1960s.

The **Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, v. v. i.**, is one of the 54 public scientific institutions that comprise the Czech Academy of Sciences. However, its foundation and activity precede not only today's Academy (established upon the formation of the independent Czech Republic on 1 January 1993), but also the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (founded in 1952). This Prague-based non-university institute with branches in Brno, České Budějovice and Rome has existed nearly a century now. The institute originally founded in order to carry out research into historical sciences changed its name, organisational structure, research focus and publication activity in the course of the 20th century. It came into existence as an independent institution supported by the state shortly after the birth of Czechoslovakia, and although it was exposed to strong political pressures in the 1950s–1980s, it gradually acquired a central position in its discipline, became one of the pillars of the organisation of historical sciences in the Czech lands and fundamentally influenced the construction of their infrastructure. Based on the Act No. 341/2005 Sb. on public research institutions, the Institute of History of the CAS, which carries out research into Czech, Czechoslovak and general history, gained the status of a public research institution (v. v. i.) as of 1 January 2007. Current information about the institute, including its activities within the framework of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Strategy AV21) and the international cooperation, is available on <http://www.hiu.cas.cz/cs/> and/or <http://www.hiu.cas.cz/en/> and also in the *Bulletin Historického ústavu AV ČR* [*Bulletin of the Institute of History of the CAS*] founded in 1990 and available at <http://www.hiu.cas.cz/cs/o-nas/bulletin-hu.ep/>.

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