

Macho, one of the editors of the publication, has contributed an analysis of the importance of a painting for building up and communicating the national narrative. The subject of his research is the well-known picture by Andrej Kováčik depicting the visit of Štúr's group to Dobrá Voda in 1843. The final text comes from Ivona Kollárová, who presents interesting and little known documents connected with Jozef Miloslav Hurban, found in the historical collections of the Central Library of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

The publication reviewed here really deserves its sub-title: *A Personality in Society and Reflection*. Its twenty two texts give a really broad picture of Jozef Miloslav Hurban and his important legacy in national history. It is especially necessary to appreciate the fact that the contributions are not limited to summarizing already known facts, a frequent fault of projects devoted to personalities such as Hurban. On the contrary, every contribution presents new findings and interpretations based on empirical research. These findings concern the actual life of one of the most important personalities of the period when the Slovak nation emerged, and the no less interesting later reflections on his personal characteristics and public actions.

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ZÜCKERT, Martin – SCHVARC, Michal – FIAMOVÁ, Martina. *DIE EVAKUIERUNG DER DEUTSCHEN AUS DER SLOWAKEI 1944/45. Verlauf, Kontexte, Folgen*. Veröffentlichungen des Collegium Carolinum, Band 139. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2019, 341 pages. ISBN 9783525310755.
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The theme of migration, flight from war-threatened regions and ethnic cleansing has become a disruptive and topical subject. Under the influence of recent political debates, society has a tendency to see this theme as an entirely new issue of the 21st century. However, political topicality has also reawakened interest in parallel phenomena from the past. Interest in the early medieval “migration period”, and the migrations, flights, expulsions and resettlements that occurred on a huge scale in the later stages of the Second World War and after its end, has reawakened. One of the themes in this field is the evacuation of the German population of Slovakia in the final phase of the Second World War. A monograph by three authors: Martina Zückert, Michal Schvarc and Martina Fiamová has appeared as the 139th volume of the publications of the Collegium Carolinum in Munich. It is a result of intensive Slovak – German cooperation in research during recent years.

The evacuation of the Germans from Slovakia in 1944/45 is not an entirely new theme. The works of German and Slovak authors including Rudolf Melzer, Dušan Kováč, Michal Schvarc, Soňa Gabzdilová and Milan Olejník, have touched it or considered it in more detail. However, the monograph by three authors is entirely new and pioneering in

many ways. At the same time, the authors could draw much information from thorough, long-term archive research in the Slovak, Czech, German and Austrian archives. They could also rely on fundamental theoretical work on the problem of evacuation and migration, which are well-used in the introductory chapter mainly by Martin Zückert. The work has been written on the basis of thorough study of the archive materials, so that we can say that no significant archive document is likely to be added, but, above all, the evacuation process is seen in its wider historical and geographical context, not as one isolated act, but as part of the overall history of the Second World War. The great quantity of archive materials on which the book is based also guarantees a balanced interpretation of the whole process. Processes of migration, evacuation and flight before advancing armies already occurred during the war. Undoubtedly the most literature has been devoted to the question of the expulsion of Germans from Central and South-Eastern Europe. Apart from this dominant theme, the question of the evacuation and flight of Germans has remained on the margins of interest, as Martin Zückert states. Even in the most recent literature, the question of the flight and evacuation of the Germans is not traced in the context of the war and Nazi policy in this region. The context of the parallel evacuation movements of non-German inhabitants is also lacking. Interpretations of expulsion always consider first of all the intentions of the Allies in the anti-Hitler coalition, but the context in relation to the military plans and considerations of the German military and civilian institutions, which eventually tried to carry out the evacuation, is often lacking. This context is important precisely in the case of the Germans of Slovakia, because in 1946 there were few organized transports leaving Slovakia. A large proportion of the German inhabitants had already fled before the Red Army or were evacuated by institutions of the German Reich, and they did not or could not return. Thus, for the majority of Germans from Slovakia, the evacuation and not forcible expulsion in 1946, represented their definitive departure from Slovakia, their old homeland. In this case, evacuation during the war and expulsion after it, if they were different processes, cannot be separated from each other.

The publication *Die Evakuierung...* shows processes that occurred in Slovakia and the whole region of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in their entirety and complexity. While Günter Schödl in 1995 still wrote of the evacuation of the Germans from Slovakia as an organized exodus of about 120 thousand people, the chapter written by Michal Schvarc documents the facts that this aim was not carried out successfully, the evacuation was not voluntary, and in spite of the enormous effort by the Deutsche Partei and Franz Karmasin, it was not carried out according to plan, because the summoned Germans of Slovakia refused to be evacuated, did not obey the decrees of their "leader", often did not want to leave their homes and were finally caught unawares by the outbreak of the Slovak National Uprising and the approach of the front. Many preferred flight into the mountains to evacuation. At the same time, there was no clear conception of the evacuation either in Himmler's circle or among the functionaries of the Deutsche Partei. On one side, I think there was undoubtedly an attempt to protect the German population from Red Army violence, but on the other, mainly domestic functionaries needed men for fortification work to resist the advancing Soviet forces. Thus, the evacuation process, as shown by the three authors of the publication, was everything possible, but certainly

not a calm and organized evacuation. The publication points to the complexity of the situation and the whole process, which was problematic and involved internal conflicts.

In the introductory chapter, which lacks the Roman "I" at the beginning because it was originally intended only as an introduction but grew into an interesting chapter, Martin Zückert gives a comprehensive summary of the whole problem and warns the reader of its complexity. In 1944 the Deutsche Partei found itself in a situation where it was losing its position in relation to the Slovak government institutions and to its own local organizations. The Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle, which had the task of organizing the movement of the German population, also found itself in a new situation at the end of the war, which gave it an entirely new role. The German Embassy in Bratislava had the task of presenting the whole action to the Slovak president and government, because it was clear to experienced diplomats that it meant German manipulation of citizens of Slovakia. Karmasin's vision of a new position of the German minority in Slovakia as a dominant group of extra-territorial citizens did not encounter understanding even from such a pro-German figure as Vojtech Tuka. After the beginning of the occupation of Slovakia and the outbreak of the Uprising, German military units, Sicherheitspolizei and Sicherheitsdienst, but also the Wehrmacht in connection with the approaching front, became significant actors. The churches, local leaders and the people to be evacuated were also no longer so obedient and passive as at the beginning of the war. All these circumstances and actors formed a complex network of relationships and responsibilities, which complicated the evacuation process.

The Deutsche Partei in der Slowakei was entrusted with organizing the evacuation, but it was not able to manage this task. Franz Karmasin himself feared that the evacuation could result in a "loss of substance" of the German population of Slovakia, which would mean that he and his party would have a weaker position even if they did lose the whole meaning of their existence. However, there was another factor, pointed out in the chapter by Michal Schvarc: Towards the end of the war, the Germans of Slovakia, especially in Spiš, refused to be obedient to their "leader". They revolted and although they feared the approaching front, they rejected their former almost blind obedience. The first part of Schvarc's chapter, which briefly sketches the history of the Germans in Slovakia, and then in slightly more detail covers the period of existence of the Slovak state and the Holocaust, apparently not connected with the process of evacuation. However, the intensive propaganda in the spirit of National Socialism spread by the Deutsche Partei is important for understanding the actual evacuation process. Especially the period of the German occupation of Slovakia and Slovak National Uprising was dramatic. An entirely new theme in Schvarc's chapter is comparison of the process of evacuation of the Germans from Slovakia with the evacuation of Germans from other countries in South-Eastern Europe. Apart from similar starting points, there were some surprising differences. The evacuation of the Germans from Slovakia is presented in its overall context. Thorough study of the archive sources also enabled Schvarc to point to regional differences that accompanied the whole process. However, the author does not end his chapter at the point where German evacuees from Slovakia crossed the Slovak frontier. He traces their complicated further destiny in their new environment. This is an equally new theme for research. Schvarc's final sub-chapter, devoted to legal aspects and espe-

cially the question of how participation in the evacuation was presented at judicial trials in Czechoslovakia and Germany, is also a new theme. How German society and the German judiciary dealt with the fact that the refugees and evacuees included criminals, especially in relation to the Jewish population, was already considered by the author in his second sub-chapter.

The evacuation of the Germans from Slovakia occurred in parallel with evacuation of Slovaks, who migrated in fear of the approaching front, but they were two different processes. The planned evacuation of the Germans from Slovakia had to be centrally organized and had to be gradual, but eventually to include all the Germans in the country. The Reich German, especially military, institutions pursued not only the humanitarian aims of saving Germans from the expected violence when the front arrived, but also military – strategic objectives. Slovak evacuees fled mainly from eastern Slovakia to central and western Slovakia, while Germans from Slovakia were evacuated to the Sudetenland, Austria or Germany. There was also a difference in the engagement of state bodies in the process. On the other hand, however, these parallel processes occurred at the same time and overlapped at least to the extent of placing demands on the transport infrastructure. It was characteristic of German policy and especially of the efforts of the Deutsche Partei that they endeavoured to separate the Slovak citizens of German nationality. Therefore, paradoxically, the processes of evacuation of Germans and Slovaks occurred simultaneously in parallel, but separately and directed by different institutions. The German authorities no longer made much effort to hide the fact that Slovak sovereignty did not mean anything to them in the territory of theoretically sovereign Slovakia.

In the third chapter, Martina Fiamová devotes attention to the process of evacuating Slovaks. She analyses the legal aspects of this “internal” evacuation in connection with the overall development of the country after 1943. She also considers the evacuation of Slovaks from Poland after the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising. The second sub-chapter, devoted to the Slovak government’s evacuation measures, has key importance. In the course of carrying out the evacuation, conflicts of interest appeared between the Slovak government and the German occupation authorities. A chapter is devoted to the flight of threatened supporters of the Slovak government before the arrival of the front.

In the concluding fourth chapter, Martin Zückert gives the reader a thematic summary of the whole process in which he devotes attention to the sociological aspects of the evacuation process and its influence on the social structure of the evacuees. He also analyses the effect on Slovakia’s society and population of the characteristic “double” evacuation of ethnic Slovaks and ethnic Germans by different institutions in the framework of one state. This summarizing synthesis includes an interesting third sub-chapter, in which the author considers the question of space as an important factor conditioning the whole process of evacuation, migration and population movement. The author also traces the fate of the evacuees after the end of the war, pointing to the complexity of their new position in the context of the changes happening in Europe and especially in Germany and Czechoslovakia as a result of the decisions of the great powers at Potsdam. Finally, he also considers the question of memory of the evacuation process in the Federal Republic of Germany and in Slovakia. This memory also had an influence on formation of the community of Carpathian Germans in Germany.

The book by three authors represents a very thorough examination of the question of the evacuation of the Germans from Slovakia at the end of the Second World based on the original sources. The authors offer many new facts and details. However, they have also maintained an overview of the geographical and historical context, considering all the possible connections that played a role in the evacuation process. The book advances our knowledge of the end of the Second World War, while also raising a whole series of inspiring questions.

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LONDÁK, Miroslav – MICHÁLEK, Slavomír et al. *DUBČEK*. Bratislava: VEDA; Historický ústav SAV, 2018, 532 pages. ISBN 9788022416511.

LONDÁK, Miroslav – MICHÁLEK, Slavomír (Eds.). *ALEXANDER DUBČEK. The Symbol of Spring*. Frankfurt a.M.: Peter Lang GmbH, 2019, 556 pages. ISBN 9783631783191.

The collective monograph devoted to Alexander Dubček originated in the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences on the occasion of two important anniversaries of Slovak and Czechoslovak history in 2018 and 2019: the fiftieth anniversary of the attempt to reform socialism and the thirtieth anniversary of the fall of communism. The aim of the publication was to collect the latest research on this theme and present it to the Slovak and Czech public. The English version of the book is intended for foreign experts and others interested in this important figure from 20th century Slovak history.

The work is not only a political biography of Alexander Dubček supported by sources. It is also to a large extent a guide to (Czecho-)Slovak and international history during Dubček's life from his birth to his death. This approach already shows that the book is not a classic historical biography, constructed around a historical personality, his internal and social life, activities and contribution to a particular field, placed in the context of the period. The publication presents a different conception, also partly derived from the fact that almost all its parts have different authors, with 22 chapters written by 20 historians. Each of them is an expert on a particular problem, and this conditions his or her view of Dubček's activities and the reactions to them in the public space. Another element that disturbs the homogeneity of this biography is that in spite of the strict historical approach of the authors, subjective views based on their personal ideological preferences are reflected on their views and evaluations of A. Dubček. The extent of recent research is not the least important factor. Although the authors have researched the whole period of Dubček's life, in comparison with the state of research, for example, at the time of the twentieth anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, the most researched problem is the Prague Spring, and not only from the point of view of Dubček as its leading figure and symbol, but also in terms of knowledge of its deeper processes and wider connections.