

SUMMARY

The Christian Democratic Party before the Regional Court in Ústí nad Labem in the 1950s

Ivana Rapavá

The transformation of political parties after February 1948 also affected the Czechoslovak People's Party. This was a party with a longstanding tradition and hitherto stable leadership. Under the existing conditions, some representatives and former members of the People's Party began to consider the establishment of a parallel structure, a so-called Christian Democratic Party, which was meant to carry on the tradition of the original People's Party. The initiator of the establishment of a Christian democracy was most likely JUDr. Bedřich Hostička, who also partially acquainted some regional representatives of the pre-February 1948 People's Party with his ideas. It is not completely clear from archive materials how his ideas subsequently developed and whether they succeeded in being at least partially fulfilled. I believe that the intention to create a Christian Democratic Party was essentially only attempted by individuals and we can say that a fully organised, structured and functioning Christian Democratic Party was not successfully established. It is also possible to completely reject the claim by State Security (StB) investigators that it concerned an organisation which considered and was fully capable of implementing a political putsch in Czechoslovakia. This was an expedient claim, which was meant to justify action against former People's Party exponents and to provide grounds for taking persecutory measures against them. The extent of these measures can be demonstrated using the example of dozens of people tried before the Regional Court in Ústí nad Labem in connection with the activities of the Christian Democratic Party. This involved thirteen cases in which 40 people were given custodial sentences amounting to a total of 371 ½ years. On the basis of often brutal methods, StB investigators obtained witness testimonies that "uncovered" the structure of the Christian Democratic Party in northwest Bohemia, which naturally did not actually pursue political activity to the extent that was presented.

The story of a priest Václav Mikulecký in connection with the 5th regular assembly of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church

Martin Jindra

This paper examines the life of Václav Mikulecký – a priest of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church – and his fight with an atheistic regime in post-war Czechoslovakia. It focuses on the important events of his life that are partially connected with the events in the Czechoslovak Hussite Church. The state along with the StB gradually banned all Václav Mikulecký's religious activities within the Church. Thus the second part of the paper deals with his tireless effort to spread the word of Jesus Christ again and with his activities outside the Church.

Papal spies. The Czech Province of the Jesuit Order in the machinery of modern history using the example of Father Antonín Zgarbík from the Society of Jesus

Stanislava Vodičková

This study is devoted to the Czech province of the Jesuit Order and its operations during the time of two totalitarian regimes. Against the backdrop of developments in ecclesiastical relations in Germany, a portrait is painted of the ideological conflict between the Nazis and the minority Catholic Church. Furthermore, the study deals with the relationship between the Nazis and German Jesuits, whom they perceived as perfectly trained agents from the Pope's espionage service with networks extending all over the world. Whereas the Catholic Church in the Third Reich had to withstand harsh persecution, the Sudeten German clergy enthusiastically welcomed the Nazis in Czechoslovakia and subsequently in the Reich's Sudetenland district. The clergy only adopted a more sober approach after their own experience of the brutal practices of the new regime in the Sudetenland.

The Czech Catholic Church in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia found itself in a different situation. Besides the ideological conflict, it primarily had to contend with the efforts of the Nazis to Germanize the entire Czech nation. Pulpits became a permanent instrument employed in the battle to preserve national identity. Using the example of the vice-provincial of the Czech province of the Jesuit Order, Father Antonín Zgarbík, this study outlines various forms of anti-Nazi resistance among the religious as well as the lesser known stories of members of the community. It also presents the reasons for their persecution and imprisonment.

After the defeat of Nazism, there was a short-period before the advent of another totalitarian regime in which the activities of the order were revived. In February 1948, another hegemonic regime came to power, i.e. "godless communism," which brought with it the systematic persecution of the clergy. This lasted until the collapse of the regime in 1989. Of all the holy orders, the Jesuits were the most affected. This study documents the specific forms of persecution directed against the Jesuit Order and it devotes itself to the not so well known circumstances surrounding the internment and detention of members of the community in the 1950s.

The fate of the vice-provincial Father Antonín Zgarbík of the Society of Jesus allows us to observe the measures that the state used against holy orders, not only in the 1950s but also in the 1960s, i.e. during the period when thousands of political prisoners were released after a general amnesty in 1960. Paradoxically, at the same time, other clergy members were arrested and tried in a so-called second wave of trials against holy orders. The tragic story of Father Zgarbík of the Society of Jesus illustrates the operations of the Czechoslovak judicial and prison system, the institute of clemency, and the circumstances that decided the fate of a human life in an era when there was an "easing" of the communist regime. In conclusion, the study also takes note of the similarities between the methods of Nazi and communist propaganda as well as the forms of persecution that were directed against the community of the Jesuit Order.

The removal of male orders in the Czech lands in the 1950s in a Central European context or We Shall Protect You from the Wrath of Working People.

Vojtěch Vlček

April of last year marked the sixtieth anniversary of Operation K, the so-called Czech St. Bartholomew's Night, when on the order of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party armed units of the State Security police (StB), the National Security Corps and the People's Militia attacked holy male orders in Czechoslovakia on the night of 13-14 April 1950 and deported the friars to concentration camps. The second stages of Operation K followed fourteen days later, when the monasteries were definitively dissolved (until the collapse of the communist regime in 1989). Some monks were interned in camps with a stricter regime. The younger monks had to go to forced labour camps. In the course of the 1950s, more than 350 of them were convicted in trumped-up trials. Most communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe adopted a similar approach to monks even though each had its own specific characteristics. In the text, we present a comparison of the fate of monks in Czechoslovakia whilst taking account of differences in the Czech lands and in Slovakia, Hungary and Poland.

A heroic sceptic who jokingly had no equal On the life and work of Ladislav Jehlička (1916–1996)

Jan Cholínský

This profile study deals with the life story of the publishing editor, translator, and columnist Ladislav Jehlička, who was sentenced in 1951 in a staged trial with the so-called "Green International" to 14 years in prison for treason and espionage. As a political prisoner, he successively went through prisons and camps at Mírov, Ostrov u Karlových Varů, Jáchymov, Leopoldov, Příbram's Bytíz and Vojna. In 1960, he was released from jail in an amnesty. In 1967, he was partially rehabilitated and in 1968 the remainder of his sentence was expunged. In the 1980s, he editorially prepared or issued several samizdat periodicals and émigré publications. In his periodicals he participated in discussions on Czech history. The study presents Ladislav Jehlička as an important Catholic intellectual – a member of the conservatively oriented group of writers and journalists from the so-called integral Catholics, a political prisoner and participant in the anti-communist resistance, and an important thinker and publicist, who was nonetheless not too well known among the general public. Extensive passages from his essays and polemics are included, which document Jehlička's thinking based on Christian spirituality and his original literary style based on a wide-ranging knowledge of history and literature, interspersed with typical sarcasm. The fate of Jehlička's essay collection entitled *The Cry of St. Wenceslas's Crown* (Křik

Koruny svatováclavské) is also recalled. This was published in samizdat form in 1987, but was not issued in a widely, available version until 2010.

The struggle of Polish evangelicals in Cieszyn Silesia to maintain denominational and national differences in post-war Czechoslovakia

Józef Szymeczek

This article deals with the post-war fate of Polish evangelicals in the Czechoslovak part of Cieszyn Silesia (Těšín Silesia). As a result of the intertwining of religious and political questions with national issues, the Augsburg Evangelical Church was established here after the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This was an institution that was wholly Polish in nature in the interwar period. In the post-war years of 1945-1950, the church had to defend its autonomy against efforts by Czech evangelicals to subsume Silesian evangelicals into the structure of the Moravian Church. The price for maintaining their own autonomy was that that church became subordinate to the communist government and that it lost its hitherto predominantly Polish character. It also gave rise to tensions inside the church between its official leadership and missionary groups representing neo-pietist or charismatic forms of religion.

A series of agency reports on Father Josef Zvěřina from the time of his imprisonment in Valdice 1960–1965

Petr Blažek

This critical edition contains a total of 44 archive documents from the Security Services Archive and the Czech National Archives, which depict the imprisonment of Father Josef Zvěřina and other priests in the first half of the 1960s from the point of view of collaborators with the operations department in Valdice Prison. It is complemented with an historical introduction, archeographic notation, a list of abbreviations and a registry of names.