

Editorial

Dear readers,

you are looking at the pages of a new issue of *History – Theory – Criticism* (Dějiny – teorie – kritika), the first issue of 2023. A lot has happened since the release of the second issue last year: firstly, we have provided the journal with a completely new, advanced, and much more reader-friendly homepage based on the reliable open-source engine Open Journal Systems. Naturally, our new site contains all archived DTK issues since 2006 and all necessary information about our journal.

The issue you are now holding in your hands, or reading on your device screen, has a visibly historical-anthropological and historical-sociological focus. The first article is a study by professor Miloš Havelka on the concepts of Czech-Jewish thinker Jindřich Kohn who advocated the principle of assimilation as a desirable universal historical principle. Professor Havelka deals with the philosophy of history and historical sociology of knowledge and belongs among prominent authors, not only in the Central European context. His text is followed by a historical-sociological study written by Jaromír Mrňka, a noted Czech historian. Mrňka deployed theories of Charles Tilly to deal with yet little-known aspects of the dynamics of collective violence during one of the most dramatic periods of Czech history: the period of violent political and ethnic conflicts between the ruling power and part of the German minority in the border regions of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1938. Jaromír Mrňka views the development, which finally ended with the infamous Munich Agreement and the break-up of Czechoslovakia, with a remarkable analytical emphasis and places it in a broader context of historical violent social struggles.

Mrňka's text in this issue is followed by another "block", consisting of three studies of explicitly historical-anthropological nature. Their authors are talented PhD students at our faculty. Each of these articles has its own specific topic but they are all linked by the fact that their authors approach the problem at hand with advanced and explicit theoretical reflection. Moreover, they deal with aspects of Czech history that

have not been widely researched so far. The papers by Anna Chejnová and Josef Řičář deal with the increasingly treated question of Czech and Czechoslovak “colonialism without colonies”. How could a landlocked state without its own colonies contribute to the discourse and practice of colonialism? Anna Chejnová analyses the problem through numerous representations of colonialism in the travelogues by famous Czechoslovak post-war travellers Hanzelka and Zikmund. Josef Řičář returns to the 19th century and innovatively analyses the work of famous Czech traveller, hunter, and collector Emil Holub using the theoretical apparatus of animal studies. The final text in this second section is an insightful cultural-historical analysis of the left-wing discourse on abortion rights in pre-war Czechoslovakia during the 1920s and 1930s, by Vivian Šefrna.

You will also find a polemical discussion text in this issue of DTK. Political scientist Ondřej Slačálek reflects on the discourse of several Czech historians, egyptologists, anthropologists, and authors of historical fiction who adopted and further develop the idea of the inevitable decline of Western civilization. Slačálek particularly stresses the unsustainability of their theses about the existence of alleged eternal and natural laws of civilizational development. As always, the new issue of DTK closes with a several critical reviews of newly published historical monographs, which is devoted to cultural-historical and historical-biographical texts this time.

Dear readers, I wish you a pleasant summer with the new issue of DTK!

Petr Wohlmuth, Editor-In-Chief

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