Summary

The developments that took place in Prague in 1939-1945 offer a particularly interesting starting point for analysing the impact which changing political circumstances can have on universities. The progress of events at Prague universities and institutions of higher learning at key points of the period of 1938/39-1945 does not readily lend itself to any sort of 'straightforward' characterisation that would take us from a Nazification of the German (and Austrian) universities after 1933 to their eventual de-Nazification after 1945, or from a closing of universities of the occupied country to their eventual re-opening after 1945 (as was, for example, the case in Poland). The parallel existence of both a Czech and a German university (and technical university), their complementary and at times strongly diverging histories at key moments of the 20th century, supply a rich source of material for a study of the complex interplay between politics, university education, and science. Present intention of this dissertation, however, is not to present these universities as a whole. It focuses just on their faculties of medicine, including their clinical background in Prague hospitals.
Faculties of medicine have a unique position not only with respect to other parts of a university, but also in other areas of their activity. By educating doctors, running top level research centres, and due to the functioning of the most advanced health-care facilities of local, regional, and state-wide importance, they form a crucial part of the organism of the city, the university, and society as a whole. In Prague of the first half of the 20th century, the legal, organisational, personal, administrative, financial, and practical aspects of the co-existence of the faculties of medicine, healthcare facilities, the host city, and state authorities were especially complex, not least because of frequent political upheavals. In case of Prague during the period of 1883-1918-1938/39-1945, the usual triangle of a relationship between university, hospital, and city was further complicated by growing tensions and occasional conflicts between the Czech and the German faculty of medicine, as well as their research institutes and clinics. Their mutual relations were further complicated by the changing attitudes of the state authorities: Austrian ones before 1918, Czechoslovak in 1918-1938/39, Protectorate and Reich authorities in 1939-1945, and after 1945 again the Czechoslovak ones. Yet another element that complicated the situation even further were the mutual disputes about jurisdiction and competence between the various institutions that supervised the universities and their clinics, eventually those authorities that had another contractual or administrative relation with the universities (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Health and Physical Education, Bohemian provincial authorities, Prague municipal authorities, private subjects, etc.).
It is only natural that this already complex situation became more problematic after 15 March, and even more after 17 November 1939. The new legal position of the Czech Lands (namely, the creation of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia), the closing of Czech universities, far-reaching changes in the system of healthcare and municipal government – all of which was happening along two administrative lines, the Protectorate and the Reich one – changed the very foundations of the relations between the two faculties of medicine (and their universities), between the administration of the universities and the hospitals, and last but not least their relations with their governing bodies and political authorities. The forced administrative changes were accompanied by arbitrary and often cruel interventions aimed against individuals as well as institutions, in the course of which police or military force was sometimes used.
The history of both Prague faculties of medicine in 1938/39-1945 has been briefly treated both in the context of the history of both Prague universities, and in a number of preliminary specialised studies. Relations between the schools and hospitals are mentioned both in general literature on the history of hospitals, and in publications dealing with the

history of individual institutions. Published biographical dictionaries offer the best starting point for assessing both the active and the passive role of doctors/lecturers in the processes of our interest. Complexities of the relation between medical schools and hospitals have been treated also in the larger context of history of medicine and healthcare in the Czech Lands in 1939-1945.

The main source materials for a study of history of both of the Prague faculties of medicine and their clinics in 1939-1945 consists of administrative documents located in the Archive of Charles University (document collection of the Faculty of Medicine of Charles University 1883-1945; German Faculty of Medicine 1883-1945; Rectorate of the German University 1882-1945), collections of the National Archive in Prague (document collection of the Ministry of Education 1918-1944; Ministry of Social and Health Affairs 1938-1942; Office of the Reich Protector 1939-1945) and the German Federal Archives (*Bundesarchiv*) in Berlin (collections *Kurator der deutschen wissenschaftlichen Hochschulen in Prag und Kommissar der geschlossenen tschechischen Hochschulen* 1939-1945; *Reichsministerium für Wissenschaft, Erziehung und Volksbildung* 1933-1945).

The Czech Charles University was re-opened immediately after the war. The process of its recovery started under dramatic circumstances already during the so-called Prague Uprising on 5-9 May 1945, when the Czech personnel with armed assistance occupied the still German clinics and research institutions, and made them Czech – at first *de facto*, later (in some cases several years later) also *de iure*, i. e. administratively.

The German University in Prague thus definitively lost in confrontation with political powers, and the then triumphant Czech Charles University was soon to face further, no less challenging developments and heavy political pressures.