

Abstract

This study investigates the significant rates of French direct investment in the Czechoslovak Republic during the interwar years, specifically from the end of the First World War until the beginning of the Great Depression. It explores the intersection between external factors that occurred on the European continent and internal factors within the Czechoslovak Republic that drove French direct investment in the new republic during this period. This descriptive thesis uses two case studies of the French economic giant Schneider-Creusot's activities in the Czechoslovak Republic to better understand those motivations. The results from the case studies reveal that the Czechoslovak Republic offered a unique combination of economic stability, natural strategic location, and notable levels of historic productivity. These factors, coupled with the outcome of the Russian Revolution and the Treaty of Versailles, attracted high levels of French direct investment from 1918 to 1929. French foreign policy in the region was driven more heavily by economic fears and opportunities than by political ones.

Key Words

Czechoslovak Republic, France, Schneider-Creusot, foreign direct investment, interwar period

Title

Economic and Political Motivations for French Direct Investment in the Czechoslovak Republic During the Interwar Period: Schneider-Creusot's Activities in the Czechoslovak Republic.