

TITLE: Sudeten–German Nationalist Sports Associations and Czech State
in the years 1918–1938

ABSTRACT: This dissertation deals with activities of Sudeten-German sports associations which had a negative approach towards the state. Their activities regularly provoked reactions from the state authorities and so it is possible to track down a whole genesis of mutual relations between the Czech state and individual associations in the archives. Among the most important sports associations was DTV Union. This union played an important part in the history of interwar Czechoslovakia, not only in the field of sport but also in the political sphere. Many top leaders of Sudeten-German political representation came from its ranks. Among the most famous Konrad Henlein, Karl Hermann Frank, Walter Brand and many others. Apart from DTV Union this dissertation also describes the most militant Sudeten-German sports association Volkspport, which in that time became a synonym for the threat of rising Nazism. The activities of Sudeten-German negative oriented sports associations had a significant influence on the course of events in Czechoslovak state in the second half of the 1930's and their anti-Czech attitudes culminated during the year 1938 and especially during the period of Munich Agreement.

AIMS: The aim of the dissertation is to answer many questions which have not been yet satisfactorily answered by Czech historiography. It is, in the first place, an analysis of the genesis of development of views and opinions of the membership base of Sudeten-German sports associations in the 1920's and 1930's and an answer to the question of direct participation of the above mentioned associations in the activities aiming at breaking the Czechoslovak state.

METHODS: After collecting a sufficient amount of archival sources of institutional character and using the propositions acquired in the previous generalizing research of mainly inductive character, a method of deduction was used. This method enabled an orientation in the obtained material and its implementation. The context which is not possible to read directly from the archival sources was determined by using the method of deduction together with the rules of formal logic.

KEY WORDS: Sudeten-Germans, Czech-German relations, German turners, interwar Czechoslovakia, Konrad Henlein