

The dissertation “Vojvodovo Sketches” thesis consists of an introduction and further of published texts related to Vojvodovo. Vojvodovo, a Czech village in north-western Bulgaria founded in 1900 by about twenty Czech evangelical families from the village of Svatá Helena in what is today the Romanian part of Banat, which they left because of religious disputes and a shortage of land. Although Bulgaria engaged in several armed conflicts in the first decades of the twentieth century, the village flourished economically and the population rose steadily during that period. Eventually, however, its economic prosperity, based almost exclusively on agriculture, was curtailed by a land shortage. As a result, some villagers emigrated to Argentina in 1928. By 1934/5 the village was again overcrowded and suffering serious land shortage. This time some of its inhabitants moved to the Turkish village of Belinci in north-eastern Bulgaria (Isperich region). The history of Czech settlement in Vojvodovo, as well as Belinci, effectively ends in 1949-1950, when the overwhelming majority of their Czech inhabitants left as a part of post-war migratory processes organized under inter-state agreements and resettled in several villages in the South Moravia region of the Czechoslovak Republic. Vojvodovans were renowned for their religious fervour, as well as for their farming technology and administration of communal matters. They were admired by local populations as well as by the state administration which – in the words of one minister – described the village as „exemplary“.