

**Dissertation thesis: Czech Minister Countryman in the Cisleithanian government
(Český ministr krajan v předlitavské vládě)**

Abstract

The central topic of the doctoral thesis is the position of the Czech minister countryman (minister without portfolio) in the framework of the Cisleithanian state administration. The first part of the paper deals with the establishment of the minister's office and analyses his competencies; furthermore it pursues the selection process of ministers and their ministerial activities, the constitution of their office and cooperation of the Czech minister with Czech parliamentary circles in the Imperial Council (*Reichsrat*) in Vienna. An important task of the new bureau was the protection of the Czech national interests, which also included appointments of officials of Czech nationality to leading positions of the state apparatus. The methods of the minister and his cooperation with the Young Czech Party to promote reliable and proven Czech bureaucrats to powerful and influential positions are dealt with in three following chapters. Firstly, on the level of the Crown Land, exemplified by the Governor's Office, Land School Board and Land Financial Administration in Prague, secondly, on the imperial level as in the Ministry of Commerce, and lastly, on the municipal level by using the example of the city of České Budějovice and its local authorities and bishopric. While it is the relation between the minister and the governor which is focused on in the chapter dealing with the Crown Land administration, in the case of the Ministry of Commerce, the relation between two Czech ministers - the one without portfolio and the other at the head of the actual ministry - can be observed and analysed not only in terms of the personnel policy in the very ministry, but also inside the subordinate post administration. The setting in České Budějovice, city located at the Czech-German language border, offers an opportunity to look into the primarily adversarial relation between the Czech and German minister countryman, into their strategies and ways of negotiation. As a

result, the thesis is, in general, dedicated to the problem of nationalisation process in the Austrian imperial bureaucracy at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries and to the gradual politicisation of the state administration.

Key words: Austria-Hungary – minister countryman – state public servants