ECONOMIC CHANGE AND THE NATIONAL QUESTION IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY EUROPE

The authors in this collection of essays address the largely neglected but significant economic aspects of the national question in historical context during the course of the twentieth century.

There exists a large gap in our understanding of the historical relationship between the ‘national question’ and economic change. Above all, there is insufficient knowledge about the economic dimension of the historical experience with regard to the former multinational states, such as the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia or Czechoslovakia; and, equally, too little is known about the economic component of national tensions and conflicts in bilingual Belgium or Finland, or the multilingual Spain or Switzerland. At the same time as emphasis is placed on the complex relationships between the economy and society in individual European countries, questions of state, identity, language, religion and racism as instruments of economic furtherance are at the centre of the contributors’ attention.

The overall aim of the volume is to promote a better understanding of the resurgence of the national question in late twentieth-century Europe against the changing economic, social and political background.

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