

The Economy of Ethnic Cleansing

In the wake of World War II the Sudetenland became the scene of ethnic cleansing, witnessing not only the expulsion of nearly 3 million German speakers, but also the influx of nearly 2 million resettlers. Yet mob violence and nationalist hatred were not the driving forces of ethnic cleansing; instead, greed, the search for power and property, and the general dislocation of post-war Central and Eastern Europe facilitated these expulsions and the transformation of the German-Czech borderlands. These overlapping migrations produced conflict among Czechs, hardship for Germans and facilitated the Communist Party's rise to power. Drawing on a wide range of materials from local and central archives, as well as expellee accounts, David Gerlach demonstrates how the lure of property and social mobility, as well as economic necessities, shaped the course and consequences of ethnic cleansing.

David W. Gerlach is Associate Professor at Saint Peter's University, New Jersey. He was awarded the R. John Rath Prize for Best Article in the 2007 Austrian History Yearbook and the 2006–2007 Best Dissertation by the Austrian Cultural Forum. His most recent publication is "Toward a Material Culture of Jewish Loss," in the journal *Jewish Culture and History*. He was awarded a Richard M. Hunt Fellowship for the Study of German Politics, Society, and Culture by the American Council on Germany in 2017. In addition to the study of forced migration, his current research explores restitution, reparation, and other compensation programs stemming from World War II.

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*The Transformation of the German-Czech
Borderlands after World War II*

David W. Gerlach

Saint Peter's University, New Jersey



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Abbreviations

a.j.	– archivní jednotek (archive unit number)
AM	– Archiv města (City Archive)
f.	– fond (fund)
FNO	– Fond národní obnovy (National Renewal Fund)
inv. č.	– inventární číslo (inventory number)
k.	– karton (carton)
kn.	– kniha (book)
KSČ	– Kommunistická strana Československu (Czechoslovak Communist Party)
LAA	– Lastenausgleich Archiv (Equalization of Burdens Archive)
MěNV	– Městský národní výbor (Municipal National Committee)
MNV	– Místní národní výbor (Local National Committee)
MOPSP	– Ministerstvo ochrany práce a sociální péče (Ministry for the Protection of Labor and Social Welfare)
MP	– Ministerstvo průmysl (Ministry of Industry)
MSK	– Místní správní komise (Local Administrative Commission)
MV	– Ministerstvo vnitra (Interior Ministry)
NA	– Národní archiv (National Archive of the Czech Republic)
NPF	– Národní pozemkový fond (National Land Fund)
OKD	– Ostrava-Karviná doly (Ostrava-Karviná Mines)
ONV	– Okresní národní výbor (District National Committee)
OSK	– Okresní správní komise (District Administrative Commission)
ÓÚ	– Osídlovací úřad (Settlement Office)
SHD	– Severočeský hnědouhelné doly (Northern Bohemian Brown Coal Mines)
sign.	– signatura (signature)
SOA	– státní oblastní archiv (state regional archive)
SOkA	– státní okresní archiv (state district archive)
ÚKVO	– Ústřední komise vnitřního osídlování (Central Commission for Interior Settlement)

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List of Abbreviations

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- ÚPV – Úřad předsednictva vlády (Office of the Government Cabinet)
ÚVOD – Ústřední vedení odboje domácího (Central Leadership of the Domestic Resistance)
VHA – Vojenský historický archiv (Military History Archive)
ZA – zemský archiv (regional archive)
ZNV – Zemský národní výbor (Provincial National Committee)