

Key words: Josef Šusta, czech political thought, german minority in Czechoslovakia, the Sudetenland question

Abstract in English:

This thesis will explore specific aspects of the political thought of Josef Šusta, a leading Czechoslovak historian, First Republic Minister of Education and Protectorate President of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Arts. Josef Šusta was a very active literary author whose political thought has been neglected in favour of his historiographical work. For his views on the German minority and his public activities during the Second World War, he was ostracized and accused of collaboration in Czechoslovakia after the end of the war. As a result of this pressure, he committed suicide. The thesis aims to find out the true nature of his politicizing thoughts on the solution of the nationality problem and, more specifically, the position of the German minority in the Czech lands. With this aim in mind, the thesis will analyse not only Šusta's scientific and historical texts, but above all his public speeches and journalistic activities. Documents of a private nature, such as correspondence or memoirs and diary texts, will also be examined, if they can be traced in Šusta's personal estate at the National Archives.

In the context of the contemporary debate on the national question and national politics, the thesis will attempt to clarify the political thinking of Josef Šusta, especially in the interwar era, with a specific focus on the period of First Czechoslovak Republic and the Protectorate of Moravia and Czechia.