

Michal STEHLÍK – Gerald M. SPRENGNAGEL (Eds.), *Kreiského éra v Rakousku a období normalizace v ČSSR*, Praha: Univerzita Karlova v Praze, Filozofická fakulta, 2013, ISBN 978-80-7308-480-6, 245 p.

This is the first publication by The Permanent Conference of Czech and Austrian Historians, which was established in November 2009. It shows both dissimilar and identical features of Austrian and Czechoslovak politics, culture and everyday life during the era of an Austrian chancellor Bruno Kreisky. The duo Miroslav Kunštát and Stefan Michael Newerkla explains to the readers various forms of mutual Austrian-Czechoslovak (later Czech) cooperation on historical projects; the road, which led to establishing the Conference and its recent activities.

The book reviewed could be divided according to its topics to the political and the cultural part. Political issues are presented by authors Adam Dobeš, Jaroslav Pažout, Christoph Boyer, Hanns Haas, Siegfried Mattl, Oliver Rathkolb, Helmut Wohnout. Adam Dobeš deals with the process of Austrian-Czechoslovak restitutions of property which was expropriated by the Act No. 12 of June 21, 1945 and No. 108 of October 28, 1945. Dobeš describes bilateral negotiations starting in the 1950s up to December 1974, when a treaty of certain financial and proprietary issues regulation was signed. Jaroslav Pažout's study describes activities of radical left wing of Czechoslovak politics; Revolutionary Youth Movement and Petr Uhl's work in the environment of Charter 77. Mutual comparison of both neighbouring social states in the 1970s could be found in Christoph Boyer's contribution. He compares Czechoslovak economy during normalization to the Austrian model called "Austrokeynesianismus" and searches for similarities in both economic spheres. Hanns Haas introduces forty-year-long development of "extended Vienna's writing desk", Austrian region of Waldviertel starting in 1945 up to the dusk of the Kreisky's reign. Haas gives enough space to analyse infrastructure, agriculture, fields of industry and tourism and he outlines a way of Waldviertel's searching for regional identity within Austria itself. Siegfried

Mattl's study describes a left wing opposition of Kreisky's government. His research starts in the year 1968 with the development of so called "new left wing". The author focuses on Free Austrian Youth, Association of Democratic Students, a radical movement Spartacus or feminist movement and he tries to explain, why these short-term groupings left the political scene without a proper self-reflection. Oliver Rathkolb summarizes Bruno Kreisky's political career. The author mentions chancellor's steps in foreign politics, when Kreisky was not afraid to criticise results of the Egypt-Israeli meeting in Camp David, and he also describes Kreisky's decisions regarding domestic policy such as education, judiciary, science and even pro-female-policy, which he achieved due to appointing qualified personnel to ministerial and administrative positions for example Christian Brody, Josef Staribacher or Johanna Dohnal. In his study Helmut Wohnout deals with the development of Austrian People's Party in the 1970s. He describes changes on leading position from Karl Schleinzler over Josef Tause to Alois Mock and party's activities in opposition.

Cultural issues are discussed by Martin Franc, Marek Junek, Michael Huber, Evelyne Polz-Heizl, Thomas Samhaber, Gerald M. Sprengnagel, Helena Srubar. Martin Franc discusses an excessive one-sided partiality for certain cultural phenomenon of normalization, more precisely of Kreisky's era. He focuses on the television broadcast, Coca Cola consumption, pop-music scene and the question of apartments and a modern trend of construction of housing estates. Franc points out the lack of trustworthy papers regarding these topics both in Czechoslovak (later Czech) and Austrian states. He also finds growing interest of the topic of consumer culture. The chapter called "Culture between the Charter and Anticharter" by Marek Junek shows difficult positions of artists, who writhed in rough environment of normalization. No matter who they were, actors or musicians, they had to face various forms of controls and regulations, used by the communist government to secure their public appearances. He also slightly touches the issue of underground culture in Czechoslovakia. Austrian pop-music scene of the 1970s, specifically

a phenomenon of so called “austropop”, is described in Michael Huber’s study. He considers this movement as “a symptom of awakening of the Austrian society” and he defines its position in Austrian culture. The study of Evelyne Polz-Heizl also describes Austrian culture during the 1970s. She analyses cultural structures in Austria of that time and focuses especially on a television production of so called “Alpensagen” by Wilhelm Pevny and Peter Turrini, which caused a huge wave of public offence with its distinctive way of retelling Austrian history starting in 1900. Thomas Samhaber deals with cultural initiatives in rural areas during the Kreisky’s reign. Firstly, he outlines an age of adolescence on Austrian countryside and then introduces several cultural clubs and associations and their activities in particular regions. Gerald M. Sprengnagel shows various sides of Austrian young generation of the 1970s and he explains how mainstream culture and nonconformist subcultures were established and how they tried to make their way through. Helena Srubar shows how Czechoslovak culture influenced Austrian and German society and as an example she chose two icons of Czechoslovak television broadcast – Pan Tau and Arabela series. She describes how the authors Vorlíček-Macourek-Polák-Hofman affected the production of children’s series and movies of the 1960s and 70s and says that they were practically responsible for the high quality of these results.

The book reviewed puts light on not very reflected issue of Czechoslovak-Austrian relations in the era of normalization. Rather than specific results, the paper brings a wide spectrum of impulses for further research.

Alena Bulvasová