

DIE WIENER TSCHECHEN UM 1900: STRUKTURANALYSE EINER NATIONALEN MINDERHEIT IN DER GROSSSTADT. By *Monika Glettler*. Veröffentlichungen des Collegium Carolinum, vol. 28. Munich: R. Oldenbourg Verlag, 1972. 628 pp. DM 58.

By the close of the nineteenth century, the old Austrian imperial capital had mushroomed into a polyglot urban sprawl of 1,500,000 inhabitants. The agrarian reform of 1848 and ensuing economic expansion had attracted large numbers of Czech immigrants, especially from neighboring southern Bohemia and Moravia. By 1890 scarcely a third of the city's populace was native born. Alarmed Austro-German nationalists began to prophesy a "Slav Vienna." Yet the Austrian census of 1900 (which recorded nationality by the ambiguous designation of *Umgangssprache*) indicated barely 100,000 Czechs in Vienna. Even allowing for overzealous German census takers and for those Czechs who inscribed their "customary speech" as German, from fear of losing their jobs or homes, the rate of assimilation among the newcomers was remarkably high.

Glettler examines in microscopic detail the fortunes of the Czech community in Vienna from the 1880s to 1914. Her study originated as a dissertation at Saarbrücken University, under the guidance of Friedrich Prinz. The author has sifted through an impressive array of Czech and Austrian archival materials and contemporary newspapers. The breadth of Glettler's research is reflected in copious documentation and numerous charts and tables.

Part 1 analyzes the composition of the Czech community (by geographical origin, age, sex, occupation, and local concentration), and surveys the many cultural, social, educational, welfare, economic, and political organizations which it generated. Most of the immigrants were drawn by economic opportunity and the chance for social advancement. The organizations they created were functional and pragmatic, not primarily devoted to promoting Czechdom or to thwarting Germanization. In fact, the community set up German-language classes for the newcomers.

Part 2 traces chronologically the national activities of the Viennese Czechs. It is not a story of unbridled success. They lacked dynamic leaders; they were often out of step with the national leadership in Prague; and the few outspoken Czech nationalists were largely isolated from the mainstream of the community. Even the most notable achievement of the Viennese Czechs, the self-supporting "Comenius schools," succumbed to Austro-German hostility. Glettler takes issue with the view that Vienna's colorful mayor, the Christian Socialist Karl Lueger, pursued a conciliatory policy toward the Viennese Czechs (a view sustained by Lueger's famous quip, "Lasst's mir meine Böhm' in Ruh'"). More indicative were Lueger's repeated references to preserving the German character of Vienna. (One recalls Hitler's praise for this "last great German . . . who colonized the Ostmark.") But Lueger's views aside, Glettler maintains that the social improvements his policies brought to Viennese urban life contributed measurably to solving the "Czech problem" by speeding up assimilation (p. 418). This leads to a basic theme of Glettler's work, that the so-called failure of the Czechs' national policy in Vienna was largely a consequence of their "success" in integrating into Viennese society. Glettler's examination of nationalist behavior against opportunities for mobility not only sheds new light on the Austrian nationality question but may well provide guidance to historians studying urban ethnic minorities in the United States.

LAWRENCE ORTON
Oakland University