

**Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences
National Archives,
Faculty of Arts of the University of South Bohemia**

supported by Strategy AV21 of the Czech Academy of Sciences,
research programme “Resilient society for 21st century:
Potentials of crises and effective transformation,

invite You to the

the international conference

CRISIS AND STATE: Czechoslovakia between World Wars as an example

Dates:

Thursday and Friday 23rd and 24th September 2021

Venue:

National Archive, Archivní 2257/4, 149 00 Praha 4, Movie Hall
In case of pandemics going on, the conference will be held online,
or in combined form with the option of remote presentation
for both international and domestic speakers

Connection:

bus stop Chodovec, bus lines number 115, 125, 136 and 213

Conference languages:

Czech, Slovak, English, Russian (without translation)



INVITATION/CALL FOR PAPERS:

Between the two World Wars, the society in the territory of Czechoslovakia faced a fair number of problems, and some of them spilled over into serious crises, both particular and general, which required the response from the domestic political scene and the whole society. With the exception of the period between 1924 and 1929, Czechoslovakia faced several extensive crises. Whereas the aspects of foreign policy and international security of the reactions to the crises will be dealt with in another conference next year, this year's conference will be focused on domestic responses to the crises, above all in the institutional aspect of the critical infrastructure, which we conceive as a complex of elements of infrastructure, where any disturbance of their functioning would have a serious impact on the security of the state and on meeting the basic needs of the population, the necessities of life, health and economics of the state.

As World War I ended, Czechoslovakia had to cope with the transition from the state of war to peace, not only mentally and politically but also economically (through conversion of the industry), socially (for example demobilization, care of disabled ex-servicemen and the bereaved) and in health issues (public health, control of various epidemics, development of modern health service). In addition, it was essential to stabilize the machinery of public security and establish public administration in new territories, while – as a contemporary historian said – “the bronze cliff of state power” was being erected on the principle of the Czechoslovak political nationality.

At the beginning of 1930s, the Great Depression heavily struck the Czechoslovak society, causing many economic but also social, ethnic and consequently political and security problems.

During the gradual recovery from the economic depression, the threat to the very existence of Czechoslovakia was gradually increasing with the increasing hostility of the Nazi Germany as well as other neighbouring countries refusing the Versailles system, which culminated in the international crisis in late 1930s. This menace had to be responded by Czechoslovakia politically (also through adjusted legislation), economically (for example through building up supplies of strategic raw materials, redeployment of industry), but above all through strengthening of armed services (for example army reform, organization of new army units and other armed formations).

The conference aims at exploring the critical infrastructure of Czechoslovakia between the World Wars in its security, economic, social and health

aspects and analysing the state of institutions of Czechoslovak democracy and – in general – the way the contemporary elites of particular nations and ethnic minorities of the Czechoslovak Republic approached the issue of the crisis, and how the states of crisis were experienced in the roles of active participants and victims, e.g. in the gender aspect.

Considering the complexity and extent of the topic, we suggest the following **topic areas**:

- **Intellectual history of the crisis** (e.g. philosophical, sociological and theoretical reflexions of the crisis in the interwar period and its reflexion in art);
- **Legislative preparation for crises** (e.g. adjusted legislation, establishment of special law courts and pursue of political consent);
- **Security response to the crisis** (e.g. transformation, reorganization and organization of new army units or specialized armed formations, including those meant for suppression of state terrorism);
- **Economic, social and health service crisis** (e.g. conversion of the economy from wartime to peace conditions, problems of supplies, war preparations taken in businesses important for the defence of the country, customs wars with the neighbours, forgery);
- **Public administration and crisis** (e.g. considerations of reforms of public administration, the officials' attitude to the crisis).

Applicants can register before 1st September 2021.

In your application, please, give the title of your presentation and abstract up to 1,000 characters, as well as the institution where you work and a brief CV.

Send your applications to the e-mail address: david.hubený@nacr.cz

Organizers of the conference reserve the right of selection of presentations for the conference programme.

The presentations given at the conference that will pass the review procedure will be published in the reviewed journal *Paginae historiae* in 2022.

Organizing Committee: Emil Voráček (Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences), David Hubený (National Archives), Miroslav Šepták (Faculty of Arts of the University of South Bohemia)