

SLAVONIC IDEAS AND POLITICAL VARIATIONS IN THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE SLOVAKS TO MOSCOW (1934 – 1949)

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In the period 1934 – 1949, not only the real international situation, but to a large extent also political illusions were reflected in the relationship of the Slovaks to Russia. The alliance between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union in 1935 also had the support of Slovak members of the ruling circles in Prague. The orientation to Nazi Germany determined the foreign policy of the Slovak state from March 1939. The pact between Berlin and Moscow briefly opened the possibility of diplomatic relations between Slovakia and Russia. The entry of Slovakia to the anti-Soviet war on the side of Nazi Germany changed the political priorities. The anti-fascist elements in the illegal resistance took over the initiative in relations with Moscow. From the anti-fascist uprising in Slovakia, through the political developments in the first post-war years, the Slovak communists replaced spontaneous sympathy for Slavonic Russia with organized “love for the Soviet Union”.
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Up to the first years of the twentieth century, an emotionally motivated relationship to Russia and a “revivalist” spirit of Pan-Slavism were preserved in the views of the leading personalities of the Slovak national cultural centre – the small town of Turčiansky Sv. Martin.¹ The romantic illusion of the saving mission of “Holy Russia” for the Slavonic nations of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy dissolved in the tragic events of the Russian Revolution. The establishment of Bolshevism provoked a re-evaluation of the classic theses of Martin Russophilia. The Slovak political scene in the First Czechoslovak Republic carried a deep internal contradiction in the perception of Russia as a mythical Slavonic phenomenon and, at the same time, a totalitarian communist state.

The contradictions, threats and conflicts in the international relations of the 1930s turned the political vision of Prague towards the east. The gloomy colossos of the dictator Stalin gradually came to be seen as a replacement for the old Russia. The Slovak diplomat Dr. Štefan Osuský, Czechoslovak ambassador to France, lectured in Bratislava at the beginning of December 1934 about the current problems in international development. He placed the “*participation of Russia in European politics*” among the positive

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