

IDEAS, REALITY AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT OF THE SOCIAL STATE IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC OF 1939 – 1945

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The conservative forces in the Slovak society of the first half of the 20th century sought models in Christian solidarity and the corporate state, which would replace parliamentarism of the Western type. The ideas could be put into practice after the seizure of power in autumn 1938 and especially after Slovakia became independent in March 1939. However, the ally of independent Slovakia, Nazi Germany rejected the corporate state. Therefore, the idea of Christian solidarity was replaced with the idea of Slovak national socialism and plans for a corporate social system for the Slovak working community according to the German model. The regime of the Slovak Republic of 1939 – 1945 attempted to put the new principles of the social state into economic and social practice. However, the implementation of the ideas of the time about a social state and the political system of Slovakia stopped half way.

Christianity. Solidarity. Encyclicals. Socialism. Nationalism. Parliamentarism. Political system. Trade unions. State. Regulation. Measures.

The theory and practice of the social programmes of the Slovak Republic of 1939 – 1945 has been a relatively frequent subject of discussion by the Slovak historical community as well as publicists and Slovak society in general. However, scientific works directed exclusively to this theme have appeared only sporadically. The Marxist historiography of the 1950s and 1960s already began to devote some attention to the questions of the social system and social position of the population in the conditions of the Slovak state after 1938. For example, Pavol Hoffmann, Adela Hornová, Martin Vietor and others published works about the social ideology of the ruling Hlinka's Slovak People's Party and the social situation in the Slovak state.¹ Ján Pleva, Miloš Tichý and Zdenka Holotíková concerned themselves with the ideas of Christian solidarity and the history of Christian trade unions.² Jozef Faltus and Václav Průcha, Ľubomír Lipták and some other

1 HOFFMANN, Pavol. Sociálno-ekonomická ideológia Ľudákov (The socio-economic ideology of the Ľudáks). In *Ekonomický časopis* (EČ), 1957, year 5, p. 284-308. ISSN 0013-3035; HORNOVÁ, Adela. O hmotnom postavení pracujúcich za Slovenského štátu (On the material position of working people in the Slovak state). In EČ, 1960, year 8, p. 61-64.

2 PLEVA, Ján – TICHÝ, Miloš. *Kresťanské odbory na Slovensku* (Christian trade unions in Slovakia). Bratislava : Práca, 1967; HOLOTÍKOVÁ, Zdenka. K činnosti a ideológii Ľudáckych odborov na Slovensku v radoch slovenskej robotníckej triedy 1921 – 1945 (On the activity and ideology of the Ľudák trade unions in Slovakia in the ranks of the Slovak working class 1921 – 1945). In *Historický časopis* (herein-