

## SUMMARY

The book of D. Čierna-Lantayová is already the fifth one in the new edition of the Institute of the History of the SAS, called *Slovenská historiografia* (Slovak Historiography). The edition brings the monothematic texts of the outstanding Slovak senior historians, who in these publications present their whole life interest in various research themes.

The summarized publication entitled *Tradition and History* (Tradícia a dejiny) deals with some questions in the Slovak-Hungarian and Slovak-Russian relations in the period from 1934 to 1949. The texts are based upon the deep archival research in the archives in Moscow, Budapest, Prague and Bratislava and in the same time they are a sort of discussion with the other historians dealing with the similar themes. The author selected the texts published in the last fifteen years because of the opportunities, which gave her the opening the archives and the disappearing of the taboo themes. The book is divided into the two parts: one dealing with the relations of Slovakia and Czechoslovakia with the one of their closest neighbors – Hungary, and the second part presents the contacts and influences of the Soviet Union upon the (Czecho-)Slovakia.

The themes, she deals with, bring to the light a multitude of the controversial questions. The outcomes of her research show the attitude of the leading politicians of the Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, Hungary and Soviet Russia towards the forming of the foreign policy and especially towards the political relations among their countries. And all this in a special complicated period – during the World War II and after it. In time, when the Nazi Germany started to march across the unstable and divided Europe, it is very interesting to follow not only the views and motivation of the ruling elites of these countries, but also the reaction of various political groupings and parties. Especially interesting is the short period of the existence of the independent wartime Slovak Republic. And not only regarding the controversial relations between the Slovakia and Hungary, both the allies in the Hitler's New Europe. There had also been a short interlude of the diplomatic relations between Bratislava and Moscow, which the Marxist historiography treated as the taboo. This interlude on the one hand illustrates the political play of the Slovak leaders performed under the thorough patrol of the Nazi Berlin. But on the other hand it documents also the roots of the Slovak Russophilism.

The entire open and controversial questions from the wartime returned – in the slightly modified form – after 1945 and influenced again the mutual relations of the mentioned countries. The hectic international and diplomatic scene witnessed the new wave of the controversies especially among the small states of the Central and South East Europe. But this phenomenon had been only short lasting. Soon those states became the satellites of the Soviet Union and their individual interests were covered by the hegemony policy and interests of the Soviet super-power.

**Edita Ivaničková**