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Economic Interests and National Conflict. The Relationship between Czech and German Consumer Cooperatives in Czechoslovakia between 1918 and 1938

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Abstract

In the Bohemian countries a national segregated cooperative system had developed. After the proclamation of the First Czechoslovak Republic the Czech cooperatives tried to integrate the German societies in the Czech dominated Czechoslovak consumer cooperative system. The German union was very cautious for political reasons. After the so-called activists took part in government the relations between Czech and German consumer cooperatives became closer with respect for national self-administration and autonomy. The Interest Centre of the cooperative unions rapidly developed into an important lobby. But the national conflict was still virulent on the regional level. Nevertheless the German consumer cooperatives were loyal to Czechoslovakia and stood for a solution to the national issue within the Czechoslovak state.