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Bolshevik from Red planet.  
Alexander Bogdanov as a pioneer of (not only) communist's science fiction

Josef Mlejnek

This study focuses on Alexander A. Bogdanov, original name Malinovskij (1873–1928), a Russian and Soviet physician, philosopher, science fiction writer, and revolutionary – in particular on his works of science fiction. Bogdanov was among the original Bolsheviks and became an influential theorist of the new proletarian culture after 1917. Before the Revolution, he wrote two Martian novels: *Red Star* (1908) and *Red Star's* prequel *Engineer Menni* (1913). *Engineer Menni* is a historical novel. It tells the story of the Martian class struggle that prepared the way for the social utopia described by *Red Star's* hero and narrator Leonid, a visitor from Earth. The novels are a vehicle for the social and scientific theories that Bogdanov worked out in many books and essays.

*Bring everything that is really good and of pure blood to the Schutzstaffel.*  
Building Allgemeine SS in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia

Jan Zumr

The study discusses building of Allgemeine SS in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, commenced by the SS command almost immediately after the occupation of Bohemia and Moravia. The entire occupied territory was divided among the top sections of the SS bordering on the Protectorate, which sent their recruiters to the Czech lands. These were men with long Nazi past who had experience with illegal activities for the SS and the NSDAP in both Czechoslovakia and Austria and who could rely on capable organizers. The introduction of the chiefs of individual recruitment sections is followed by an analysis of the recruitment itself, which did not go without problems, probably due to conflicts with the SA concerning potential recruits: it was temporarily suspended and was not re-started until mid-April 1939. The activities of the recruitment committees were completed a month later and, in late June 1939, the form of Allgemeine SS in the Protectorate was approved, including the separate SS-Abschnitt XXXIX with two regiments, 107th SS-Standarte, based in Jihlava, and Prague's 108th SS-Standarte. Due to the absence of major German language islands in Bohemia and the associated lack of suitable candidates for service in the SS, the 107th SS-Standarte only had two instead of the standard three battalions. At the end of the study, the author analyses the composition of the officer corps of the Protectorate SS. Although a considerable part consisted of local or, more precisely, Sudeten Germans, the majority of leadership positions were assumed by Germans from the Reich. Building of Allgemeine SS in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia was formally ended in January 1940, at the military ceremony at the Old Town Square in Prague.

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Fresh information relating to movements of their own, Vlasov army or German units was drawn on special operational maps and recorded in war diaries. To a limited degree it was also intended to provide information to the “Alex” senior HQ or in some cases the Czech National Council or even the rebel radio. The final three edited documents from 11 May 1945 contain an evaluation for Soviet military agencies of the participation of Vlasov army units in the battle for Prague.

## State Security Service (StB) counterintelligence activities against Amnesty International in the preserved documents

Prokop Tomek

The edition of documents presents the development of elaboration of Amnesty International, an international movement defending human rights, by Directorate X of the National Security Corps (SNB) – Counterintelligence Directorate of the State Security Service for the Fight with the Internal Enemy. This Non-governmental organization (NGO) was considered by the StB as part of a coordinated Western ideological diversion. Its elaboration was unique, because no other foreign NGO was engaged in Czechoslovakia to such an extent. However, it could only act unofficially in the country and as an “ideological enemy”. The set of documents shows the increasing scope of activities of Amnesty International in the period from 1974 to 1989, as well as the helplessness of State Security Service officers in their effort to prevent its operation. The presented documents are mostly regular assessments of the StB activities on the given task at the StB Central Directorate, showing both the potential and the limits of documents of this kind if operative dossiers were destroyed. An extensive dossier on subject of interest was kept on Amnesty International at Directorate X of the SNB, but it was completely shredded at the end of 1989.

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## Actions of Department II A of the Gestapo headquarters in Brno against left-wing oriented resistance in Moravia in the years 1939–1943

Václav Adamec

As the main German force in the fight against left-wing oriented resistance in Moravia, Department II A played a significant role in the life of Moravians during World War II. The aim of this study therefore is to explore and describe the activities of Department II A of the Gestapo headquarters in Brno from its establishment on 22 March 1939 until 15 July 1943, when all of the Gestapo local headquarters were internally reorganised according to the order of the RSHA and Department II A thus transformed into Department IV 1a. First the initial course of action of Gestapo Brno will be drafted, then the actual establishment of Department II A and its activities, both from the organisational (bureaucratic) and repressive perspective, including both martial law periods, when several members of Department II A played the role of associate judges at martial courts. Special attention is given to 25 major arresting actions focused mostly – but not fully – on the underground communist resistance.

## Being a nuncio and internuncio in one country. Diplomatic relations between Czechoslovakia and the Vatican from 1939 to 1946

Zlataše Kukánová

The study addresses the issue of Czechoslovak-Vatican relations, which went through a difficult period from 1939 to 1946, leading to discontinuity, as seen from the perspective of the Czechoslovak political representation. After mutually unfortunate diplomatic developments following 15 March 1939, the Holy See responded to Beneš's initiative and attempts at rapprochement. The usually well-informed Vatican diplomacy missed the opportunity to start negotiations in the summer of 1944, during the liberation of Italy, and it also underestimated President Beneš's proverbial intransigence when it insufficiently assessed the content of his memorandum of 1943, which suggested that failure to accept his initiatives would have fatal consequences for future diplomatic relations after the war. After the return of the government in exile from London and Moscow, it was soon clear that the Czechoslovak Republic was more and more under the Soviet influence, but thanks to Beneš's policy towards the USSR, the country initially had a greater diplomatic freedom than some other countries in Central Europe. There were still unresolved questions between the two parties, primarily the continuity of the pre-war diplomatic relations and re-reception of the nuncio Saverio Ritter in Prague, annulment or termination of recognition of diplomatic relations with the so-called Slovak State during the war, refusal to grant asylum to its representative at the Holy See Karol Sidor, as well as performance of the contractual basis of the *modus vivendi* with regard to the regulation of powers of

Slovak bishops. The study maps in detail the discussions on the nature and level of diplomatic relations. The Holy See sent its representative Raffaele Forni to Prague at the beginning of September 1945, demonstrating the continuity of the diplomatic relations. In Prague, it was virtually impossible to reach a compromise between the conflicting views of the President and members of the government, and to push through a clear opinion concerning their form. At the beginning of 1946, the first post-war diplomat of the Czechoslovak Republic at the Holy See, *chargé d'affaires* František Schwarzenberg, was nominated. Prague refused to restore the pre-war diplomatic relations and insisted on a new request for *agrément* for the pre-war nuncio Ritter to avoid having to recognize his position as the doyen of the diplomatic corps. The Vatican refused this solution and sent him in the lower diplomatic rank of *internuncio*, for fear that the Czechoslovak Republic might follow the example of Poland and, as a state of the Soviet sphere of interest, might finally reject the diplomatic contact. The long negotiations were concluded in the summer of 1946 by appointing Artur Maixner the ambassador of the Czechoslovak Republic to the Holy See.

## Slovakia and retribution in 1945–1948

Michal Malatinský

This study aims to analyse the execution of retribution in post-war Slovakia. It begins by explaining the relationship between the retribution in Czechoslovakia and international legal documents such as the Declaration of St. James' Palace from 13 January 1942 and the Moscow Declaration on Atrocities from 30 October 1943. According to these agreements, which were also signed by the Czechoslovak government-in-exile, the Czechoslovak Republic had a legal obligation to judge war criminals who committed their crimes within its territory. After the end of the war the Slovak National Council enacted decree No. 33/1945 Coll., which then regulated retribution in Slovakia, even though initially there were attempts to legislate a common retribution statute for the whole of Czechoslovakia. In Slovakia, three levels of the retribution people's courts were created on the parish, district and national levels. These were characterized by the employment of lay judges. In another part of the study, the author deals with the practise of the Slovak retribution courts in 1945–1948. Their problems and shortcomings are also mentioned, which the Slovak National Council partially solved by two amendment decrees. Finally, the outcomes of the retribution courts in Slovakia are presented with the more detailed elaboration on the National Court in Bratislava, which was the main Slovak people's court.

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Half-forgotten social democrat.  
JUDr. Jaroslav Profous's life story in light of his memories

Martin Nekola

JUDr. Jaroslav Profous was an important member of the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party. In the period from 1933 to 1938, his service for the Republic led him to the District Financial Directorate in Cheb, where he witnessed the onset of Henlein supporters and escalation of nationalist sentiments. He tried to alleviate them by organizing joint meetings and demonstrations with the Sudeten German socialists, but the fight for the continuation of the democratic multi-ethnic Czechoslovakia was impossible to win. Profous left Cheb and found a job at the Financial Directorate in Hradec Králové, where, after the occupation of the rest of Czechoslovakia, he joined the anti-German resistance in March 1939, as one of the leaders of the “We Shall Remain Faithful” Petition Committee (Petiční výbor “Věrní zůstaneme”) organization for the entire East Bohemia. He was arrested for his resistance activities and spent nearly five years in German prisons. After the war, he served as General Secretary of the National Renewal Fund – Resettlement Office, responsible for managing the property of Germans, traitors and collaborators, seized on the basis of presidential decrees. As a supporter of the right wing within Social Democracy, he was not happy to see the onset of the Communist power. After 1948, he was removed from his offices and, subsequently, decided to go abroad. He gained extensive experience within the exile community in Austria, Switzerland and Belgium, and then he moved to the United States of America. From the wide range of Profous's activities, we should mention his work in the Free International Federation of Deportees and Resistance Internees (FILDİR) and the Czech National Building in New York. If it wasn't for the recently discovered unique source, i.e. his personal memories intended for his family, most parts of the remarkable chapters of Jaroslav Profous's life would probably remain unknown to the professional public.

*The birch alley driveway is calling the Chrudim region.*  
Anti-Communist resistance of František Mejtský and his family

Luboš Kokeš

The study analyses a case of the anti-Communist resistance in Czechoslovakia in the 1950s against the background of the story of the Mejtský family from Stičany, East Bohemia. From 1950 to 1951, František Mejtský Sr (1901–1989) provided assistance to two men, Bohumil Eliáš and Jaroslav Marcal, who returned from exile in the Federal Republic of Germany in order to obtain money and various things necessary for life beyond the borders and who pretended to be collaborators of the American secret service in the territory of Czechoslovakia. During their stay in the Communist Czechoslovak Republic they established contacts with people who were not satisfied

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with the regime and who were willing to provide assistance (money, shelter) to alleged spies. During their search for a safe way back to the West, Eliáš and Marcal unwittingly came into contact with officers of the State Security Service (StB) who pretended to be members of the anti-Communist resistance. In the spring of 1951, a number of people who cooperated with them were arrested. Mejtský Sr managed to escape and he then hid from domestic security forces until 1958. His family was subjected to reprisals by the StB and harassment by the Communist-controlled state administration institutions. These reasons led František Mejtský Jr (1931–1998) to escape into exile, where he joined the Czechoslovak intelligence cooperating with the US secret services. In December 1953 and October 1954, he crossed the guarded border zone, taking two radio transmitters to the Czechoslovak Republic. One was handed over to his colleague's brother, Radomír Mařík, who maintained radio contact with the control centre near Frankfurt am Main from 1954 to 1956. He gave the second radio transmitter to his brother-in-law, František Popílek, who, however, most likely destroyed it. Later, František Mejtský Jr settled in the US, where he joined the US Army. In August 1956, Radomír Mařík's radio transmitter was revealed, and the StB then increased its efforts to investigate the case. Therefore, it actively targeted the illegal "operational means" (e.g. secret collaborators, false correspondence) and, in August 1958, it discovered František Mejtský's shelter.

## The Vlasov army in the battle for Prague: Co-operation between the military command of Great Prague and the 1st Infantry Division of the Armed Forces of the CLPR in documents. Part II.

Pavel Žaček

One of the most controversial subjects directly linked to the Czech uprising of May 1945 is the appearance of the 1st Infantry Division of the Committee for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia (CLPR) led by Major General Sergei Kuzmich Bunyachenko – according to German numeration the 600th infantry division (Russian) – on the side of those fighting for Prague.

This edition of the 211 most important reports and records concentrated within the framework of the intelligence and information system of the Military Command of Great Prague – “Bartoš” – captures in a nuanced manner the dramatic development of events in Prague and its environs in the days of 5 to 9 May 1945.

Members of the individual departments of the “Bartoš” staff kept records of all important information and processed them into the form of reports from individual uprising staff, military commands, departments of the government army, gendarmerie, police, national committees and individual citizens, in some cases taking possession of written reports delivered to Bartolomějska Street by courier. Among the staff of the “Bartoš”, command records were distributed to individual departments or handed over to staff vice-chiefs or chiefs, in some cases directly to army commander Brig. Gen. Karel Kutlvašr and his deputies.