The Enlightenment in Bohemia

religion, morality and multiculturalism

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**Volume Editors:**
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Recent discussion of the European Enlightenment has tended to highlight its radical, atheist currents of thought and their relation to modernity, but much less attention has been paid to the importance of religion. Contributors to *The Enlightenment in Bohemia* redress this balance by focusing on the interactions of moral philosophy and Catholic theology in Central Europe.

Bohemia’s vibrant plurality of cultures provides a unique insight into different manifestations of Enlightenment, from the *Aufklärung* of scholars and priests to the aristocratic *Lumières* and the Jewish *Haskalah*. Four key areas of interest are highlighted: the institutional background and media which disseminated moral knowledge, developments in secular philosophy, the theology of the Josephist Church and ethical debates within the Jewish *Haskalah*. At the centre of this fertile intellectual environment is the presence of Karl Heinrich Seibt, theologian and teacher, whose pupils and colleagues penetrated the diverse milieus of multicultural Bohemia.

*The Enlightenment in Bohemia* brings fresh insights into the nature and transmission of ideas in eighteenth-century Europe. It reaffirms the existence of a religious Enlightenment, and replaces the traditional context of ‘nation’ with a new awareness of intersecting national and linguistic cultures, which has a particular relevance today.

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The book's contributors provide a wealth of information that reveals the patterns of Enlightenment in Central Europe. [...] The research shows Bohemian intellectual circles' facility with multiple languages, social diversity, variety of organizations and institutions for intellectual exchange, and the convergence of secular ideas, French and German Protestant influences, and both the reformed and conservative strands of Catholicism and Judaism.