

The Enlightenment in Bohemia

religion, morality and multiculturalism

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Ivo Cerman, Rita Krueger and Susan Reynolds

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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.

Ivo Cerman, Introduction: the Enlightenment in Bohemia

I. Enlightenment institutions and media

Rita Krueger, The scientific academy and beyond: the institutions of the Enlightenment

Ivo Cerman, The Enlightenment universities

Claire Madl and Michael Wögerbauer, Censorship and book supply

Helga Meise, Morality, fiction and manners in the moral weeklies in Prague

Andreas Önnersfors, Freemasonry and civil society: reform of manners and the *Journal für Freymaurer* (1784-1786)

II. The construction of a secular morality?

Ivo Cerman, Ethics and natural law: Jesuit Wolffianism in Prague 1750-1773

Ivo Cerman, Secular moral philosophy: Karl Heinrich Seibt

Ivo Cerman, Moral anthropology of Joseph Nikolaus Windischgrätz

III. Towards a Josephist moral theology

Martin Gaži, The Enlightenment from below: the Catholic regular clergy in Bohemia and Moravia

Jaroslav Lorman, The concept of moral theology of Augustin Zippe, a moral theologian at the turn of the epoch

IV. Morality in the Jewish world

Pavel Sládek, Ezekiel Landau (1713-1793) – a political rabbi

Louise Hecht, The Haskalah in Bohemia and Moravia: a gendered perspective

Rachel Manekin, The moral education of Jewish youth: the case of *Bne Zion*

David Sorkin, Afterword: the Enlightenment – Bohemian style?

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Collaborators:

Ivo Cerman, University of South Bohemia; Louise Hecht, Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic; Martin Gaži, Institute of National Heritage, ?eské Bud?ovice; Rita Krueger, Temple University; Jaroslav Lorman, Charles University, Prague; Claire Madl, Cefres in Prague; Rachel Manekin, University of Maryland; Helga Meise, Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne; Andreas Önnersfors, University of Leiden; Susan Reynolds, The British Library; Pavel Sládek, Charles University, Prague; David Sorkin, The City University of New York; Michael Wögerbauer, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Institute of Czech Literature.

Austrian History Yearbook

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.
