

## Review

**SCHELLE, Karel, Jaromír TAUCHEN, Karolina ADAMOVÁ, Antonín LOJEK. Velké dějiny zemí Koruny české. Tematická řada. Stát. [The Great History of the Lands of the Bohemian Crown. Thematic series. State.], 2015. Praha: Paseka. ISBN 978-80-7432-652-3.**

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The latest volume in the thematic series of books entitled “The Great History of the Lands of the Bohemian Crown” was published in 2015. The book was published under the supervision of the leading expert on the history of law, the experienced author of many handbooks and encyclopaedias, an associate professor at the Faculty of Law of Masaryk University and the former Rector of the Karel Engliš College in Brno, Karel Schelle. One of his co-authors is his student, an expert on German legal history and on the legal history of the protectorate, an assistant at the Department of the History of the State and Law of the Faculty of Law of Masaryk University, Jaromír Tauchen. Schelle and Tauchen are an experienced writing duo who contributed to the reviewed synthesis of the “The State after 1848”. Together, they recently wrote publications entitled “The Development of Constitutionalism in the Czech Lands” and “The Role of Constitutional Law in the Relationship between the Czech State and the Holy Roman Empire in the Middle Ages and its Consequences for Subsequent Development”. They are currently working on an extensive and demanding project, notably the editing of the “Encyclopaedia of Czech Legal History”. Another member of the team of authors is the head of the Legal Department of the Faculty of Law at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Professor Karolina Adamová, whose focus is not only on the history of law but also on political science as well. She, together with her colleague, from the Faculty of Law at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Antonín Lojka, wrote the chapters about State developments until 1848. The complete team of authors is committed to writing another volume in this thematic series of books, which will explore the legal history of the lands of the Bohemian Crown.

The synthesis entitled “The State” summarizes the development of constitutional law issues within both the historical and political contexts. The first part describes the development of the Czech state from its earliest stages until the revolution of 1848-1849, from the medieval to the modern state in all its forms: the medieval concept, the estates of the realm, and absolutism. The second part focuses on the modern state that came into existence after 1848 and on the development of civil society. The analysis is divided into three parts each covering one period of time: the Austro-Hungarian Empire, inter-war Czechoslovakia, and the Communist dictatorship. A detailed commentary for the period up to 1992 is included.

The book consists of 650 pages and it is in the form of an expert monograph with a scientific apparatus including notes, a name index and an extensive list of used sources. Unfortunately, this list of sources is not divided into those that are of a personal nature, institutional, or taken from expert literature. The authors followed their previous studies and relied on current Czech legal and political science historians. Internationally, they followed the works of Austrian and German historians, such as D. Brandes, T. Olechowski and H. Rumpler. The publication is accompanied by good quality graphical materials; readers will appreciate the colourful pictures about the development of the State coat of arms.

The book offers fundamental information about the development of Czech state history; it focuses on theory and also on explaining the fundamental termini and primarily describes the development of state institutions. One of the highlights of the book is the explanation of the constitutional developments from the 19<sup>th</sup> century until the present day. The synthesis of state history is an excellent extension of the series “The Great History of the Lands of the Bohemian Crown”, which is without a doubt of the highest quality and one of the most remarkable Czech editorial acts of the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

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