

## THE CENTER LIES WESTWARD

### Central Europe in Czech Discussion

*Martin Schulze Wessel*

In this article, the young Berlin historian presents an overview and an analysis of the independent Czech discussions of a theme taken from the past but one which nevertheless is still discussed with newly-revived interest. He has evaluated all of the available articles in the Czechoslovak samisdats and exile publications, and has also placed individual ideas in a greater historical as well as in an international context. The author concludes that regarding the three most important points of Czech concern with Central Europe: East-West problems, assessment of the Habsburg Monarchy, and Czech-German relations, there is a common tendency underlying the scarcely bridgeable differences of opinion among some points of view. He finds a drawing back from a conception of history that concentrates on the Czechs' own national past.