

## 19TH CENTURY BOHEMIAN PATRIOTISM AND SAINT-RENÉ TAILLANDIER

*Pavla Horská*

This contribution by the well-known Prague historian Pavla Horská is based on the French Journal, *Revue des deux mondes*, where, in the years 1843–1879, the Paris-based writer and literary historian Saint-René Taillandier (1817–1879) reported comprehensively on the cultural and political situation of Central Europe. In these essays, the prominent admirer of and authority on German culture also dealt with Germany's eastern neighbours, thus becoming one of the first modern-time observers and analysts of nationally rooted confrontation in the Habsburg monarchy. The author of the present article examines how the Bohemian patriots and their autonomy aspirations fared in Taillandier's narrative and which differences, if any, can be found comparing the subsequent French, German, and Czech readings of these texts, concentrating on the especially pronounced differences in the interpretation of the socio-cultural structure of the patriotic strata of the Bohemian society in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Horská singles out questions which ought to be posed by future historiography in order to utilize numerous sources which have so far been neglected, with the aim of solving the one question which has been controversially disputed ever since Taillandier's first articles, namely whether patriotic currents at that time were a kind of "renaissance", whether they signified the beginning of a new epoch, or whether, in the Bohemian lands just as elsewhere, continuity was the hallmark of events.