

ARMS INDUSTRY AS "DEVELOPMENT AID":  
THE RELOCATION OF PRODUCTION CAPACITY  
FROM WESTERN BOHEMIA TO SLOVAKIA

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After World War II, Czechoslovakia's administrative unity was to be underpinned by economic integration of the two constituent countries. This meant specifically supporting the hitherto largely agrarian Slovak part of the nation. Relocating production capacities from the west to the east became one of the most important measures in this field. In the framework of the post-February-1948 transformation of the economy according to the socialist model, Slovak-based plants had to specialize directly in those branches of heavy industry which enjoyed the greatest demand. This decision was partly also caused by the Cold War.

The present contribution illustrates the concrete measures involved in these relocations on the case of an arms producing department of the Škoda works in Plzeň, examining, in particular, the freedom of action enjoyed by the principal players and the methods of enforcing ideologically-motivated decisions at the lowest level.