

A STRUGGLE FOR HEGEMONY IN CZECH POLITICS

The Rise of the Czech Agrarian Movement in Bohemia and its Relationship
to Liberalism and Nationalism, 1870s-1890s

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Most previous studies on the Czech agrarian movement have focused on its confrontation with the Czech liberals and framed it exclusively as an estate movement (*stavovské hnutí*) which asserted the priority of agricultural interests over the interests of the entire nation and opposed liberalism. Exploring the development of the Czech agrarian movement in Bohemia during its rise from the 1870s to the 1890s and focusing on agricultural associations, this study attempts to re-examine its relationship to liberalism and nationalism. It argues that the Czech agrarian movement tried to legitimise its demands and purposes by relying on liberal as well as national arguments. Its rise therefore did not imply a decisive refusal of liberalism and nationalism, which the Czech liberals praised as it sustained important elements of their legacy.