Nuova Rivista Storica

Anno XCIX, Gennaio-Aprile 2015, Fascicolo I

Abstracts

Lukáš Novotný, British Legation in Prague and the Sudeten German issue in Czechoslovakia in 1937

The perspective of Great Britain and its Foreign Office on the development of the relationship between the Czech and German nations in the Czechoslovak Republic changed over the 1920s and 1930s. While in the 1920s London's position on the Czechoslovak Republic was characterized by the recognition of the status quo and endorsement of the rationally managed state, the late 1930s brought a shift from a positive to a more tentative opinion on the existence of Czechoslovakia.

The presented study is based on the analysis of unpublished British sources related to the production of the British Legation in Prague, documenting that the year 1937 marked a change in the Legation's view on Czechoslovakia. Its top representatives, Minister Sir Basil Cochrane Newton and Secretary Robert Hadow, increasingly leaned toward the conclusion that Prague had to reach an agreement with the Sudeten German Party. This was a clear shift in position compared to 1936 when the British Legation in Prague called more for negotiations with all Sudeten Germans, including activist parties.

Keywords:

Great Britain-Czechoslovak Republic British Legation in Prague Sudeten Germans