

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910463981503321
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Titolo	Revolution, modus vivendi or sovereignty? : the political thought of the Slovak national movement from 1861 to 1914 // Josette Baer ; with a foreword by Dusan Kovac
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Stuttgart : , : Ibidem Verlag, , 2014
ISBN	3-8382-6146-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (271 p.)
Disciplina	320.9437309049
Soggetti	Nationalism - Slovakia Electronic books. Slovakia History Autonomy and independence movements Czechoslovakia Politics and government Slovakia Politics and government
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Table of contents; Foreword: Slovak political thought as discovery; Acknowledgements; X. Introduction; X. 1. The Hungarian reform period and illegal Magyarisation; X. 2. The early Slovak national movement; X. 3. Codification, revolution and the congress of the Slavs; X. 4. Neo-Absolutism, the October diploma and the memorandum; X. 5. The Ausgleich, the Matica Slovenska and the nationality law of 1868; X. 6. The political situation until WWI and the emerging of the Slovakcitizenry; X. 7. Method, definitions, contents, hypothesis; X. 7. 1. Method; X. 7. 2. Definitions X. 7. 3 Contents, hypothesisI. Jan Francisci (1822 - 1905). Romanticism and Pragmatism; I. 1. Political goals; I. 1. 1. The three falcons and the revolution; I. 1. 2. The Pestbudinske vedomosti and the memorandum of 1861; I. 2. Political legitimating; I. 2. 1. Pragmatism; Jan Francisci - life in brief; II. Jan Palarik (1822 - 1870). Liberalism and Constitutionalism; II. 1. Political goals; II. 1. 1. With civil rights toward a federation; II. 2. Political legitimating; II. 2. 1. Montesquieu or the spirit of The spirit of the laws; II. 2. 2. Critique of the Ausgleich II. 2. 3. The rejection of natural lawJan Palarik - life in brief27; III.

Stefan Marko Daxner (1822 - 1892). Law and education.; III. 1. Political goals; III. 1. 1. The Slovak gymnasium in Velka Revuca; III. 2. Political legitimating; III. 2. 1. Natural Law and Positive Law; III. 2. 2. Slovak Democratism; III. 2. 3. Distributive justice and moral death; Stefan Marko Daxner - life in brief; IV. Frantisek Vitazoslav Sasinek (1830 - 1914). History and eccentricity.; IV. 1. Political goals; IV. 1. 1. Language of communication; IV. 1. 2. The idea of power sharing; IV. 2. Political legitimating  
IV. 2. 1. Anti-LiberalismIV. 2. 2. Constitutionalism or absolutism?; IV. 2. 3. Slavic solidarity; IV. 2. 4. The historical catechism for the Slovaks; Frantisek Vitazoslav Sasinek - life in brief; V. Svetozar Hurban Vajansky (1847 - 1916). Messianism,Panslavism and the superiority of art.; V. 1. Political goals; V. 1. 1. The Slovak Messianism; V. 2. Political legitimating; V. 2. 1. Insights and outlooks; V. 2. 2. The rejection of modernity; Svetozar Hurban Vajansky - life in brief; Conclusion; 1. The autonomy of the okolie; 2. Sovereignty; 3. Method and philosophical influence; 4. Hypothesis  
BibliographyIndex

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## Sommario/riassunto

This study, the first of its kind in English, presents an overview of Slovak intellectual history in the 19th century, including the debates surrounding the memorandum of 1861, the political stagnation of the 1880s, characterized by an increasingly Russophile orientation, and, finally, Czechoslovakism as the way to common independence with the Czechs. The selected portraits of six intellectuals and politicians should be seen as a prism through which Slovak intellectual history appears in its various facets. The 'narodovci' (the pioneers of national awakening) tried to strengthen th

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