

# *preface*

We have a pleasure and honor to announce the publication of the first volume of the *West Bohemian Historical Review*, a new periodical organ dedicated to the interdisciplinary research and understanding of history. We are very grateful to our colleagues from other universities, especially to Professor Gabriele Clemens from the Department of History of the University of Hamburg and Professor Aleš Skřivan from the Institute of World History of the University of Charles in Prague, for their generous effort and assistance to enable us to fulfill our aspiration. *The West Bohemian Historical Review* is open for historians dealing with very various and special fields of historical knowledge, methodological approaches and ways of conceptualizations. Our aim is to create a wide international epistemic and academic community of scholars devoted to the history as a scientific discipline that is more than 2400 years old and that forms an integral part of Western intellectual heritage. In the last decades, the relative tranquility of academic world has been shaken by cognitive relativism and moral nihilism stemming from language-based modes of ideological criticism and by a political strategy striving to reduce a university education and freedom to a pure social engineering and technocratic pragmatism. The above mentioned menace should be met by visible demonstrations that traditional academic endeavors and obligations do not present a futile anachronism dispensable in our fast-moving global world but that - on the contrary - they are closely linked to the core values and identity of Western civilization and to the civic virtues of modern state. We hope that *the West Bohemian Historical Review* will become a constituent part of the community of professional historians and all persons interested in the study of history and we invite all our colleagues to join us in our attempt to create a new and vital platform for presentation of results of historical investigations.

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