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## The Decline and Resurgence of the Sokol Movement in Bohemia and Moravia (1872–1882)

My PhD project, carried out at Charles University (Institute of History, Faculty of Arts) is devoted to a less-studied period in the history of the Sokol movement in Bohemia and Moravia, namely the 1870s and early 1880s, when Czech gymnastic clubs experienced a significant decline but ultimately managed to overcome it. This era was shaped by Czech passive resistance following the failure of the Fundamental Articles in 1871, the financial crisis of 1873 and the following Long Depression, the establishment of the Young Czech Party in 1874, the Great Eastern Crisis of 1875–1878, the end of German liberalism in Austrian politics, the Czechs' entry into the Taaffe government in 1879, and other major developments that, among other things, affected voluntary associations in Bohemia and Moravia. Like many Austrian ostensibly non-political associations, Sokol clubs were driven by political ideology, namely Czech nationalism, and played a certain role in regional and local political life. My research draws on a variety of historical sources, including Czech and German newspapers and the Sokol collections held by the National Museum and the National Archives in Prague, as well as regional archives. I plan to conduct six case studies, focusing on Sokol clubs not only in the capital cities of Bohemia and Moravia (Prague and Brno), but also in medium-sized cities (Plzeň and Prostějov) and smaller towns (Beroun and Vyškov). At present, I am working on the case of the Sokol in Beroun. Among the most significant developments that may have led to the dissolution of the club in the second half of the 1870s were, first, the bankruptcy of the local credit union preceded by the fraudulent activities of its director Vavřinec Wiesenberger (who was also the local mayor and the president of Sokol and other associations) and his flight to the United States, and, second, the rivalry between local firefighters and gymnasts. My current research builds, first, on the long historiographical tradition examining the Sokol movement, including the works of Ladislav Jandásek, Claire E. Nolte, and others, and, second, on my previous work on the beginnings of the Sokol

movement, conducted at the Institute of Slavic Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences, the results of which were presented in the monograph Falcon's Rise: Sport and Politics in the Czech Lands (1861–1871) (Сокольский взлёт: спорт и политика в чешских землях (1861–1871) (2024)).

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