

3.4 Au milieu des changements géopolitiques européens après les conflits de guerre au XX^e siècle et leur contexte par rapport aux entreprises franco-tchèques

Jakubec, Ivan (Université Charles Prague) : *An attempt to transform ČD after the First World War by applying foreign experience from France and Germany, (en anglais).*

Information about foreign experience and technical innovations was one of the important activities of institutions and enterprises, regardless of whether they were private owners or the state. This is also true for one of the largest state-owned enterprises, the Czechoslovak State Railways (ČSD). The National Archives in Prague have preserved several interesting and unused documents that show that the state railways were not as unwieldy as one might assume given their size and staffing. On the contrary, the efforts to send experts on foreign study tours appear to have been very well thought out, both in terms of the timing and the destinations visited. This paper concentrates on foreign study trips to France and Germany. In the early 1920s, interest was concentrated on the manufacture of steam locomotives in terms of economy, in the second half of the 1920s in terms of mechanisation of work performance, suburban transport and electrification and the study of railway superstructure, and in the late 1930s the study of modern carriage construction. It was therefore an effort to reduce costs, increase efficiency, introduce electric operation, and organize work.