CALL FOR PAPERS

Institute of State and Law, Czech Academy of Sciences,
Institute of History, Czech Academy of Sciences,
and National Archive of the Czech Republic
cordially invite you to the international conference

Citizens at last!

THE CHALLENGING PATH TOWARDS UNIVERSAL AND EQUAL SUFFRAGE: 1905 / 1924

Date of the conference: **December 4th, 2026**
Venue: **Prague, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Národní třída 3 (main building)**

Občané! Dělníci!

Dne 4. a 5. listopadu t. r. byla v Praze prolita dělnická krev těmi, kteří v prvé řadě stanovení jsou k udržování veřejného pořádku! A to stalo se proto jen, že dělnictvo klidným způsobem domáhá se občanské rovnoprávnosti, jejímž základem jest

všeobecné, přímé a rovné právo hlasovací.

K mnohým útiskům bezprávného lidu přibyl nový! Vláda společně s dvorní kamarilou, s očpicovatými bi-

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Akademie věd ČR

HISTORICKÝ ÚSTAV
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Špičkový výzkum ve veřejném zájmu

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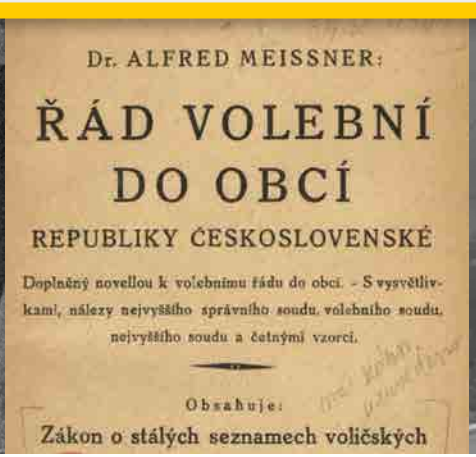

One of the most significant civilizational shifts of the 20th century was the gradual adoption—across numerous nations worldwide—of the principle of universal and equal suffrage (right to vote and right to be elected), free from restrictions based on wealth or sex. It has been 120 years since the struggle for an implementation of universal and equal suffrage in Cisleithania (Austria); however, that right was restricted to men and applied only to elections for the House of Representatives of the Imperial Council—leaving the Upper House unelected—and was characterized by significant disparities in the weight of a voter's ballot across the various lands of Cisleithania. Ongoing political efforts to abolish the existing curial electoral system for the Provincial Diets proved unsuccessful. It was only the fall of the monarchy and the establishment of the democratic republics in 1918 that politically enabled the introduction of truly universal and equal suffrage. In Czechoslovakia first for municipal elections held in 1919 (though not in Slovakia or Carpathian Ruthenia), and subsequently for the 1920 National Assembly elections. However, it was not until 1924 that the first National Assembly elections based on universal suffrage were held in the eastern part of Czechoslovakia, Carpathian Ruthenia. Our conference aims to highlight the complexity of the process of implementing universal and equal suffrage and the broad societal response it elicited. We welcome contributions addressing specific legal, historical, administrative-organizational, and other social aspects of this fundamental change. Papers may focus on general issues or on the practical application of suffrage at regional and local levels; its reflection in the contemporary press, literature, and popular culture; on efforts to secure women's suffrage; on election campaigns; on organizational and practical aspects of conducting elections; as well as comparative perspectives—particularly within the Central European context—or on the archival collections related to elections and the struggle for suffrage.

Conference Organizing Committee:
Jan Kober, Ivan Halász (Institute of State and Law, Czech Academy of Sciences),
David Hubený, Miroslav Šepták (National Archives),
Emil Voráček, Jiří Martínek (Institute of History, Czech Academy of Sciences)

Guidelines for conference paper proposals:
Proposal submission deadline: **October 20, 2026**.
Proposals must be submitted electronically to the following email address: **konference.vvp@ilaw.cas.cz**.
Submissions must include the title of the paper and an abstract (at least 250 words) in both Czech and English. Presentations are expected to last 15–20 minutes. Conference papers will be published; the submission deadline for the final papers is January 31, 2027.
There is no conference fee. Participants are responsible for covering their own travel and accommodation expenses.