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ETHNICITY, NATIONALISM AND POLITICS. PROLEGOMENA TO TERMINOLOGY AND EXEMPLIFICATION OF LEADING ETHNONATIONAL TRADITIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE IN NEWEST HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Abstract: The considerations in this article concern the scale of the impact of political traditions – based on the combination of ethnicity and nationalism – occurring in four Central European countries. In the first part, the author refers to the concepts of: ethnicity, nationalism and politics (and related concepts) and the relationships between them on the basis of selected research approaches, including by recalling his own, original understanding of nationalism. In this way, it creates a theoretical basis for the considerations in the second part focused on the reflection of the above-mentioned connections from the perspective of the political history of the recent and contemporary countries mentioned above. The author verifies the assumption to what extent the political tradition established earlier in these countries (or their predecessors, vide: Czechoslovakia as a past existence), based on the link between ethnicity and nationalism, is still alive today. The descriptive-historical method is therefore of leading importance in the comparative research approach used. This, in turn, makes it possible to formulate a general conclusion that the vitality of the political traditions

of the above mentioned it is maintained while remaining diversified in terms of the strength of their present impact.

Keywords: ethnicity, nationalism, politics, ethnopolitics, Central Europe.

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