

## CZECHIA

### Moravians

Activity: 1993-2020

### General notes

NA

### Movement start and end dates

- The Moravian movement emerged when the Czech Republic still belonged to Czechoslovakia (see Moravians under Czechoslovakia). There is continued activity in the Czech Republic, hence we code the Moravians under the header of the Czech Republic as of 1993. The popularity of regional parties declined and in the 1996 election, the various regional parties even failed to make the 5 percent threshold for entering the parliament (Strmiska 2000). However, in 2005 a new Moravian autonomist party, Moravane, was formed (Jenne 2007; Minahan 2002; Moravane; Strmiska 2000).
- Another ongoing Moravian party is the Moravian Autonomous Movement (Moravské Zemské Hnutí [MZH]), which has a more moderate nationalist agenda and a focus on regionalism and autonomy. The party was founded in 2018 and participated in the 2018 elections to senate, but without success.
- Meanwhile, the other Moravian party, Moravané, also continues to have limited success in national elections but has had more success in local elections. For example, it gained 71 representatives in the 2014 elections to local bodies (Muš 2019: 1057). We code the movement as ongoing. [start date: 1968; end date: ongoing]

### Dominant claim

- Until 1992, under Czechoslovakia, the Moravian movement's dominant claim was for sub-state secession, but with the dissolution of Czechoslovakia the dominant claim appears to have shifted to independence.
- The main reason for this is that core organizations who had used to claim SD on behalf of the Moravians in Czechoslovakia, and in particular the Movement for Self-Governing Democracy-Association for Moravia and Silesia (HSD-SMS), abandoned the focus on territorial SD soon after the dissolution, which led to a splintering of the movement. Secessionist claims were strongest among the remnants of the Moravian movement (Strmiska 2000).
- Some more detailed notes:
  - o More specifically, the HSD-SMS changed its name to the Movement for Self-Governing Democracy of Moravia and Silesia (HSDMS) right after the dissolution of Czechoslovakia. It then transformed into the Bohemian-Moravian Centre Party (ČMSS), a "centrist party with its strongest base in Moravia." This transformation, which implied the abandonment of the SD claim, led to open conflict within the party and the separation of the "Brno group" (Strmiska 2000)
  - o In the subsequent 1994 elections, a total of six Moravian parties competed.
  - o The newly founded ČMSS was overtaken by the Movement of Self-Governing Moravia and Silesia (HSMS), a splinter group of the ČMSS.
  - o The Moravian National Party, a secessionist organization, came in second among the Moravian parties.
  - o Moravane, founded in 2005 via the merger of different Moravian parties, also advocates independence of Moravia.

- Since the formation of the Moravian Autonomous Movement (MAM) in 2018 the dominant claim has become more ambiguous as that party only advocates internal autonomy. However, Moravane is more successful electorally (see under Movement start and end date), so we continue to code independence as the dominant claim. [1993-2020: independence claim]

### **Independence claims**

- See above. [start date: 1993; end date: ongoing]

### **Irredentist claims**

NA

### **Claimed territory**

- The territory claimed by the Moravians is the historic region of Moravia, which roughly corresponds to, but does not exactly match the current administrative regions Brnensky, Olomoucky, Ostransky, and Zlinsky (Minahan 2002: 1302). We code this claim based on a map from Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Moravia{\&}oldid=1027671184>.

### **Sovereignty declarations**

NA

### **Separatist armed conflict**

- No violence was found, hence a NVIOLSD classification. [NVIOLSD]

### **Historical Context**

- Great Moravia, uniting Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, southern Poland and northern Hungary, collapsed in 908 and became part of the Holy Roman Empire in 955. From the tenth century until 1918, the Moravians were under the control of the European empires and periodically achieved a significant degree of autonomy (Hewitt and Cheetham 2000): While Bohemia, which include Moravia in 1029, became a hereditary kingdom in the thirteenth century, Moravia could maintain its separate diet, parliament and administration. By 1526, Bohemia and Moravia became integral parts of the Habsburg Empire and lost their remaining independence after the battle of White Mountain in 1620. Germanization and repression of the Moravian national life such as religious persecution and oppressive taxes followed. Germanization increased after the complete incorporation into Austrian Empire in the eighteenth century. In 1849, Moravia was separated from Bohemia and became a separate Austrian crownland (Minahan 2002).
- Czechoslovakia, a federated union of Czechs and Slovaks that united Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia, was established as one of the successor states of the Austro-Hungarian Empire after the First World War and the Treaty of St. Germain. The Czechs were the dominant national group in the new, highly centralized state, resulting increased Moravian resentment of the Czech hegemony (Minahan 2002).
- The coexistence was interrupted during the Second World War when Bohemia and Moravia were proclaimed the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and the “Slovak Republic”, a Slovak fascist puppet state under Nazi suzerainty, was established (Hewitt and Cheetham 2000; Minorities at Risk Project; World Directory of Minorities).

- After the war, Czechoslovakia came under Soviet influence and became a centralized communist state in 1948. The province of Moravia and Silesia was replaced by four administrative units. The 1960 Constitution articulated extreme centralism and split the Moravia into two new regions, making Moravia politically cease to exist (Minahan 2002; World Directory of Minorities).

### **Concessions and restrictions**

- Supporters of Moravian autonomy had obtained a quarter of the votes in Moravia in the first federal and national elections in Czechoslovakia. In response to this, the Czech Republic re-designed the borders of Czech regions, and Moravia was divided into different electoral regions in 1997 through Constitutional Act 347 (Murphy 2014). However, we found no evidence to suggest that this limited the autonomy rights of Moravians, which are highly limited anyway.

### **Regional autonomy**

NA

### **De facto independence**

NA

### **Major territorial changes**

- The Czech Republic gained independence in 1993, implying a host change. [1993: host change (new)]

### **EPR2SDM**

<i>Movement</i>	Moravians
<i>Scenario</i>	n:1
<i>EPR group(s)</i>	Czechs
<i>Gwgroupid(s)</i>	31601000

### **Power access**

- According to EPR, ethnicity is politically not relevant in the Czech Republic as the EPR group of Czechs make up 100 percent of the population – and hence also includes the Moravians. Although Moravians only constitute around 15 percent of the Czech group, they are well-represented in the political life (although they do not speak of themselves as Moravians). With Paroubek (2005-2006) and Necas (2010-2013), there were two prime ministers with Moravian origin. Notably, political parties with a specific Moravian focus have gained only limited success at the regional elections and continuously failed to pass the 5% threshold to enter the central parliament. [1993-2020: junior partner]

### **Group size**

- In the 1991 census, when respondents were allowed to claim Moravian nationality for the first time, 1,362,313 declared Moravian ethnicity (Neustupny and Nekvapil 2006). However, because

many people boycotted the nationality question and many ethnic Moravians also identify themselves as Czechs, the census data does not accurately reflect the actual number of Moravians. We hence rely on the population number indicated by Minahan (2002), who states that there were approximately 1,528,000 Moravians in the Czech Republic in 2002. With the Czech Republic's population totaling 10.2 million in 2002 (according to the World Bank), the Moravians make up approximately 14.98 percent of the Czech Republic. [0.1498]

### Regional concentration

- According to Minahan (2002: 1302), the majority of the Moravians is located in the Region of Moravia and Silesia, where they comprise approx. 37% (together with the Silesians) of the local population. They are thus a minority in their territory, which is why we code them as not concentrated. Other groups in Moravia and Silesia are the Czechs (44%) or the Slovaks (5%). We found no evidence for an alternatively defined territory that would cross the threshold for spatial concentration. [not concentrated]

### Kin

- No evidence found. [no kin]

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