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The Institute, re-established in 1990, is the successor of the Czechoslovak State Historical Publishing Institute, which was founded in 1920 and incorporated in 1953 into the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences as the Academy's Institute of History. In 1970, this Institute was abolished and reorganised to form the Institute of Czechoslovak and World History within the Academy, which was dissolved in 1989. In 1993, the renewed Institute of History was merged with part of the former Institute of Central and East European History of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution as of 1 January 2007.

The research scope of the Institute covers Bohemian, Czechoslovak and general (especially Central and East European) history from the Early Middle Ages to World War II, and the theory and methods of historical research, with long-term projects on encyclopaedic and biographical studies and historical geography. The Institute publishes critical editions of historical sources of all times and a systematic bibliography on Czech history in printed and electronic forms. The Institute's library contains an invaluable collection of Bohemian historical literature, including old printings and first issues, as well as an extensive collection of ancient maps and atlases. The Institute has in its care the rich hand-written material on historical topography, which has been left by August Sedláček, a renowned Czech historian.

Joint Research Centres

- Czech Historical Institute in Rome (Istituto Storico Ceco di Roma) The Institute was re-established in 1994 as a joint department of the Academy's Institute of History and the Faculty of Arts, Charles University. The Czech Historical Institute in Rome publishes *Bolletino dell'Istituto Storico Ceco di Roma.*
- Centre of Early Modern Studies
 The Centre was established in 2003 as a joint department of the Academy's Institute of History and the Institute of History, University of South Bohemia. The Centre focuses on editing Bohemian early modern sources.
- Centre of Studies in Law History
 The Centre was established in 2007 as a joint department of the Academy's
 Institute of History and the Law School of Charles University.

The Institute publishes the journal Český časopis historický. Czech Historical Review, founded in 1895. It also publishes Slovanský přehled. Review of Central, Eastern and Southeastern European History (Slavonic Review) and Bulletin Historického ústavu AVČR (Bulletin of the Institute of History ASCR). The Institute also issues several series of proceedings: Folia Historica Bohemica, Historica. Historical Sciences in the Czech Republic, Historická geografie (Historical Geography), Hospodářské dějiny. Economic History, Mediaevalia Historica Bohemica, Moderní dějiny. Modern History, Slovanské historické studie (Slavonic Historical Studies).

More detailed information about the organisational structure of the Institute and its research and specialised units can be found at the following URL: http://www.hiu.cas.cz