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Paper title: The Nation versus the Church? - Antireligious sentiments in political
                                 mobilisation in context of the contemporary Czech national self-
                                 understanding

Abstract: Anticlerical, mainly anticatholic, sentiments became a major component
                                 of the Czech nation-building, after it had reached its political phase. This
                                 was so despite the fact, that the lower clergy had played a crucial and
                                 vital role in the revival of Czech national culture, national education and
                                 dissemination of Czech cultural values. The independent Czech
                                 statehood since 1918, but primarily its communist era, have cemented
                                 negative notions of religion and the church, hereby contributing to the
                                 diminishment of their role in Czech society.

                                 The passage of a Bill on Church property restitution and auto-financing,
                                 as well as the precedent debates, have revived these negative
                                 sentiments in Czech politics and society. Again, the Catholic church
                                 became the major target of statements and political campaigning. A
                                 notable dimension was hereby the stressing of an inherent protestant,
                                 Hussite nature of the Czech nation, the enmity of the Catholic church
                                 towards the Czech national sentiment and efforts and the flaws of the
                                 Church in general. This argumentation included fraudulent and
                                 historically erroneous statements, myths and was generally describable
                                 as populistic.

                                 The aim of the paper, is to analyze the interaction between the religion,
                                 Church, secularity and the Czech national sentiment – mainly in regard to
                                 its proponents and fundamental premises – in the scope of the
                                 contemporary Czech sociopolitical constellation. The emphasis lies
                                 hereby on the future of the religion in the Czech Republic and of the
                                 nature of nationalistic mobilisation on behalf of political actors. The
                                 methodological framework of the paper are the contents and discourse

analysis, as well as the operationalization of theoretical concepts of nationalism and of the contemporary state of research.