FOREWORD

The first volume of the series AUC (Teritoriální studia) introduces contributions of six authors associated with the Department of Russian and East European Studies established in 1996 as one of the four departments of the Institute of International Studies located at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University. The work of this department focuses mainly on the northern parts of Central and Eastern Europe (Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Poland and Hungary) and covers the areas of modern history, foreign policy, political systems, nationality and religious questions as well as basic problems of social, cultural, and economic development in the present times.

The mentioned contributions represent various faces of the scholar work carried out at the Department of Russian and East European Studies during the last year and reflect the manifold scale of the individual research interests of the Department fellows.

PhDr. Jiří Vykoukal, CSc. Editor December 2000