A (DES) CONSTRUÇÃO DA EUROPA (1939-1945)
(DE) CONSTRUCTING EUROPE (1939-1945)
London 1940-1945, A Europe in Miniature?

The Case of Norwegian, Polish and Czechoslovak Exiles

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Abstract
This paper discusses experience of representatives of three European small powers assembled in the London during WWII - Norway, Czechoslovakia and Poland. A common cause, comparable setting and frequent contacts created a promising framework for a new quality of their mutual relations that could, eventually, endorse the European idea. This proved to be at best a partial success: The exiles acted by-and-large as guardians of national interests and identities. As such, and owing to their strained position, they paid considerable attention to status as a principal asset. They subscribed of internalization of their foreign policies and learned or refined their experience with its practices. Yet their visions remained rather regional, with only occasional reference to the idea of European Integration. Albeit the exiles failed to integrate the nations they spoke for, they established closer and better informed transnational ties bound to affect European politics in the years to come.

Keywords: small powers; exile; World War II; foreign policy; integration

When we speak about nations, ‘to integrate’ means ‘to come closer together’ in a pursuit of a common aim. A shared existential threat generates by all means a strong impulse. Nations direct all resources to their survival efforts. As these are often insufficient, it is very advisable to look to pool them on supranational basis. In result coalitions and, if a more cohesive material is present,