

The Czechs In A Nutshell

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The Little Czech and the Great Czech Nation
Czech Songs in Texas
A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska
A political history of Europe since 1814, tr. ed. by S. Macvane
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these fourteen essays present fresh and original writing on the history of czechoslovakia a state created in 1918 but a victim of both hitler and stalin this highly accessible volume containing many new insights provides major case study material for researchers and students of nationalism fascism and international relations

when ladislav holy precipitately left czechoslovakia for the uk in 1968 he was already one of the leading anthropologists in central europe in the following decades he made important field studies in africa since 1986 he has been engaged in research in the czech republic and he brings to this timely study of national identity the skills of a seasoned researcher a cosmopolitan perspective and the insights of an insider drawing on historical and literary sources as well as ethnography he analyses czech discourses on national identity he argues that there were specifically czech aspects to the communist regime and to the velvet revolution and paying particular attention to symbolic representations of what it means to be czech he explores how

notions of czech identity were involved in the debates surrounding the fall of communism and the emergence of a new social system

on any weekend in texas czech polka music enlivens dance halls and drinking establishments as well as outdoor church picnics and festivals the songs heard at these venues are the living music of an ethnic community created by immigrants who started arriving in central texas in the mid nineteenth century from what is now the czech republic today the members of this community speak english but their songs are still sung in czech czech songs in texas includes sixty one songs mostly polkas and waltzes the songs themselves are beloved heirlooms ranging from ceremonial music with origins in moravian wedding traditions to exuberant polkas celebrating the pleasures of life for each song the book provides music notation and czech lyrics with english translation an essay explores the song s european roots its american evolution and the meaning of its lyrics and lists notable performances and recordings in addition to the songs and essays frances barton provides a chapter on the role of music in the texas czech ethnic community and john k novak surveys czech folk and popular music in its european home the book both documents a specific musical inheritance and serves as a handbook for learning about a culture through its songs as folklorist and polka historian james p leary writes in his foreword barton and novak take us on a poetic historical and ethnographic excursion deep into a community s expressive heartland their czech songs in texas just might be the finest extant annotated anthology of any american immigrant ethnic group s regional song tradition

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