

## An Inside Look at the Heart of Europe



### ✠ PRAY FOR HEALING, EMPOWERING AND VISION FOR THE CZECH CHURCH.

*"...I [Jesus] will build my church, and all the powers of hell  
will not conquer it." Matthew 16:18 NLT*

### ✠ PRAY FOR MORE WORKERS TO BE SENT AND FOR PROTECTION, PROVISION AND EMPOWERMENT FOR THE WORKERS ALREADY THERE.

*"Pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest, and ask him  
to send out more workers for his fields." Luke 10:2 NLT*

*"Because I love Zion, because my heart yearns for Jerusalem,  
I cannot remain silent. I will not stop praying for her until her  
righteousness shines like the dawn, and her salvation blazes like  
a burning torch." Isaiah 62:1 NLT*

May God touch our hearts for the nations, so that we can pray  
with passion for them, just as Isaiah did for Israel. May God  
touch our hearts for the **Czech Republic**, so that we will not stop  
praying until her righteousness shines like the dawn. Let it be!

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!

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The economy was also to be decentralized.

The USSR and its allies feared that the reform would spread to their countries, so Warsaw Pact troops invaded Czechoslovakia on **Aug. 21, 1968**. In April 1969, new leadership took over the Communist party and set about eliminating all traces of the reforms. This process, which came to be known as "normalization," ushered in nearly 20 years of political stagnation. Many who had supported the reform lost their jobs, and most people lost interest in politics. Certain individuals, however, continued to oppose the regime.

### FREEDOM AT LAST

The peaceful Velvet Revolution, called so because no one was killed, was ushered in as communism was crumbling in the Soviet Union. On **November 17, 1989**, as the Berlin Wall was

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“On January 1, 1993, Czechoslovakia was peacefully divided into two separate nations: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.”

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coming down, a student demonstration confronted the police. There were larger demonstrations until the Communist government resigned on December 3rd. Vaclav Havel was elected president on the 29th of December.

### THE CREATION OF 2 NATIONS

Although the Czechs did not want the country to be separated from Slovakia, the economic realities for the two were different. The Slovaks had the burden of many former state industries that faced closure and the loss of employment.

On **January 1, 1993**, Czechoslovakia was peacefully divided into two separate nations: the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Vaclav Havel resigned his post as president rather than preside over the break-up of Czechoslovakia, but he was re-elected as the first president of the Czech Rep.

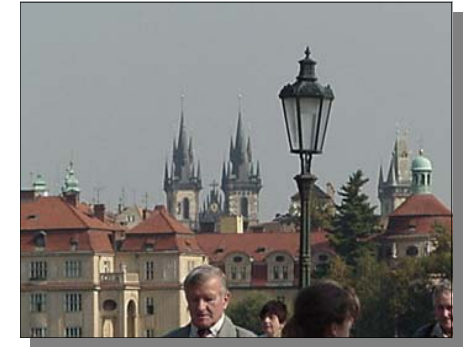
### RECENT EVENTS

The Czech Republic became a member of NATO in March of 1999, and on May 1, 2004 the Czech Republic, together with nine other Central and Eastern European countries, became a new EU Member State.

Historical text taken from: [www.czech.cz](http://www.czech.cz)  
Map from: [www.GraphicMaps.com](http://www.GraphicMaps.com)



## Czech Republic:



## How to Pray for the Czech Republic:

### ✠ PRAY THAT JESUS CHRIST WOULD BE PROCLAIMED AND EXALTED IN THE CR, AN OPENLY ATHEISTIC COUNTRY.

*"May your ways be known throughout the earth, your saving  
power among the people everywhere. May the nations praise  
you, O God. Yes, may all the nations praise you."  
Psalm 67:2-3 NLT*

### ✠ PRAY THAT BLIND EYES WOULD BE OPENED AND HARD HEARTS SOFTENED AND PREPARED TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT GOD'S TRUTH.

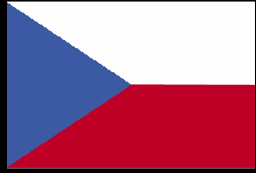
*"Satan, the god of this evil world, has blinded the minds of  
those who don't believe, so they are unable to see the glorious  
light of the Good News that is shining upon them."  
2 Corinthians 4:4 NLT*

*"In that day deaf people will hear words read from a book, and  
blind people will see through the gloom and darkness. The  
humble will be filled with fresh joy from the LORD...They will  
recognize the holiness of the Holy One of Israel. They will stand  
in awe of the God of Israel. Those in error  
will then believe the truth..."  
Isaiah 29:18-19, 23-24 NLT*



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# "The Czech Country, My Home"

From the Czech national anthem



How much do you know about the land called the Czech Republic? Centered in the heart of Europe, this nation has for centuries occupied an important place in that continent. We believe this nation has an important place in the heart of God as well.

Please join us on a brief journey through the history of the Czech Republic, for it's in understanding her past that we can better understand her today.

## IN THE BEGINNING

Bohemia first began to develop as an independent state in the **880's**. King Wenceslas (the fabled "Good King Wenceslas") reigned from 921-935 and eventually became the patron saint of Bohemia. King Otto of Germany conquered Bohemia in 950, incorporating it within the Holy Roman Empire. The kingdom of Bohemia reached its height of power and prestige during the reign of Charles IV (1346-1378), who was crowned the Holy Roman Emperor in 1355. During his rule, Prague grew into one of largest and most important cities. In 1348 he established Charles University, the first university founded north of the Alps.

## A RICH CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

Inspired by the English thinker John Wycliffe, Jan Hus, preacher and rector of Charles University, led a church reform movement against the corruption of the Catholic Church a century before Martin Luther. On July 6th, **1415** Jan Hus was burned at the stake in Constance. His martyrdom ignited a religious and national rebellion in Bohemia.



## HABSBURG EMPIRE

In 1526 Ferdinand of Habsburg was elected King of Bohemia. This began the reign of the Habsburg dynasty, which lasted until 1867, at which time, the so-called Dual Monarchy of Austro-Hungary was established. This mighty empire disintegrated at the close of World War I.

From **1618 - 1648** the Thirty Years' War devastated much of central Europe and shattered Bohemia's economy. Czechs lost their rights and property, and due to the forced Catholicisation and Germanisation, they almost lost also their national identity.

**"Czechs lost their rights and property, and due to the forced Catholicisation and Germanisation, they almost lost their national identity also."**

The peaceful reign of Maria Theresa from 1740 - 1780 marked the beginning of the Enlightenment in the Empire. In 1781 the Edict of Tolerance was published, which allowed a large degree of freedom of worship for the first time after more than 150 years.

## WORLD WAR I

The assassination of Ferdinand D'Este in Sarajevo in **1914** ignited World War I. The Czechs were not interested in the Austrian war, but because they were a part of her Empire, they had to fight.

On **October 28, 1918**, after the close of the war, the new Czechoslovak Republic was declared with the Allied support. Prague became the capital, and the popular Tomas Garrigue Masaryk became the first president. The constitution adopted in February

1920, defined Czechoslovakia as a "democratic republic headed by an elected president."

## NAZI OCCUPATION & WORLD WAR II

On **March 15, 1939** the forced Nazi occupation began. In November 1939, Czech students began a series of demonstrations against the Nazis, and on May 27, 1942 the leading SS officer Reinhard Heydrich was assassinated by special forces made up of exiled Czech military. Arrests and deportations followed this assassination, but the final solution was meted out on the country's remaining Jews, who were

transported first to the ghetto of Terezin, and then on to the extermination camps in Poland. In June 1942 the towns of Lidice and Lezaky were burnt down, and all inhabitants were either killed or transported to extermination camps as punishment for Heydrich's assassination.

On **May 5th, 1945**, the population of Prague together with many Russian renegades rose up against the German forces. US troops reached Plzen, a city near the western border, but held back in deference to their Soviet allies. On **May 8, 1945** the German leadership capitulated, signifying the end of the war in the country.

## LIFE UNDER COMMUNISM

After the war, Czechoslovakia was reestablished with its pre-1938 borders, except for RUTHENIA

(Carpatho-Ukraine), which was ceded to the USSR. Czechoslovakia had been largely liberated by Soviet troops, so Soviet influence was strong in the postwar period. The Communists won 38% of the vote in the 1946 elections, and held many of the most important posts in the government. In February 1948, Communists provoked a crisis in the government and formed a new government in which they were clearly dominant. The acting President resigned and was replaced by a Communist party leader.

The country's new leaders created a system modeled after Soviet political institutions and practices. Although other political groups were allowed to exist, the only real political force was the Communist party. Opposition to the government was prevented by the secret police. Show trials of party leaders accused of being enemies of the system were held in the 1950's, and many were imprisoned or executed. A centrally planned economy was established: the agriculture was collectivized and almost all private ownership was eliminated. An effort was made to politicize all areas of life, including education, culture, the arts, science, and leisure time.

In the late 1960s, intellectuals and party leaders tried to reform the Communist system in what came to be known as "Prague Spring," or "socialism with a human face." The reforms, an attempt to create a form of socialism more suited to a developed, European country, included an end to censorship, greater intellectual freedom, and allowing non-Communist groups a greater role in public life.

