

# Long and Not Very Interesting History of The Czech Republic With Chunky Bits of Culture

Lightheartedly presented by Martin Böhm

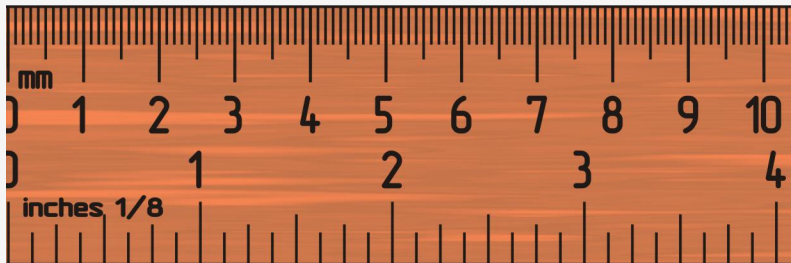


# It All Started...

- around the 5th century, when Slavic peoples got bored of the Black Sea and moved in the middle of nowhere –The Czech Lands
- Many foreign cultures sent scholars and diplomats to the region to „enrich“ it.

# Middle Ages

- The Czechs established a kingdom and had some powerful and progressive rulers, like Karel (Charles) IV.





# Charles IV.

- Established every important structure in Prague and most of the important buildings in the Czech Republic
- Examples include:
  - **Charles University** (1348 vs. Rutgers 1766)
  - Charles Bridge
  - Charles Square
  - Karlštejn (Charles Castle)
  - St. Vitus Cathedral was constructed in his time.

# Jan Hus

- Father of the Catholic Church Reforms (before Luther and others)
- Criticised the Church for buying off sins with money and other rather non-Christ values
- Refused to repent, burned at the stake.
- His side project: codifying all those nice carons and acutes: š,č,ř,ě,á ...

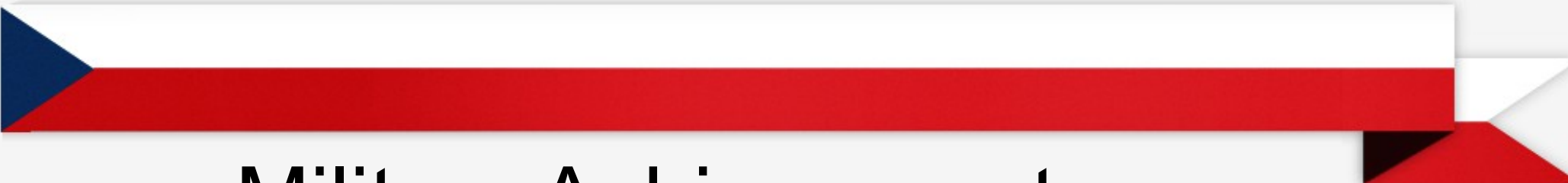


# Military Achievements

The Czechs were conquered by:

- Huns (Hungarians): 600
- Austrians (Austria-Hungary): 1600–1918
- Swedish: 17th century
- French: Napoleonic Wars
- Germans (Nazi Germany)
- Russians (Soviet Block)





# Military Achievements

We expect to be conquered soon by:

- Slovakia
- Poland

# Peace Achievements

- Inspired by the Indian Independence Movement, we managed to overthrow the Communist Party in 1989 with practically no bloodshed – The Velvet Revolution
- Máme holé ruce (we are empty handed!)
- Máme hole v ruce (we have clubs in our hands!)





# Czechoslovakia

- Slovakia used to be part of the Czechoslovak Republic in the modern times.
- However, they felt neglected, since Czech Lands were larger (and maybe richer).
- In 1993, they decided to create their own country – and they're doing fine!
- Let's wish them the Euro won't collapse...



# And Now For Something Completely Different

- Culture!
- (Hey, that was a British joke!)



# Literature

- Many excellent fairy tale collections in 19th century, Czech people like fairy tales more than most.
- Franz Kafka (lived in Prague, wrote in German, too cool not to take credit for)
- Karel Čapek – early sci-fi (robot), quite timeless
- Poetry (untranslatable, as all poetry)
- Common Themes: Humor, Parody, Absurdism.

# Music

- Mozart has been favoured in Prague while neglected in Vienna – „My Praguers understand me.“
- Antonín Dvořák – one of the best late Romantic era composers.
  - Has ties to the USA, inspired by local music, „New World Symphony“.
  - „I am convinced that the future music of this country (USA) must be founded on what are called Negro melodies. (...) They are the folk songs of America and your composers must turn to them.“
- Other composers: Smetana, Janáček – not bad, mostly local importance.



# Painting and other arts

- Medieval Painting: Theodoric of Prague (paintings of saints at Karlstejn)
- Cubism
- Art Nouveau – Alphonse Mucha
- Contemporary art – David Černý





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