

PHILOSOPHY EN NOIR (Miroslav Petříček)

Since thought necessarily reflects its time, Miroslav Petříček – the influential and erudite Czech philosopher – argues that after confronting the incomprehensible trauma of the Holocaust, Western philosophy has had to rewrite its tradition and its discourse. Should philosophy be capable of bearing witness to the contemporary world, Petříček contends, this metamorphosis in philosophy is necessary. Offering an original Central European perspective that reflects upon the historical underpinnings of pop culture phenomena and complex philosophies – including those of Adorno, Agamben, Benjamin, Derrida, Husserl, and Kracauer – *Philosophy en noir* is a record of this transformation.

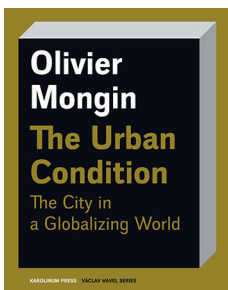


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THE URBAN CONDITION THE CITY IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD (Olivier Mongin)

Globalization has thrust us into a post-urban world. In the past, we saw the city as a circumscribed space, the setting for cultural, social, and political life. Now we find ourselves confronted by expanding megalopolises and global networks divorced from a physical environment. Are we witnessing the end of the urban values that have accompanied human history? Will fragmentation and chaotic urban sprawl prevail? Are we doomed to lament the lost legacies of the Greek polis, the Renaissance city, Enlightenment Paris, and the great industrial cities of the nineteenth century?



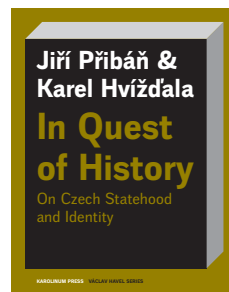
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IN QUEST OF HISTORY ON CZECH STATEHOOD AND IDENTITY (Jiří Příbář and Karel Hvíždala)

Award-winning Czech journalist and Cardiff-based philosopher of law examine key moments in Czech history from the ninth century to the twenty-first to investigate how Czechs have viewed their history at different points – and what that means for the present and future. The book entertainingly explores issues that are normally reserved for university seminars, or avoided completely.

An interesting book, because simply by considering the ideas the authors of *In Quest of History* put forth, the reader loses his certainty of what is true and what is the common consensus – he becomes an individual. — MILAN KUNDERA

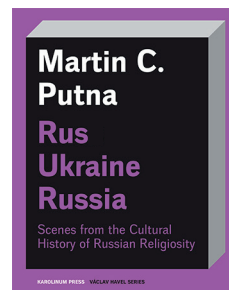


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RUS – UKRAINE – RUSSIA SCENES FROM THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF RUSSIAN RELIGIOSITY (Martin Putna)

Essential reading to understand Russia and Ukraine – the heir to an “alternative Russia.” Using literary and artistic works, it offers a rich analysis of Russia as a cultural and religious phenomenon: tracing its development from the arrival of the ancient Greeks in Crimea to its invasion by “little green men” in 2014; explaining the cultural influence of the Poles, as well as Pussy Riot; exploring central figures from Vladimir the Great to Vladimir Putin. This book presents Russia as a complex mesh of national, religious, and cultural (especially countercultural) traditions.

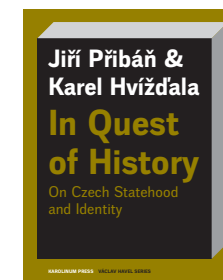
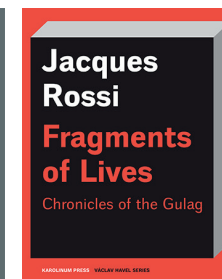
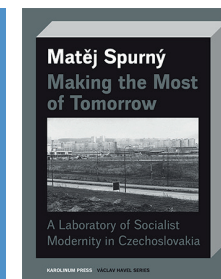
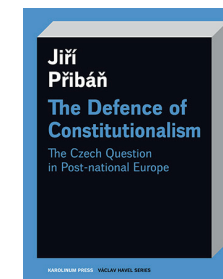
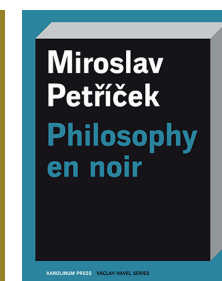
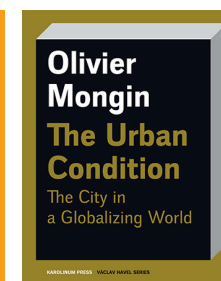
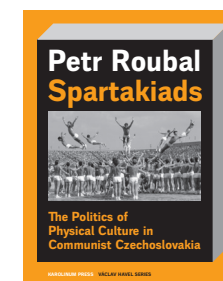


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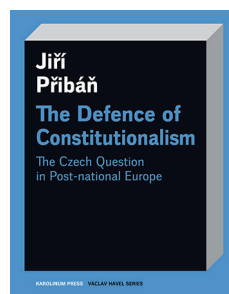
The Václav Havel Series aims to honor and extend the intellectual legacy of the dissident, playwright, philosopher, and president whose name it proudly bears. Prepared with his brother, Ivan M. Havel, and other personalities and institutions closely associated with Václav Havel, such as the Václav Havel Library, and Forum 2000, the series focuses on modern thought and the contemporary world – encompassing history, politics, art, architecture, and ethics. Like Havel himself, the series is interested in issues that affect humanity across the globe and refuses to focus narrowly on a specific geographical region.

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THE DEFENCE OF CONSTITUTIONALISM THE CZECH QUESTION IN POST-NATIONAL EUROPE (Jiří Příbáň)

In these essays on contemporary Czech and European politics, legal philosopher Jiří Příbáň demonstrates that democracy is a process of permanent self-correction. While it possesses the capacity to respond to unexpected crises, it also contains inherent tension between ethics and administration. Defending constitutionalism, therefore, relies on civil rights and freedoms, limited government, and representative democracy – the validity and power of which are at stake not only in the Czech Republic but in the European Union and the world at large.



translated by:
 Stuart Hoskins

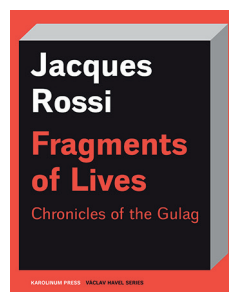
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FRAGMENTS OF LIVES CHRONICLES OF THE GULAG (Jacques Rossi)

Written in a sharp and dryly humorous tone, Rossi offers a vivid portrayal of everyday life inside the notorious Soviet prison camps. His vignettes of inmates across all walks of life – from peasants to party apparatchiks – give voice to the lives shattered by one of the most corrupt and repressive regimes of the twentieth century.

This clear translation will introduce a new generation of readers to the morally complicated world of the Soviet camp system, with its heroes and villains, survivors and collaborators.

— ANNE APPLEBAUM, *Washington Post* & London School of Economics, author of *Gulag: A History*

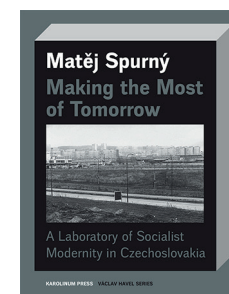


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MAKING THE MOST OF TOMORROW A LABORATORY OF SOCIALIST MODERNITY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA (Matěj Spurný)

Most, a gorgeous historical city in northern Bohemia, was destroyed in the sixties and seventies for coal mining. As redevelopment began, hopes and expectations ran high; in the end, however, Most became a symbol for the brutal incompetence of Czechoslovak communism. But the book, like the city of Most itself, does not end in tragedy. Fusing architectural and political history with urban and environmental studies, Spurný's tale shows the progress that can be made when crimes of the past are confronted and contemporary concepts of urban renewal are engaged.

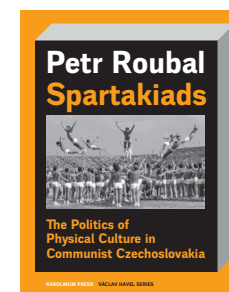


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SPARTAKIADS THE POLITICS OF PHYSICAL CULTURE IN COMMUNIST CZECHOSLOVAKIA (Petr Roubal)

Every five years from 1955 to 1985, mass Czechoslovak gymnastic demonstrations, Spartakiads, were held to mark the Soviet liberation of Czechoslovakia. Hundreds of thousands of performers gathered in the world's largest stadium – built expressly for this purpose – and their synchronized movements embodied, quite literally, the ideal Socialist citizenry: a powerful yet pliant force directed by the regime. Featuring an abundance of photographs, the book takes a novel approach to Communist history by opening a window onto the mentality and mundanity behind the Iron Curtain.



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 Dan Morgan

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