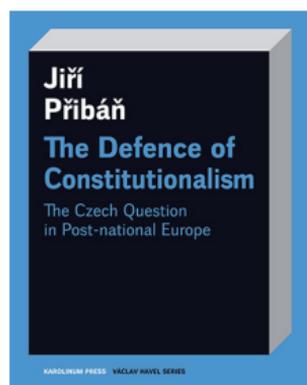
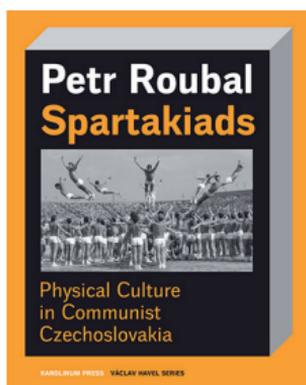
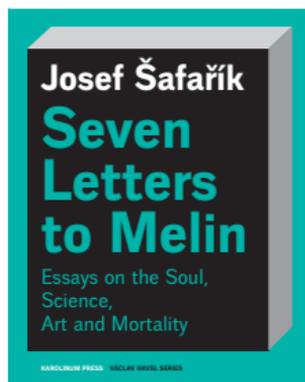
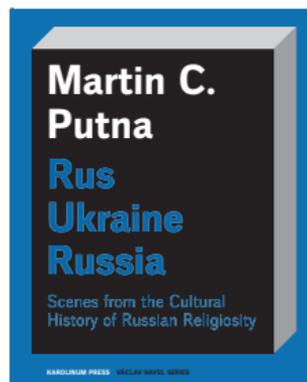
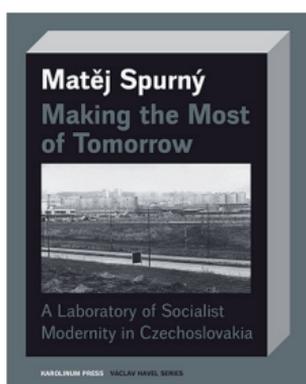
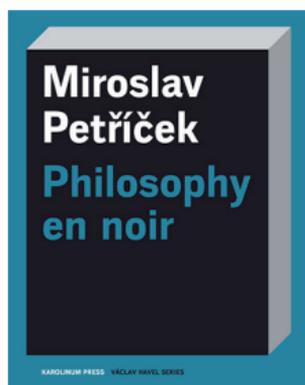
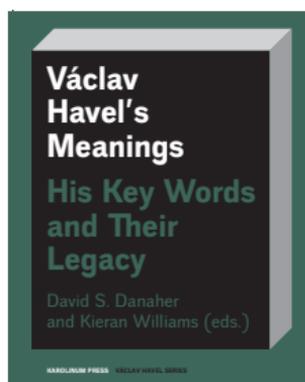
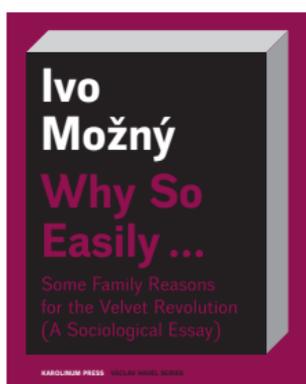


VÁCLAV HAVEL
SERIES



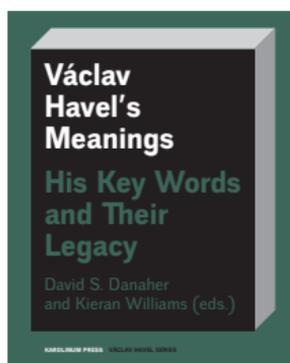
The Václav Havel Series of Karolinum accounts for continuation of the intellectual course of the thinker, playwright, dissident and president whose name it bears. It focuses on philosophy of the contemporary world. That means politics, art, architecture, recent general history and handling problems which affect our common responsibility. Neither the Series nor its volumes are thus regionally specific. On the contrary, the goal is to address questions posed to us by the contemporary world outside boundaries. All volumes are published in English, some of them simultaneously in Czech. The Series is prepared in collaboration with authors and institutions relevant to Václav Havel's work and spirit such as the Václav Havel Library, or conference Forum 2000.

VÁCLAV HAVEL'S MEANINGS

HIS KEY WORDS AND THEIR LEGACY

(Kieran Williams – David S. Danaher [eds.])

This book looks squarely at the heart of Havel's legacy: the rich corpus of texts he left behind. It analyzes the meanings of key concepts in Havel's core vocabulary: *truth, power, civil society, home, appeal, indifference, hotspot, theatre, prison, and responsibility*. Where do these concepts appear in Havel's oeuvre? What part do they play in his larger intellectual project? How might we understand Havel's focus on these concepts as a centerpiece of his contribution to contemporary thought? How does Havel's particular perspective on the meaning of these concepts speak to us in the here and now? The ten contributors use a variety of methodological tools to examine the meaning of these concepts, drawing on a diversity of disciplines: political science and political philosophy, historical and cultural analysis, discourse/textual analysis, and linguistic-corpus analysis.



2024, paperback, 340 pp., 1. edition

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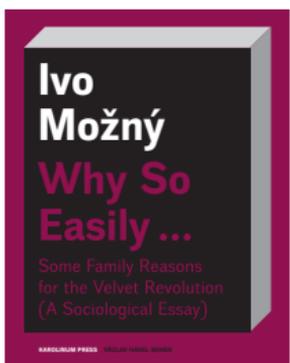
ebook 978-80-246-4942-9

\$18

WHY SO EASILY . . . SOME FAMILY REASONS FOR THE VELVET REVOLUTION — A SOCIOLOGICAL ESSAY

(Ivo Možný)

When communism was ushered into Czechoslovakia, it was supposed to last forever – yet over eleven days in November 1989, this supposedly eternal order collapsed. Why did it fall apart so easily? This respected sociological essay, written in the pivotal years of 1989 and 1990, is now available for the first time in English. Ivo Možný tells the story of a despotic state expropriating the Czechoslovak family and subjugating the personal sphere in exchange for promises of a bright collective future, only for the regime to be vanquished forty years later by the very institution it had dispossessed. The essay explains the reasons for communism's downfall, examining the private aspirations of whole swaths of nameless social actors that left hardly anyone interested in keeping the regime afloat.



translated by:

Phil Jones

2023, paperback, 140 pp., 1. edition

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\$20 / £13

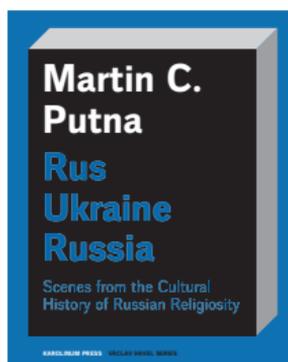
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\$20

RUS – UKRAINE – RUSSIA

SCENES FROM THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF RUSSIAN RELIGIOSITY (Martin C. 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.



translated by:
Michael Dean

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\$23 / £14

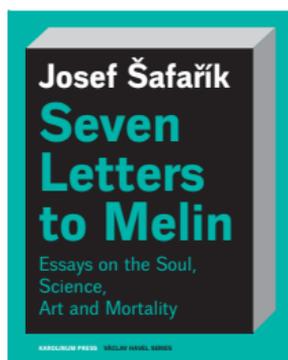
ebook ISBN 978-80-246-3581-1

\$16

SEVEN LETTERS TO MELIN

ESSAYS ON THE SOUL, SCIENCE, ART AND MORTALITY (Josef Šafařík)

This book is an exploration of man’s alienation from nature – and from himself – in the modern technological age. Conceived as a series of letters to Melin, an engineer who believes in the value of science and technical progress, the book grows skeptical of such endeavors as it examines mankind’s search for meaning in life. Šafařík argues for the primacy of artistic creativity over scientific explanation, of truth over accuracy, of internal moral agency over an externally imposed social morality. He is neither anti-scientific nor anti-rational; he argues that science has limited power and that which cannot be measured or calculated does indeed have meaning and value.



translated by:
Ian Finlay Stone

epilogue by:

Ivan M. Havel

2020, paperback, 394 pp., 1. edition

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ebook ISBN 978-80-246-4701-2

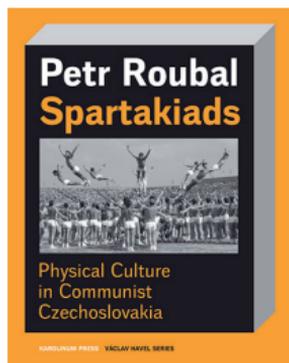
\$16

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.



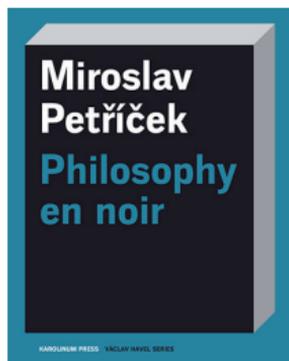
translated by:
Dan Morgan

2019, paperback, 412 pp., 1. edition
ISBN 978-80-246-3851-5
\$23 / £14
ebook ISBN 978-80-246-4366-3
\$17

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.



translated by:
Phil Jones

2019, paperback, 382 pp., 1. edition
ISBN 978-80-246-3853-9
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ebook ISBN 978-80-246-3854-6
\$15

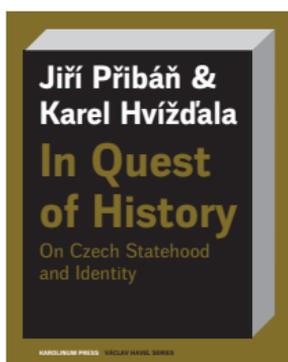
IN QUEST OF HISTORY

ON CZECH STATEHOOD AND IDENTITY

(Jiří Přebán and Karel Hvižďala)

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



translated by:
Stuart Hoskins

2019, paperback, 290 pp., 1. edition

ISBN 978-80-246-4267-3

\$20 / £13

ebook ISBN 978-80-246-4288-8

\$14

FRAGMENTS OF LIVES

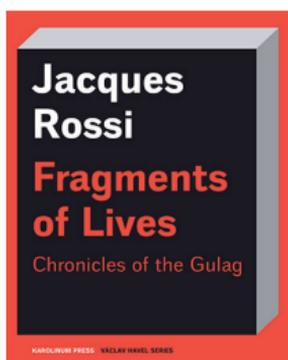
CHRONICLES OF THE GULAG

(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*



translated by:
Marie-Cécile Antonelli-Street

2019, paperback, 198 pp., 1. edition

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ebook ISBN 978-80-246-3721-1

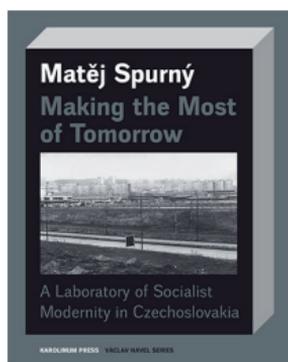
\$10

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.



translated by:

Derek and Marzia Paton

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ebook ISBN 978-80-246-4018-1

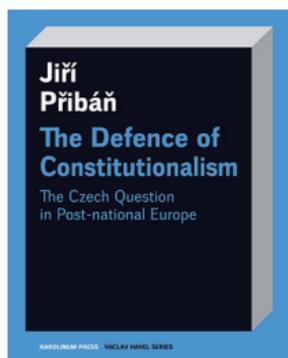
\$18

THE DEFENCE OF CONSTITUTIONALISM

THE CZECH QUESTION IN POST-NATIONAL EUROPE

(Jiří Přibáň)

In these essays on contemporary Czech and European politics, legal philosopher Jiří Přibáň 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.



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Stuart Hoskins

2017, paperback, 312 pp., 1. edition,

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Letters from Olga

