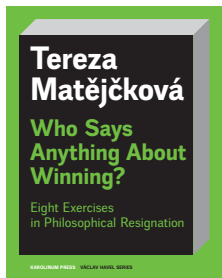
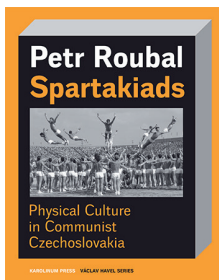
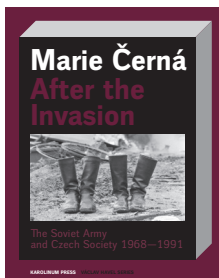
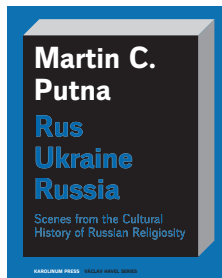
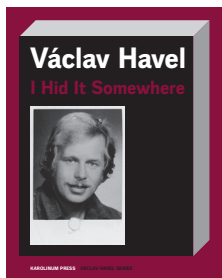
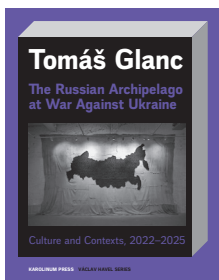
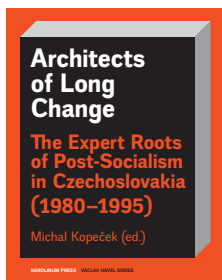


VÁCLAV HAVEL  
SERIES



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.

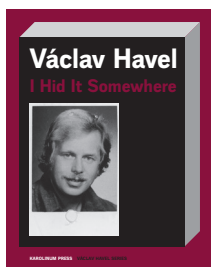


## I HID IT SOMEWHERE

(Václav Havel)

In the fall of 1977, after the dramatic events of the “Year of Charter 77,” Václav Havel wrote a report recounting the first hours after the Charter 77 Declaration, his imprisonment, and the agonizing self-examination that followed. In this text, he describes not only the investigation but also the Faustian guilt he felt after promising to scale back his political activities in exchange for his freedom.

As he later recalled in a book-length interview with journalist Karel Hvížďala, *Disturbing the Peace*, he hid the roughly one-hundred-page manuscript somewhere, admitting: “I don’t know where it is anymore. Maybe I’ll find it someday.” He never did. The manuscript resurfaced only recently and has been reconstructed and published by the Václav Havel Library. Fragmentary yet strikingly immediate, literary and politically fascinating, it is a story that reveals the birth of the future statesman and moral authority from a deep personal crisis.



FORTHCOMING

foreword by Jáchym Topol  
translated by Paul Wilson

paperback, 1. edition  
ISBN 978-80-246-6372-2

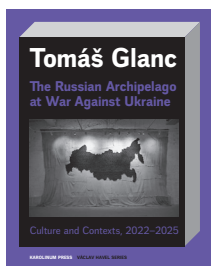
\$30 / £19

ebook ISBN 978-80-246-6373-9

## THE RUSSIAN ARCHIPELAGO AT WAR AGAINST UKRAINE. CULTURE AND CONTEXTS 2022–2025

(Tomáš Glanc)

This book was conceived in wartime, and war stands at its center. Through case studies of literature, visual art, theater, and film, it examines cultural phenomena that originated in Russia and their relevance for the present situation, wherever their actors may now reside. It traces the ways in which war has entered the realm of art and how culture has become complicit in or resistant to it, revealing narratives of protest, persecution, underground activity, indifference, and support. It also raises a deeper question about the aesthetic, moral, and intellectual challenges – and fragile hopes – contained within the horror of war.



FORTHCOMING

translated by  
David Short, Stuart John Hoskins

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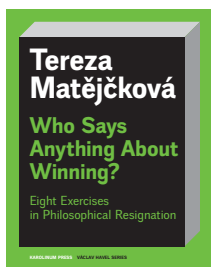
ebook ISBN 978-80-246-6274-9

# WHO SAYS ANYTHING ABOUT WINNING?

*EIGHT EXERCISES IN PHILOSOPHICAL RESIGNATION*

(Tereza Matějčková)

Traditional cultures have exercises which teach people discipline. Even modern philosophers, Hegel, Nietzsche and Kierkegaard paid special attention to striving for spirituality, although outside religious frameworks. However, if we are to grow, we should relax the relationship to ourselves. Hence the notion of resignation. A resigned will is not weak, it is able to resist itself and others. Such resignation is a man's defense against becoming a mere element in a sequence of events. Art, philosophy, and mainly freedom all lie in the ability to create distance. In her most recent book, Tereza Matějčková offers more than a history of a notion or a thematic reading of the legacy of respected thinkers – a fresh view of a newly asked question of self-acceptance and growth.



**FORTHCOMING**

translated by

Stuart John Hoskins, Jaroslav Špírk

paperback, 1. edition

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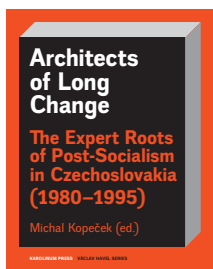
# ARCHITECTS OF LONG CHANGE

THE EXPERT ROOTS OF POST-SOCIALISM

IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA (1980–1995)

(Edited by Michal Kopeček)

This edited volume offers a novel perspective on the late communist dictatorship, the democratic revolution of 1989, and the early development of liberal democracy and capitalism in Czechoslovakia and later, the Czech Republic. It examines expert forms of governance and their legitimisation before 1989, as well as the transfer of expert knowledge and practices of political and social management during the democratic transition. The contributors argue that so-called neoliberal governance was not solely the result of imported Western political and cultural models, but was also shaped by intellectual, mental, and sociocultural continuities from the period of late socialism. These continuities – and the broader hypothesis of a “long systemic change” spanning from 1980 to 1995 – are explored through case studies in legal science, sociology, urban planning, environmental studies, psychotherapy, and business management.



FORTHCOMING

translated by  
Gerald Turner

paperback, 1. edition  
ISBN 978-80-246-6117-9

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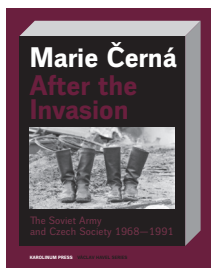
ebook ISBN 978-80-246-6118-6

# AFTER THE INVASION. THE SOVIET ARMY AND CZECH SOCIETY 1968–1991

(Marie Černá)

This book examines the Soviet army's twenty-year presence in Czechoslovakia (1968–1991), from its arrival after Soviet-led invasion to its departure following regime change. It explores Soviet involvement in early normalization politics and the regime's consistent support – often at the expense of the local population and the environment – accompanied by the state's retreat from lawfulness and effective governance.

Drawing on extensive primary sources, the volume details the tensions of everyday coexistence between Soviet garrisons and local inhabitants, who lacked adequate protection. The study highlights the contradiction between the official rhetoric of friendship and strict military control. Marie Černá traces how the army shaped collective memory while presenting the issue as a deeply politicized one, first the subject of power controversies and later of propaganda and intentional manipulation.



**FORTHCOMING**

translated by  
Philip Jones

paperback, 1. edition  
ISBN 978-80-246-5787-5

\$25 / £16

ebook ISBN 978-80-246-5788-2

\$14

# THE RESTORATION OF ORDER

(Milan Šimečka)

In an engaging style, not lacking in irony and detachment, Milan Šimečka describes the process of restoring order and its result – so-called real socialism – in a brilliant analysis of the “normalization” regime in Czechoslovakia that came to power after the Soviet-led invasion that crushed the Prague Spring of 1968. These poignant reflections and essays coincided with Šimečka’s first-hand experience of the consequences of the time’s political and cultural purges. This second edition of the Cold War classic, first written between 1975 and 1977, with a new preface from Milan Šimečka and afterword from Martin Bútora, highlights chilling parallels with contemporary political developments and current civic and ethical questions.



foreword by Milan Šimečka

afterword by Martin Bútora

translated by Gerald Turner

2026, paperback, 2. edition,

1. in Karolinum

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ebook ISBN 978-80-246-5858-2

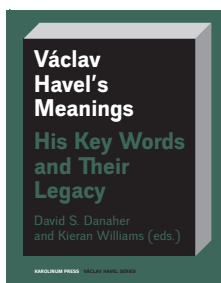
# VÁCLAV HAVEL'S MEANINGS

*HIS KEY WORDS AND THEIR LEGACY*

(Edited by David S. Danaher, Kieran Williams)

No one in Czech politics or culture could match the international stature of Václav Havel at the time of his death in 2011. In the years since his passing, his legacy has only grown, as developments in the Czech Republic and elsewhere around the world continue to show the importance of his work and writing against a range of political and social ills, from autocratic brutality to messianic populism.

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.



2024, paperback, 340 pp., 1. edition

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CZK 450 / \$25 / £16

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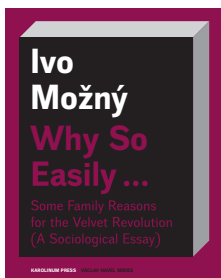
## WHY SO EASILY . . .

*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

ebook ISBN 978-80-246-5316-7

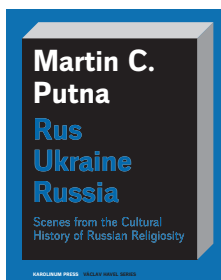
\$15

## 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.



translated by  
Michael Dean

2019, paperback, 350 pp., 1. edition

ISBN 978-80-246-3580-4

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ebook ISBN 978-80-246-3581-1

\$16

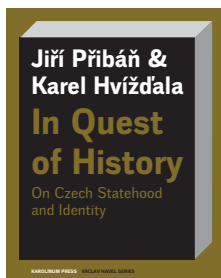
## IN QUEST OF HISTORY

### ON CZECH STATEHOOD AND IDENTITY

(Jiří Přibáň and Karel Hvížďala)

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, 280 pp., 1. edition

ISBN 978-80-246-4267-3

\$20 / £15

ebook ISBN 978-80-246-3854-6

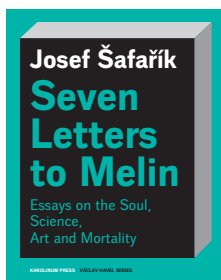
\$15

## 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  
ISBN 978-80-246-4375-5  
\$20 / £13  
ebook ISBN 978-80-246-4701-2  
\$16

## 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

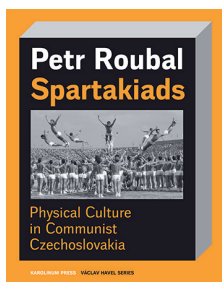
2019, paperback, 330 pp., 1. edition  
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\$20 / £15  
ebook ISBN 978-80-246-3854-6  
\$15

## 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

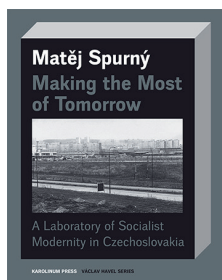
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\$23 / £18  
ebook ISBN 978-80-246-4366-3  
\$17

## 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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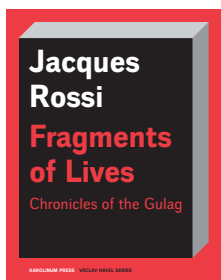
## FRAGMENTS OF LIVES

### 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-Cecile Antonelli-Street

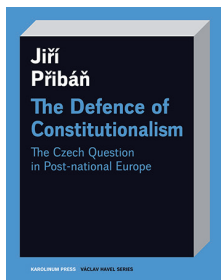
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ISBN 978-80-246-3700-6  
\$18 / £13.50  
ebook ISBN 978-80-246-3721-1  
\$13

## 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.



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Stuart Hoskins

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