

Politics In Czechoslovakia, 1945-1971

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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order issued on Sept. 1, 1941, forcing Jews to wear the yellow badge, resulted in their complete isolation. The Jewish communities reacted to the planned elimination of the Jews by stepping up their activities in Jewish and general education of the youth, giving foreign language instruction; retraining; and providing medical care, consulting agencies, and social welfare. These activities, which prevented the outbreak of panic and the community's dissolution, were continued at the Theresienstadt concentration camp. Efforts were made to promote legal and illegal Jewish emigration and, by the time emigration was totally banned (October 1941), 26,629 persons had succeeded in escaping from the country. In October 1939, the first group comprising 1,291 Jewish men from Ostrava were deported for the "settlement area of Nisko on the San." The Germans decided on the establishment of the Theresienstadt Ghetto on Oct. 10, 1941, in a secret meeting at the Prague Castle, chaired by Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich. The minutes of the meeting contain the following passage: "From this transit camp [Theresienstadt] the Jews, after a substantial reduction in their numbers, are to be deported to the East . . ." The Jewish communities were ordered to concentrate all the Jews living in their respective areas into a number of cities—Prague, Budweis (Budějovice), Kolín, Klatovy, Pardubice, Hradec Králové, Mladá Boleslav, Třebíč, Brno, Olomouc, Ostrava, and Uherský Brod. In October and November 1941, 6,000 Jews from Prague and Brno were deported directly to "Lodz and Minsk. In the period Nov. 24, 1941–March 16, 1945, 73,614 Jews were dispatched to Theresienstadt in 121 transports. In this period, also 621 Jews were sent to Theresienstadt from towns in the Sudeten areas ceded to Germany. One of the leaders of Czechoslovak Jewry, Jacob Edelstein, was appointed the "commander" of Theresienstadt. From Jan. 9, 1942, to Oct. 28, 1944, 60,399 Czech Jews were deported onward from Theresienstadt to the extermination camps in the East: Auschwitz, Majdanek, Minsk, *Riga, *Sobibor, *Treblinka, and *Zamosc. Only 3,227 of the Jews deported from Theresienstadt survived the war. Following the assassination of Heydrich on Feb. 19, 1942, a "penal transport" of 1,000 Jews was deported from Prague to Poland, none of whom survived.

In 1945, 10,090 Jews registered with the Jewish communities as returning deportees, out of a total of 80,614 who had been deported; 6,302 had died in Theresienstadt, 64,172 had been murdered in the extermination camps, and of the Jews who had not been deported, 5,201 had either been executed, committed suicide, or died a natural death. On the day of the restoration of national sovereignty in Prague, May 5, 1945, there were 2,803 Jews alive in Bohemia and Moravia, who had not been deported, most of them partners of mixed marriages. [E.Ku.]

Contemporary Jewry. DEMOGRAPHY. Various estimates of the number of Jews living in Czechoslovakia in 1945 have been given, as postwar statistics do not classify the population according to religion. Many of the surviving Jews in Sub-Carpathian Ruthenia decided to leave in the brief period between its annexation to the Soviet Union (June 29, 1945) and the closing of its frontiers (September 30, 1945). They succeeded in moving to Bohemia, while only a few hundred moved to Slovakia. Most of the newcomers registered with the Jewish communities only later. In 1948, 19,123 Jews were registered as communists in Bohemia and Moravia. The number of Jews in Slovakia in 1947 was estimated at about 24,500. This brings to 44,000 the number of Jews living in the whole of Czechoslovakia in early 1948, when the Communists came to power. However, this figure has to be augmented to include those who were in

no way affiliated with organized Jewish communities, but in the past were classed as Jews by German authorities and registered after World War II as victims of racial persecution. In this category there were 5,292 persons living in Bohemia and Moravia in 1948. In Slovakia their number is not known; on the other hand, about 5,500 Slovak Jews, in an effort to save their lives, agreed to *pro forma* baptism during the war. It can therefore be estimated that out of the 35,630 Jews living in Czechoslovakia (including Sub-Carpathian Ruthenia) in 1939, less than a sixth remained in the country in 1948. The Communist coup of February 1948, and the establishment of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia in May of that year, led to a mass migration of Jews from Czechoslovakia. Between 1948 and 1950, 18,879 Jews went from Czechoslovakia to Israel, while more than 7,000 emigrated to other countries. When emigration was barred by the Communist authorities, in 1950, the number of Jews still remaining had dropped to some 18,000, while some 5,500 of them were still registered for migration to Israel. There were sporadic instances of Jewish emigration after 1954 but only from 1965 were 2,000–3,000 Jews allowed to leave Czechoslovakia. After the Soviet invasion in August 1968, 3,400 Jews left the country, according to a spokesman of the American Joint Distribution Committee in Vienna. It may therefore be assumed that at the end of 1968 there were less than 12,000 Jews left in Czechoslovakia. In June 1968, Rudolf Iltis of the Council of Jewish Communities in Bohemia and Moravia gave their average age as 60, while in the 15–20 age group there were only 1,000 Jews left. He also added that "with the exception of a few communities in Slovakia, the demographic situation of Czechoslovak Jewry does not necessitate religious instruction, because there are not enough children of school age."

ORGANIZATION. STRUCTURE. The renewed Council of Jewish Communities in Bohemia and Moravia held its first conference after World War II, under the chairmanship of Ernst Frischer, in September 1945. Delegates of 43 communities participated. In Slovakia a similar body, the Central Union of the Jewish Communities in Slovakia, was created at the end of 1945, presided over by Armin "Frieder. Both Frischer and Frieder were Zionists. In 1947 the two organizations set up a coordinating committee. At a Council conference in November 1963 representatives from only 16 communities took part and in 1968 the editor of the Council's publications listed only seven active communities in Bohemia and Moravia (Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Píseň, Karlovy Vary, Ústí nad Labem, and Teplice-Sanov). Ten communities in Slovakia were listed as active (Bratislava, Košice, Prešov, Nitra, Michalovce, Zilina, Galanta, Trnava, Dunajská Streda, and Ružomberok). A small number of Jews were also living in some other places where, however, Jewish life had no organizational framework. The strongest communities in June 1968 were Prague, with 3,500 members (more than 4,000 in 1945), Bratislava, with 2,000 (8,000 in 1947), and Košice with 1,800 (4,000 in 1947). Religious life was practically limited to the High Holidays. On the Sabbath few places had a *minyán*. One of the main problems was the lack of rabbis. Religious education was nonexistent. The budget of the papered communities was covered entirely by State subsidies. The State Bakery in Zlaté Moravce supplied *mazze* from 1965. There were four Jewish old-age homes, in Bratislava, Mariánské Lázně, Brno, and Poděbrady; only in the first two was kosher food prepared. Of the 800 Jewish cemeteries in the country were being kept in good order where a community was still in existence. A few, like the old cemetery of Prague, had become museums. The same applied to some old synagogues. In the years preceding the Communist coup of 1948, there were still signs of Jewish political life and of

Politics in Czechoslovakia, / J.F.N. Bradley. Author. Bradley, J. F. N. (John Francis Nejez), Published. Washington D.C.: University Press of America, 1971. Title, Politics in Czechoslovakia, Author, John Francis Nejez Bradley. Publisher, University Press of America, ISBN, Author: Bradley, J. F. N. (John Francis Nejez), [Browse]; Format: Book; Language: English; Published/Created: Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1971. Title, Politics in Czechoslovakia, J.F.N. Bradley. Format: Book; Published: Washington D.C.: University Press of America, c 1971. Language: English; ISBN .skiathosmemories.com: Politics in Czechoslovakia, () by J.F.N. Bradley and a great selection of similar New, Used and Collectible Books. Passive revolution: politics and the Czechoslovak working class, DB Politics in Czechoslovakia, []. Preview. Select. Basingstoke, Bradley, J. F. N. Politics in Czechoslovakia, Lanham, Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Facts on. Of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations Ambassador: Evzen Zapotocky. Further Basingstoke, Bradley, J. F. N. Politics in Czechoslovakia, Batt, J., Economic Reform and Political Change in Eastern Europe, London (). Bradley, J.F.N., Politics in Czechoslovakia., Washington, DC. Bradley, J. F. N., Politics in Czechoslovakia, , Washington, DC: University Press of America, Bridge, Susan, 'Why Czechoslovakia? And Why. skiathosmemories.comyre, Bulgaria: Politics, Economics, Society (London: Pinter). skiathosmemories.comyre, Politics in Czechoslovakia (Washington DC. Download pdf book by J.F.N. Bradley - Free eBooks. As a result, Slovakia was harder hit than the Czech region in the transition to a BIBLIOGRAPHY Bradley, John F.N. Politics: Czechoslovakia, A Political History Of Europe Since World War II Cyril Black. Woodward, S. Bradley, J.F.N., Politics: Czechoslovakia, (). Frantisek, A., Red Star. Politics in Czechoslovakia, Washington: University Press of America, Brandes, Detlef. Die Tschechen unter deutschem Protektorat, I. Munich.

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