

Peroutka Ferdinand: Budování státu 1918-1923 (The building of the state 1918-1923), I-IV.

Praha, Lidové noviny 1991, Third edition.

A four volumes book-legend written by an excellent Czech journalist and political observer. It is considered to be the best source of information on the adjustment of the independent Czechoslovak state and the first 25 years of its' existence. The book gives a detached historical comment on the political events of the First republic. Although first published sixty years ago, it is very topical now. It contains important references on problems, which were suppressed during the communist period and suddenly opened at the end 1989 (crisis of relationship between Czechs and Slovaks, national minorities, position of christian political parties etc.)

Možný Ivo: Proč tak snadno... Některé rodinné důvody sametové revoluce. (Why so easy... Some family reasons of velvet revolution)

Praha, Sociologické nakladatelství SLON 1991, First edition.

I. Možný, one of the best Czech social scientists and author of many professional and popular books on the sociology of family, explains events in eastern Europe in 1989. He puts three questions: Why so late? Why so easy? And so on? and elaborates upon them with theories of Pierre Bourdieu. The main motives of change are found in the untenable dependence of economic capital on social capital.

Bělohradský Václav: Přirozený svět jako politický problém. Eseje o člověku pozdní doby (The natural world as a political problem. Essays about man of the latest period)

Praha, Československý spisovatel 1991, First edition.

Considerations and essays of a post-modern philosopher and social scientist which come into being from 1977 to 1989 and were "an effort to escape from the cage, which was one version of the world". They are an impression of one period of his thinking. Bělohradský masterly elaborates upon many modern topics (banality of evil, legitimacy and legality, natural language, objective view, phenomenon of Central Europe etc.) and creates their importance for the latest period.

Bělohradský Václav: Kapitalismus a občanské ctnosti (Capitalism and the civil virtues)

Praha, Československý spisovatel 1992, First edition.

A book of unique essays from the daily newspaper Mladá Fronta Dnes. It is called a schoolbook of political behaviour. Bělohradský reflects on the period of the post-communist transformation and recommends the spirit of CR's earlier era of capitalism. He offers an orientation in confusing time and explains important issues of today (political decisions, multicultural society, unpolitical politics, illusion of the social state, victory of liberalism and the end of history etc.).

Petrusek Miloslav: Alternativní sociologie (Alternative sociology)

Praha, Klub osvobozeného samizdatu 1992, First edition.

A book on the sociology of sociology written by one of the best Czech social scientists. Petrusek searched during the communist period for an alternative not only for the retarded marxian sociology but also for every institutionalized form of sociology. He felt that every institutionalized form of sociology was not fully independent and only wrote groving old books about processes and factors which create topical forms of modern sociology.

Staněk Tomáš: Odsun Němců z Československa 1945-1947 (Expulsion of the Germans from Czechoslovakia)

Praha, Academia and Naše vojsko 1991, First edition.

The book makes clear one "white place" of Czechoslovak history which is the dark spot on Czechoslovaks' consciences. Staněk gives a complex view on the circumstances of the expulsion supported by historical and demographical data and proposes detached causes and consequences (short time effect on the relationship between Czechs and Slovaks, simplicity of national situation, composition of war losts...) of the Czechoslovak past.

Machonin Pavel: Sociální struktura Československa v předvečer Pražského jara 1968 (The social structure in Czechoslovakia on the eve of the Prague spring 1968)

Praha, Karolinum 1992, First edition.

The author was a team leader which collected in 1967 representative sociological and statistical data concerning social stratification and mobility in Czechoslovakia before political events in 1968.

Using the file of dates and considering wide political, economical and cultural conditions, Machonin explains the following political movements.

Kučera Jaroslav: Odsun nebo vyhnání? (A transfer or ejection?)

Praha, Ústav dějin střední a východní Evropy ČSAV 1992, First edition.

Historical and politological essays on a very questionable part of Czechoslovak history. The author looks for historical causes of this event, analyzes the development of Czech and Slovak relationship and discusses the role of E. Beneš and western powers in the evacuation of the Germans. He concludes that this event has not only one name, but two. It started like an ejection and finished like a transfer.

S-OBZOR. Three months' magazine for critical sociology

Prague 1992

The S-OBZOR is a magazine taked up again by the Sociologický obzor published from 1987 to 1989 as a samizdat. It is open not only to social scientists but also philosophers, psychologists, political scientists, anthropologists and others. The magazine dedicated all topical social, political and close issues, discussion essays, theories and sometimes movies, interviews with scientists and book reviews. It also uses a more acceptable language for nonprofessional public.

Klára Vlachová