

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITHIN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY IN MAPS

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### ABSTRACT

As a part of the Czech Historical Atlas project, the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Czech Technical University in Prague prepare a printed atlas devoted to the history of the former Czechoslovakia in the 20th century. The atlas is now in the process of creating and reviewing individual maps. This paper deals with the thematic division of the atlas, the use of individual cartographic methods and important notes on the creation of historiographical maps.

From the thematic-focus point of view, the content of the atlas is very diverse. Among the most important maps of the whole content the maps concerning the territory of Czechoslovakia and its development within 1918–1992 may be ranked.

War maps represent other important group of maps. In particular, the themes of the Liberation of Czechoslovakia, the advance of the US Army in May 1945 or the Slovak National Uprising were processed. As for cartographic processing in particular, these maps are probably the most complicated. They contain a number of motion lines and their graphical load is enormous. There are also other maps related to World War II – transports of the Jewish population or displacement of the German population after the war. The Atlas further documents movements of the Czech population (minorities, emigration) as well as important 8-number-year topics in the Czechoslovak history (1918, 1948, 1968, 1989).

A large group of maps consists of geographic maps showing various natural or socio-economic themes, which document the development of Czechoslovakia. These topics are often going into even deeper history. As examples, maps of spas and healing springs, maps of nature preservation and monuments, pilgrimage sites and lookout towers, etc. may be stated.

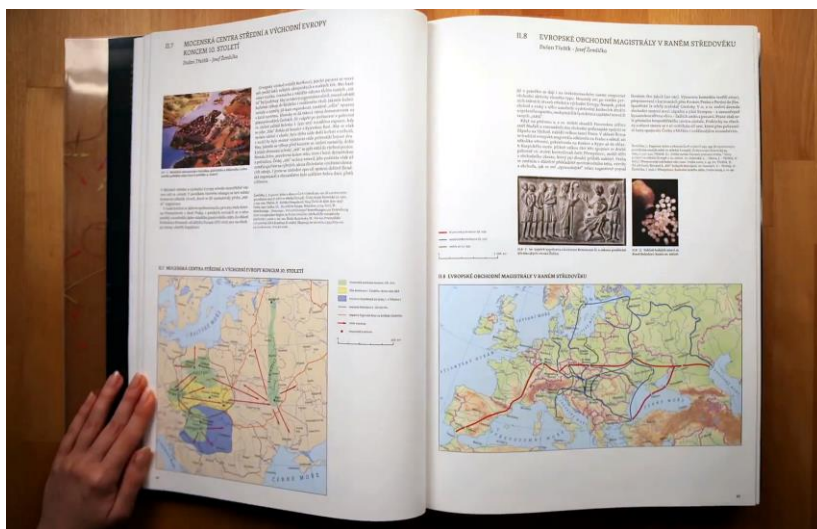
As far as cartographic processing is concerned, analytical maps are mainly used. The symbology was created in its own style, including new figural marks. A wide range of thematic cartography tools are used – from point and line methods, through choropleths, diagrams to area method.

**Keywords:** digital cartography, historical map, historical atlas, frontiers, Czech Lands, Czech Historical Atlas

## INTRODUCTION

The rich history of the Czech Lands and the wider Central European region has been and continues to be the subject of scientific research by historians, art historians, individual independent researchers and the general public. Significant historical events have been regularly (and with varying degree of accuracy and rightness) captured on maps and in periodical publications where maps were often included.

Czechoslovakia was formed in 1918 as an independent state. Earlier history of this territory was associated with the Habsburg Monarchy, later known as Austria-Hungary. Maps in the upcoming atlas are devoted mainly to the period 1918–1992, i.e. the period of the Czechoslovak state (with the exception of war years). In 1992, Czechoslovakia was divided into Czechia and Slovakia as two successor states, which still exist today.



**Figure 1.** The Academic Atlas of the Czech History

## THE CZECH HISTORICAL ATLAS

In the Czech environment, the onset of digital technologies in the preparation of atlas works was noticeably slower and the first works originated with more than a decade of delay compared to the world cartography. Probably the last major printed historical atlas published in the Czech lands was the Academic Atlas of the Czech History (Fig.1) [1], released in 2014. It was most likely also one of the last extensive professional atlas publications that were published as purely printed, without an accompanying digital content. This atlas was also dealt with in [2], and an extensive critical review of it brought the article [3].

A partly successor project, which is, in printed form, mainly focusing on the Czech Lands and the Central European area in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is an atlas being created with draft name the *Czech Historical Atlas*, which was already introduced in [4]. A great innovation of this work is an electronic map portal. It brings a large number of maps originally intended for the Academic Atlas of the Czech History, converted into electronic form, along with dozens of maps newly created based on research of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, whereas the printed publication of the same name is intended to present the topics mainly connected with the 20<sup>th</sup>-century events.

## TERRITORIAL MAPS

The geographic development of the area of former Czechoslovakia after WWI and then of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic after 1948 was not as complicated and varying as in cases of other countries.

In the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was necessary to display small border areas during the first years of Czechoslovakia, which were either attached or resigned to neighbouring states. See red areas as resigned and green areas as attached in the northern part of Czechoslovakia on the cut-out of the map (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** The Cut-out of the map displaying small border areas of Czechoslovakia 1918-1924

Czechoslovakia underwent a slightly significant territorial development first in 1938–1945. After the Munich Agreement, a large part of the territory was annexed to Germany, further parts were added to Poland or Hungary. After World War II, the frontier was returned, but the Soviet Union absorbed Carpathian Ruthenia. The two before mentioned maps are two typical representatives here. See Czechoslovakia in late 1939 on the Figure 3.



**Figure 3.** The map showing Czechoslovakia in late 1939

## WAR, DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION MAPS

Wars have been a driving mechanism during the whole 20<sup>th</sup> century, not excluding the Central European area. The two thoroughly explained representatives are thus closely connected with the events of 1945 and 1968 years in a concordance with the mentioned events determining the most important historical changes during the last 100 years in the Czech Lands. The first is the Liberation of Czechoslovakia in 1945, the second is the theme of violent repressions leading to the Prague Spring termination in 1968–1969. They contain a number of motion lines of many types and their graphical load is enormous. Namely creation of the map of Liberation of Czechoslovakia in 1945 was quite challenging and it lasted dozens of hours to draw all the lines with appropriate symbols.

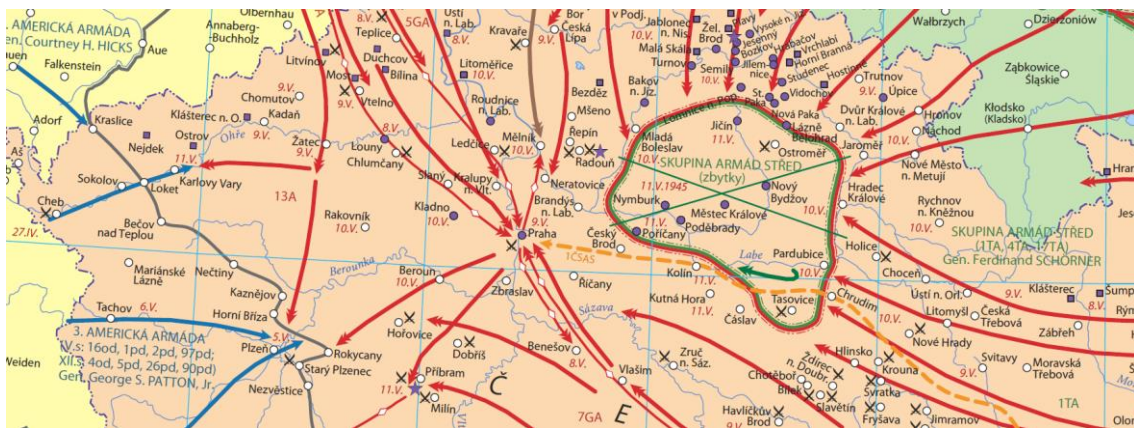


Figure 4. The cut-out of the map showing the liberation of Czechoslovakia in 1945

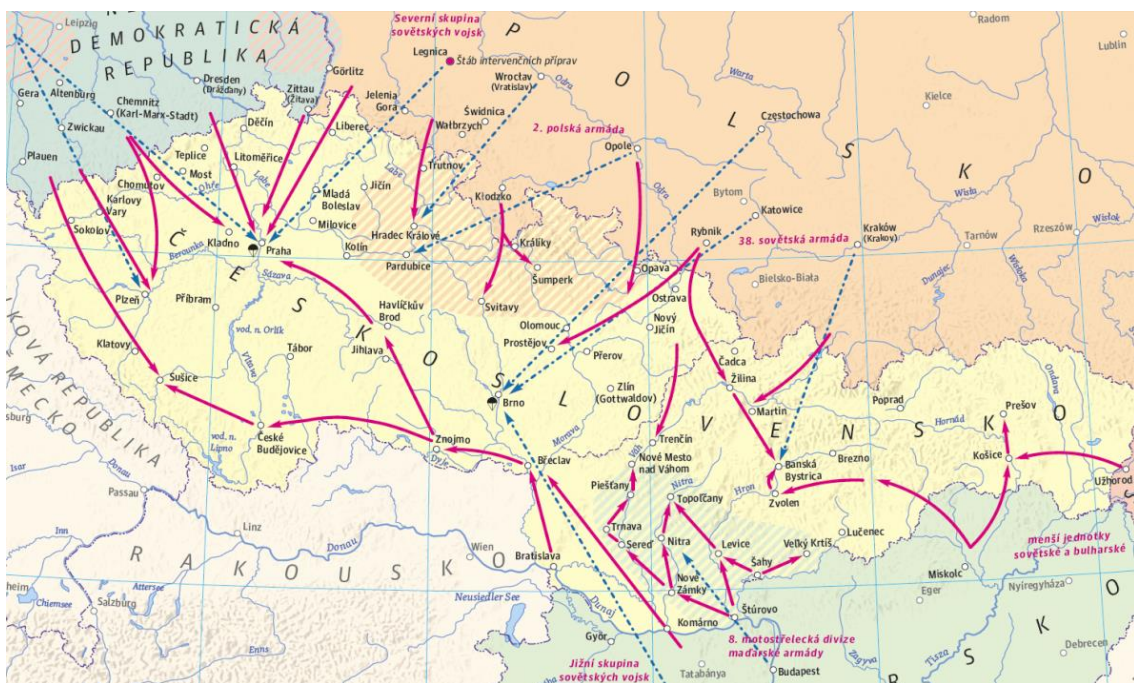


Figure 5. The map showing the Warsaw Pact invasion into Czechoslovakia in 1968

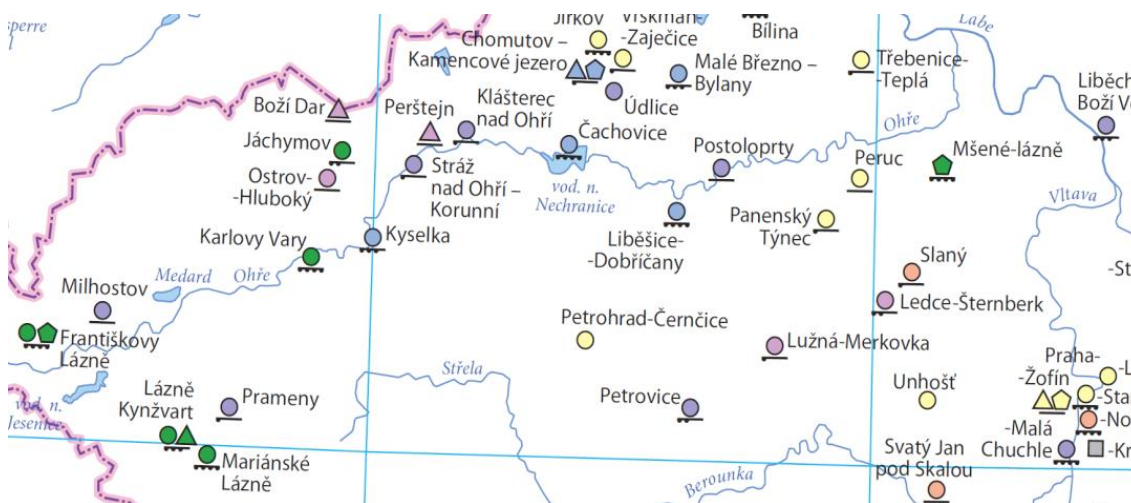
Migration maps are another example of maps included in the atlas. There are topics in the Czechoslovakian history closely connected with movement of population. Apparently, many of them are connected with World War II. As an example map of displacement of the German population after the war is displayed on the Figure 6.



Figure 6. The map of displacement of the German population after the WWII

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC THEMES

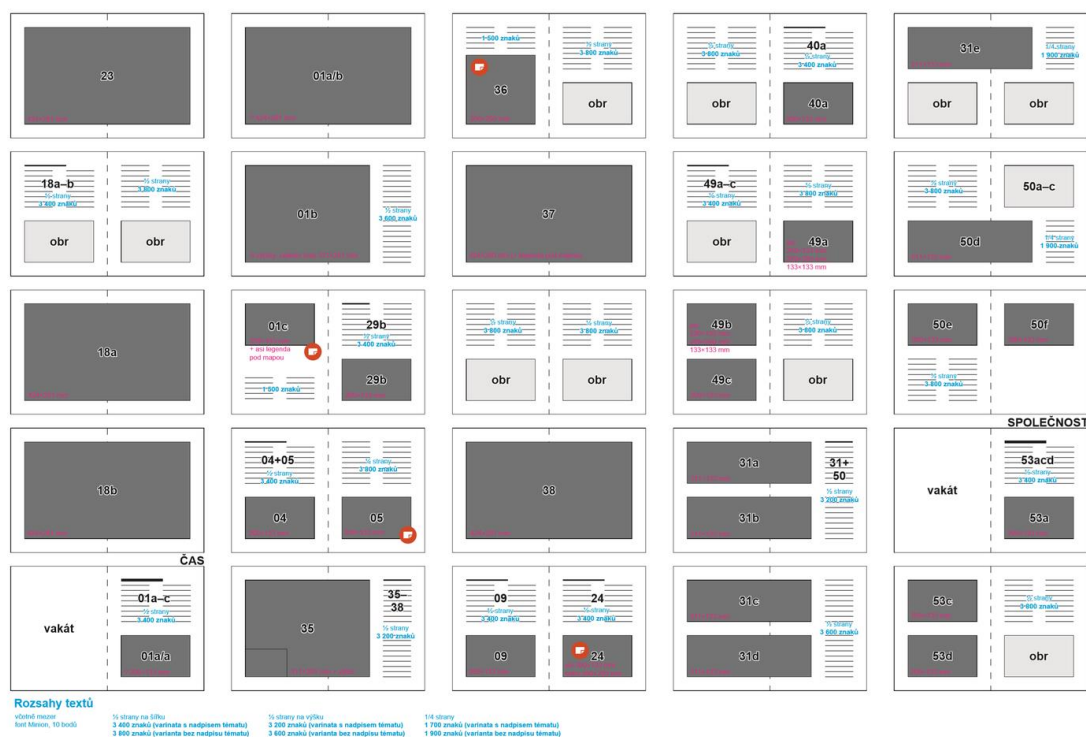
The atlas brings an amount maps not falling between the two above-mentioned groups. These include many social, cultural and economic fields of the human life together with administrative, transport, environmental and many other themes. As a representative of this chapter, the map of spas and healing sites has been chosen. In this example the complexity of map key depicting type of the spa (geometric symbol), termination of its service (colour), and length of their existence (line below the symbol) can be seen.



**Figure 7.** The cut-out of the map of spas and healing sites**CARTOGRAPHIC PROCESSING**

The Czech historical atlas contains, in the vast majority, analytical maps; only in some cases, it is attempting to synthesize the phenomena. In total, the publication will contain ca 100 maps of various sizes, together with text passages, graphs, reproductions and other images, as shown in the layout of the atlas section in Figure 8.

The overwhelming majority of territorial maps use the areal-symbols method of representation. However, in some cases, the rendition of frontiers is quite complicated, especially in genetic maps depicting development over several decades. This topic was discussed by Seemann [5].

**Figure 8.** Layout of the middle part of the atlas. Maps are represented by the dark grey rectangles, light grey are pictures and lines represent texts

The war and migration maps also use in their majority areal maps, but these are often accompanied by a number of movement lines. Again, in the case of genetic maps, there is a large number of lines, and sometimes it is difficult to find a sufficient number of understandable cartographic symbols for different types of front lines or movements, in addition, in different dates, within different units, etc.

The socio-economic maps, on the other hand, use a wide range of methods of cartographic representation. The areal symbols method also appears, but often in conjunction with other figural and line features. The atlas also contains many choropleths or diagram maps and their combinations. The range of methods used is related to the range of topics that requested various manners of thematic expression.

## CONCLUSION

The atlas work named Czech Historical Atlas introduces the history of the Czech Lands mainly within the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including the relation to the Central European space, and brings a look at the historical research of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in a summarizing manner. It may serve as a missing element to the Czech and Central European historiography, offering relevant content both to professionals and historians as well as to lay users interested in the history of the Czech Lands.

The atlas brings many unprocessed topics, or those that are presented intuitively, using an interdisciplinary approach, taking advantage of new knowledge in recent years. The work does not aim to be an exhaustive source of knowledge of the history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it rather presents the 20<sup>th</sup> century in context and apart to well-known themes using novel and newly processed chapters.

Because of the choice of topics, the atlas does not have pretensions to be a significantly synthetic publication; rather it shows the selected topics in a comprehensible way. The limited format and range of pages did not allow many themes be presented in an adequately complex way, which is compensated by the electronic part of the atlas work (web map portal). The portal, thanks to the interactivity of map applications and considerably lower limitations in the processing of electronic maps, brings further, deeper information on the topics, more options of comparison and new preview of the processed chapters.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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