

what language do czech speak

What Language Do Czech Speak? Unraveling the Linguistic Fabric of the Czech Republic

what language do czech speak is a question that pops up often, especially among travelers, language enthusiasts, and those curious about Central European cultures. The Czech Republic, with its rich history and vibrant cultural tapestry, offers more than just picturesque cities and historic castles; it provides a fascinating linguistic landscape that is both unique and deeply rooted in Slavic traditions. So, if you've ever wondered about the primary language spoken in this charming country and what makes it distinctive, you're in the right place.

The Czech Language: Heart and Soul of the Czech Republic

At the core of this question lies the Czech language itself. Czech, or čeština as it's known locally, is the official language of the Czech Republic and the mother tongue of the vast majority of its population. It belongs to the West Slavic group of the Slavic language family, which also includes Slovak and Polish, making it closely related to these languages but still uniquely Czech in its structure and vocabulary.

Czech is not only a means of daily communication but also a carrier of Czech culture, literature, and national identity. If you've ever heard the melodic flow of Czech in conversation or song, you'll notice its distinct sounds and rhythms—quite different from other European languages, yet somehow familiar to those with knowledge of Slavic tongues.

Origins and Historical Development

Understanding what language do Czech speak also means appreciating its historical roots. The Czech language has evolved over more than a millennium, with its earliest written records dating back to the 9th century. Over centuries, it absorbed influences from Latin, German, and Hungarian due to the region's dynamic political and cultural interactions, especially during the Austro-Hungarian Empire era.

The language underwent significant standardization in the 19th century, spearheaded by Czech scholars and writers who aimed to revive and modernize the language after periods of German dominance. This revival played a crucial role in the Czech national movement and ultimately contributed to the formation of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

Dialects and Regional Variations

While Czech is relatively uniform across the country, there are several regional dialects that add flavor and diversity to the language landscape. These dialects can differ in pronunciation, vocabulary, and certain grammatical features, reflecting local history and cultural influences.

Major Dialect Groups

- **Bohemian Dialects:** Predominantly spoken in the western part of the country, including Prague. These dialects are often considered the basis for standard Czech.
- **Moravian Dialects:** Found in the eastern regions, such as Moravia and Silesia. These dialects sometimes share traits with Slovak and Polish due to geographic proximity.
- **Silesian Dialects:** Spoken in the northeastern area, these dialects showcase some unique vocabulary and intonation patterns.

Despite these variations, the differences generally don't hinder mutual understanding among Czech speakers, and standard Czech is widely taught and used in media, education, and official communication.

Language in Daily Life and Education

For anyone curious about what language do Czechs speak in everyday contexts, it's worth noting that Czech dominates most spheres of life. Schools, government institutions, media outlets, and businesses primarily operate in Czech. Children learn Czech from a young age, and it's the language of instruction throughout the education system.

Learning Czech as a Second Language

If you plan to live, work, or study in the Czech Republic, learning Czech can greatly enhance your experience. While many younger Czechs speak English or other foreign languages like German or Russian, especially in urban areas, Czech remains essential for deeper social integration and understanding local culture.

For language learners, Czech presents challenges such as complex grammar with seven cases, verb aspects, and specific pronunciation nuances. However, with consistent practice and exposure, mastering Czech is achievable and rewarding, opening doors to a rich literary tradition and warm local interactions.

Multilingualism and Minority Languages in the Czech Republic

While Czech is the dominant language, the country is home to several minority languages and communities, reflecting its multicultural heritage.

Slovak Language

Given the historical ties between the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Slovak is widely understood and spoken by many Czechs, especially the older generations. The two languages are mutually intelligible to a significant extent, making communication between Czechs and Slovaks relatively seamless.

Other Minority Languages

- **German:** Once more prevalent due to historical reasons, German remains spoken in some border areas and among older populations.
- **Romani:** Spoken by the Roma community in various parts of the country.
- **Polish and Ukrainian:** Present in border regions and among immigrant communities.

These languages, while not official, contribute to the linguistic mosaic and cultural diversity of the Czech Republic.

The Influence of Foreign Languages

Aside from native and minority languages, foreign languages have carved out a significant presence in the Czech Republic. English, in particular, has become the lingua franca in business, tourism, and academia, especially in Prague and other larger cities.

German remains a popular second language choice in schools due to geographic proximity and economic ties. Russian, once widely taught during the communist era, has seen a decline in use but still appears among older generations.

Tips for Communicating in the Czech Republic

- **Learn Basic Czech Phrases:** Even simple greetings or thank-yous go a long way in building rapport.
- **Use English in Tourist Areas:** English is commonly understood in major cities and tourist spots.
- **Be Patient with Language Barriers:** Some rural areas may have limited English proficiency, so patience and gestures can help.

Embracing the language and making an effort to engage can enrich your cultural experience immensely.

Why Understanding What Language Do Czech Speak Matters

Knowing what language do Czech speak isn't just about communication; it's a doorway to understanding the country's identity, history, and people. Language shapes how Czechs express themselves, preserve their traditions, and connect with the wider world.

Whether you're planning a visit, considering studying abroad, or simply curious about Central Europe, appreciating the Czech language offers insights into the nation's soul. It's a language that weaves together centuries of stories, resilience, and creativity—a true emblem of Czech pride.

Exploring Czech language and culture can be a fascinating journey, revealing layers beyond the surface of a country often overshadowed by its more prominent neighbors. So next time you ask, "what language do Czech speak?" remember, it's more than just words; it's a living heritage inviting you to discover and celebrate.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the official language spoken in the Czech Republic?

The official language spoken in the Czech Republic is Czech.

Is Czech a widely spoken language outside the Czech Republic?

Czech is primarily spoken in the Czech Republic, with smaller communities of speakers in neighboring countries and among expatriates.

What language family does the Czech language belong to?

Czech belongs to the West Slavic group of the Slavic branch of the Indo-European language family.

Are there any dialects of the Czech language?

Yes, there are several dialects of Czech, including Bohemian, Moravian, and Silesian dialects.

Do most Czechs speak any other languages besides Czech?

Many Czechs also speak English, German, or other European languages as a second language, especially younger generations and in urban areas.

How similar is Czech to Slovak?

Czech and Slovak are very similar and mutually intelligible languages, as they both belong to the West Slavic language group and share a common linguistic history.

Additional Resources

What Language Do Czech Speak? An In-Depth Exploration of Czech Linguistics

what language do czech speak is a question often raised by travelers, linguists, and cultural enthusiasts alike. The Czech Republic, a Central European country with a rich history and vibrant culture, is primarily associated with the Czech language. However, understanding the linguistic landscape of the Czech Republic goes beyond simply naming its official tongue. This article delves into the intricacies of the Czech language, its origins, characteristics, and the multilingual realities of the population, providing a comprehensive view of what language do Czech speak in both formal and informal contexts.

The Czech Language: Official Status and Historical Background

The Czech language, known as “čeština” in its native form, is the official language of the Czech Republic. It belongs to the West Slavic subgroup of the Slavic branch of the Indo-European language family. Czech shares close linguistic ties with Slovak, Polish, and to a lesser extent, Sorbian languages, which is a reflection of the historical and cultural interconnections in the Central European region.

Historically, Czech evolved from Old Czech, which was spoken in the Middle Ages. The language experienced significant development during the Czech National Revival in the 18th and 19th centuries, a period marked by efforts to restore Czech cultural identity under Habsburg rule when German was dominant in administration and education. This revival ensured the survival and modernization of Czech, solidifying its role as a symbol of national pride and identity.

Key Features of the Czech Language

Czech is characterized by several linguistic features that distinguish it from other European languages:

- **Complex Phonology:** Czech has a rich system of consonants and vowels, including the distinctive ř sound, which is famously difficult for non-native speakers.
- **Grammar:** It is an inflected language with seven cases for nouns, pronouns, and adjectives, making its grammatical structure quite complex compared to English or Romance languages.
- **Verb Aspects:** Like many Slavic languages, Czech verbs have aspects that express whether an

action is completed (perfective) or ongoing (imperfective).

- **Vocabulary:** While predominantly Slavic, Czech has absorbed words from German, Latin, and recently English, reflecting historical influences and globalization.

What Language Do Czech Speak Beyond Czech?

While Czech is the primary language, it is important to recognize the multilingual facets present within the country. The Czech Republic is home to several minority languages and a growing number of foreign languages due to immigration, tourism, and international business.

Slovak Language and Mutual Intelligibility

One of the most significant linguistic relationships is between Czech and Slovak. Due to the history of Czechoslovakia, which existed until 1993, Czech and Slovak remain mutually intelligible, allowing speakers of one language to understand the other with relative ease. Slovak is spoken by a small minority in the Czech Republic and is often understood by Czech speakers, especially older generations who lived during the Czechoslovak era.

Minority Languages in the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic recognizes several minority languages, including:

- **German:** Spoken historically in regions bordering Germany and Austria, with a legacy dating back to the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
- **Polish:** Present mainly in the northeastern border areas where Polish minorities reside.
- **Romani:** Used by the Romani communities within the country.
- **Slovak:** As mentioned, Slovak remains a recognized minority language.

These languages contribute to the cultural diversity of the Czech Republic, though Czech dominates public life, education, and government.

The Role of English and Other Foreign Languages

In today's globalized environment, many Czechs, especially younger generations and urban residents, learn foreign languages, with English being the most prominent second language. English proficiency

has increased significantly over the past decades due to education reforms, international media, and economic integration within the European Union.

Other popular foreign languages include German, French, and Russian, with German particularly prevalent because of geographic proximity and historical ties. This multilingual capability shapes how Czechs communicate in international settings and influences the linguistic environment in tourism, business, and academia.

Linguistic Education and Language Policy in the Czech Republic

The Czech education system places a strong emphasis on language learning. Czech children begin learning their native language in preschool and primary school, where Czech grammar and literature form a core part of the curriculum. Foreign language education typically starts early, with English being the most common first foreign language taught, followed by German or other languages.

Language policy in the Czech Republic supports the use of Czech as the sole official language in government, judiciary, and public administration. However, minority language rights are protected under both Czech legislation and international agreements, allowing for education and media in minority languages in certain regions.

Challenges and Opportunities in Language Preservation

While Czech is firmly established, there are challenges related to language preservation and modernization:

- **Globalization:** The influx of English and international terms sometimes leads to concerns about linguistic purity and the erosion of traditional Czech vocabulary.
- **Minority Languages:** Some minority languages face decline due to assimilation and demographic changes.
- **Technology:** Digital communication introduces new linguistic dynamics, including slang and informal registers that impact language use.

Nonetheless, these challenges also foster opportunities for linguistic innovation and cultural exchange, allowing Czech to adapt and thrive in the 21st century.

Comparative Perspective: Czech Language Among

Slavic Languages

Understanding what language do Czech speak also entails situating Czech among its Slavic neighbors. Unlike East Slavic languages such as Russian and Ukrainian, or South Slavic languages like Serbian and Croatian, Czech belongs to the West Slavic group alongside Slovak and Polish.

Compared to Polish, Czech pronunciation is generally considered more straightforward for learners, though Czech grammar is slightly more complex. Czech's mutual intelligibility with Slovak is higher than with Polish, reflecting historical and cultural proximity. These linguistic relationships influence cross-border communication and cultural exchange within Central Europe.

Practical Implications for Language Learners and Visitors

For tourists and expatriates, knowing what language do Czech speak is crucial for effective communication. While many Czechs in urban areas speak English or other foreign languages, rural regions and older populations may rely almost exclusively on Czech. Learning basic Czech phrases or understanding its linguistic structure can enhance cultural immersion and social interaction.

- **Language Accessibility:** Czech uses the Latin alphabet with additional diacritical marks, making it visually accessible to speakers of other Latin-based languages.
- **Pronunciation Challenges:** Some sounds like "ř" and certain consonant clusters pose difficulties for non-native speakers.
- **Politeness and Formality:** Czech distinguishes between formal and informal speech, which is important in social and professional contexts.

These factors influence how foreigners approach learning and using the Czech language during their stay.

The question of what language do Czech speak opens a window into the rich linguistic culture of the Czech Republic, revealing a language deeply rooted in history yet responsive to contemporary influences. With Czech as the cornerstone of national identity, complemented by minority languages and growing multilingualism, the country's linguistic profile reflects both tradition and modernity in equal measure.

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what language do czech speak: *Czech and Polish Sound Memories of the Second World War*
Radmila Švaříčková Slabáková, Marcin Filipowicz, Dobrawa Lisak-Gębala, Sławomir Wieczorek,
Andrea Hanáčková, 2025-11-03 This book investigates the crucial yet often overlooked role of sound

in shaping the memory of the Second World War. Through an interdisciplinary and transnational approach, this volume addresses a notable gap in memory studies and argues that auditory experiences are central to how war is remembered, commemorated and narrated. By placing sound at the heart of collective remembrance, this book reveals how sonic elements influence public discourse, shape collective identities and contribute to the evolving transformation of war memory. Bringing together scholars from the Czech Republic and Poland, this volume examines how the Second World War has been remembered through sound since the 1990s across three distinct media: museum exhibitions, prose fiction and sound art – including soundwalks and field recordings. This innovative framework underscores the importance of exploring how different media evoke and reproduce sound to grasp the complexity and diversity of wartime memory in Central Europe. Focusing on Czech and Polish memory cultures, the book demonstrates that sound may function in multiple and sometimes contradictory ways: as a means of reinforcing national narratives, as a tool for critical engagement, or as a medium for experimental and marginal perspectives. This volume is essential reading for scholars in memory studies, sound studies, cultural and public history, museology, literary theory and musicology, as well as for museum professionals and anyone interested in how the past resonates – literally and metaphorically – through sound.

what language do czech speak: Adventures with Czech George Mike Brown, 2013-04-18

This is a personal memoir of my very special friendship with a very unusual man. My wife and I first met George Borcovec during the short-lived Prague Spring of 1968. This chance encounter was the start of a forty year adventure during which we went behind the Iron Curtain, introduced George to life in Britain, watched in fascination the long struggle for freedom of the Czech people, contacted George and his family again after their flight to Austria, taught English in Northern Bohemia, and visited the wonderful city of Prague more than a dozen times. This book tells that story. It covers a dramatic period of change in European history: from hard-line Communism to the challenges of freedom and democracy since 1989. It includes some earlier Czech history, and deals with some of the differences between Czech and British culture. There are family photographs and family letters. There are even some jokes, mainly at the expense of the Czech Communist authorities.

what language do czech speak: What Language Do I Dream In? Elena Lappin, 2016-06-07

Elena Lappin's life could be described as 'five languages in search of an author'. She now lives in London, but she was born in Russia and has lived in Czechoslovakia, Germany, Israel, Canada, and the United States. As a multiple émigré, her decision to write in English was the unexpected result of many wanderings, and this memoir tells the story of finding a voice in a language that is not one's own. Russian, Czech, German, Hebrew, and finally English: how do they, and the family roots and cultures they represent define who she is, and how has adopting English allowed her to be a writer? The story of Lappin's identity is unexpectedly complicated by the discovery, in middle age, that her biological father was an American living in Russia. Their encounter introduces an element of mystery to the search for her roots, and a surprise: suddenly, English is more than the accidental 'home in exile' - it is the language she may have been close to from the very beginning.

what language do czech speak: Czechoslovakia Michael Brenner, 1997-11-13 This book, the most thoroughly researched and accurate history of Czechoslovakia to appear in English, tells the story of the country from its founding in 1918 to partition in 1992—from fledgling democracy through Nazi occupation, Communist rule, and invasion by the Soviet Union to, at last, democracy again. The common Western view of Czechoslovakia has been that of a small nation that was sacrificed at Munich in 1938 and betrayed to the Soviets in 1948, and which rebelled heroically against the repression of the Soviet Union during the Prague Spring of 1968. Mary Heimann dispels these myths and shows how intolerant nationalism and an unhelpful sense of victimhood led Czech and Slovak authorities to discriminate against minorities, compete with the Nazis to persecute Jews and Gypsies, and pave the way for the Communist police state. She also reveals Alexander Dubcek, held to be a national hero and standard-bearer for democracy, to be an unprincipled apparatchik. Well written, revisionist, and accessible, this groundbreaking book should become the standard history of Czechoslovakia for years to come.

what language do czech speak: Language Planning and Policy in Europe Robert B. Kaplan, Richard B. Baldauf (Jr.), 2005 This text covers the language situation in Hungary, Finland, and Sweden explaining linguistic diversity, historical and political contexts, including language-in-education planning; and the roles of the media, of religion, and of minority and migrant languages. The authors have been participants in the language planning context in these polities.

what language do czech speak: *Language Policy and Language Acquisition Planning* Maarja Siiner, Francis M. Hult, Tanja Kupisch, 2018-05-22 In the sociopolitics of language, sometimes yesterday's solution is tomorrow's problem. This volume examines the evolving nature of language acquisition planning through a collection of papers that consider how decisions about language learning and teaching are mediated by a confluence of psychological, ideological, and historical forces. The first two parts of the volume feature empirical studies of formal and informal education across the lifespan and around the globe. Case studies map the agents, resources, and attitudes needed for creating moments and spaces for language learning that may, at times, collide with wider beliefs and policies that privilege some languages over others. The third part of the volume is devoted to conceptual contributions that take up theoretical issues related to epistemological and conceptual challenges for language acquisition planning. These contributions reflect on the full spectrum of social and cognitive factors that intersect with the planning of language teaching and learning including ethnic and racial power relations, historically situated political systems, language ideologies, community language socialization, relationships among stakeholders in communities and schools, interpersonal interaction, and intrapersonal development. In all, the volume demonstrates the multifaceted and socially situated nature of language acquisition planning.

what language do czech speak: The Foundations and Versatility of English Language Teaching (ELT) Christoph Haase, Natalia Orlova, Joel Cameron Head, 2018-12-14 While the field of ELT studies sees continued horizontal and vertical diversification, it is also time to take stock of what has made the discipline the field it presents itself as today. As horizontal diversification, we can identify trends that involve a continued inclusion of more fields of study into the family of methods and approaches of ELT. Especially in the technical sense, e-learning has matured and new forms of online learning and teaching have emerged, be it via teleconferences or short-message services for vocabulary training. However, a massive extension has occurred within the so-called social media. The vertical dimension affects a depth of analysis not seen even a decade ago, when for example small and relatively simple learner corpora were used for linguistic analysis that rarely went beyond rote frequency counts. The increasing sophistication in these two dimensions is also reflected in the research papers collected in this volume.

what language do czech speak: Namibian Czechs LIT Verlag, 2020-01-01 The book focuses on the history and identity of Namibian Czechs, originally a group of prominent child war refugees admitted by the Czechoslovak government in 1985 for education as an expression of international solidarity assistance to SWAPO liberation movement. The educational project with elements of social engineering was interrupted in 1991 due to political changes in both countries. The relocation of the children to Namibia had a dramatic impact on their future lives. Namibian Czechs never fully integrated into Namibian society, moreover they proudly proclaim their belonging to Czechness.

what language do czech speak: *Reflections of Prague* Ivan Margolius, 2012-08-06 Reflections of Prague is the story of how a Czech Jewish family become embroiled in the most tragic and tumultuous episodes of the twentieth century. Through their eyes we see the history of their beloved Prague, a unique European city, and the wider, political forces that tear their lives apart. Their moving story traces the major events, turmoil, oppression and triumphs of Europe through the last hundred years – from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the First World War; from the vibrant artistic and intellectual life of Prague in the times of Kafka, the Capek Brothers and Masaryk to years of hunger in a Polish ghetto and the concentration camps of Hitler; from the tyrannous rule of Stalin to the rekindled hopes of Dubcek and the subsequent Soviet occupation to liberation under Havel. Told from Ivan's perspective, it is a poignant but uplifting tale that tells of life lived with purpose and conviction, in the face of personal suffering and sacrifice. 'A remarkable book. This archetypical

story of the twentieth century is intertwined with an almost stream-of-consciousness narrative of the history of the Czechs, of Prague, interspersed with samples of exquisite poetry by great contemporary poets. So the narrative flows like Eliot's sweet Thames full of the debris of tragic lives, of horrors, of moments of beauty and testimonies of love – all against the backdrop of man's inhumanity.' Josef Škvorecký 'A poignant and vivid *mémoire* of a child searching for traces of his father, lost in the murky ideologies of post war Central Europe. An engrossing book.' Sir John Tusa

what language do czech speak: Czech Republic Debbie Nevins, Efstathia Sioras, Michael Spilling, 2018-07-15 The landlocked Czech Republic is not a large country, but it has a rich history. Known for its architectural treasures, lush forests, and a strong literary heritage, the Czech Republic was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and was united with Slovakia under the name Czechoslovakia before its peaceful independence in 1993. Since then, the Czech Republic has become a stable and prosperous parliamentary republic. Readers will learn more about this complex country and its distinctive culture in this engaging and informative book.

what language do czech speak: Creating the Other Nancy M. Wingfield, 2004-09-01 The historic myths of a people/nation usually play an important role in the creation and consolidation of the basic concepts from which the self-image of that nation derives. These concepts include not only images of the nation itself, but also images of other peoples. Although the construction of ethnic stereotypes during the long nineteenth century initially had other functions than simply the homogenization of the particular culture and the exclusion of others from the public sphere, the evaluation of peoples according to criteria that included level of civilization yielded rankings of ethnic groups within the Habsburg Monarchy. That provided the basis for later, more divisive ethnic characterizations of exclusive nationalism, as addressed in this volume that examines the roots and results of ethnic, nationalist, and racial conflict in the region from a variety of historical and theoretical perspectives.

what language do czech speak: **Congressional Record** United States. Congress, The Congressional Record is the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress. It is published daily when Congress is in session. The Congressional Record began publication in 1873. Debates for sessions prior to 1873 are recorded in The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States (1789-1824), the Register of Debates in Congress (1824-1837), and the Congressional Globe (1833-1873)

what language do czech speak: Czech Republic: Starting Business, Incorporating in Czech Republic Guide - Strategic, Practical Information, Regulations IBP, Inc., 2018-05-02 2011 Updated Reprint. Updated Annually. Czech Republic Starting Business (Incorporating) in....Guide

what language do czech speak: *The Routledge International Handbook of the Place of Religion in Early Childhood Education and Care* Arniika Kuusisto, 2022-05-30 Understanding the place of religion in Early Childhood Education and Care is of critical importance for the development of cultural literacy and plays a key role in societal coherence and inclusion. This international handbook provides a comprehensive overview of the place of religion in the societal educational arenas of the very youngest children across the globe. Drawing together contributions from leading international experts across disciplinary backgrounds, it offers a critical view of how to approach the complexities around the place of religion in Early Childhood Education and Care. Through its four parts, the book examines the theoretical, methodological, policy and practice perspectives and explores the complex intersections of transmission of cultural heritage and national values with the diverse, changing societal contexts. Each chapter contributes to an increased understanding of how the place of religion in Early Childhood Education and Care can be understood across continents, countries and educational systems. The Routledge International Handbook of the Place of Religion in Early Childhood Education and Care is an essential resource for academics, researchers, students and practitioners working in Early Childhood Education, Sociology of Childhood, Religious Education and other related fields

what language do czech speak: Entangled Englishes Jerry Won Lee, Sofia Rüdiger, 2025-02-28 Entangled Englishes offers an innovative approach to understanding the ongoing

globalization of English by examining it in relation to its multiple, complex, and oftentimes unexpected entanglements. The book explores entangled narratives of English that are imprinted and in circulation in various global contexts. The chapters examine the globalization of English as a phenomenon that is invariably entangled with and through various languages; cultural forms such as ideological commitments and social norms; or even (im)material objects such as food, signage, and attire. Offering a unique range of perspectives from leading scholars worldwide, this innovative volume presents exciting new research directions for anyone interested in the historical and contemporary complexities of language. This text is key reading for students and researchers of World Englishes, sociolinguistics, multilingualism, and linguistic anthropology.

what language do czech speak: Great Round World and what is Going on in it , 1897

what language do czech speak: **Budweisers into Czechs and Germans** Jeremy King, 2018-06-05 This history of a single town in Bohemia casts new light on nationalism in Central Europe between the Springtime of Nations in 1848 and the Cold War. Jeremy King tells the story of both German and Czech-speaking Budweis/Budějovice, which belonged to the Habsburg Monarchy until 1918, and then to Czechoslovakia, Hitler's Third Reich, and Czechoslovakia again. Residents, at first simply Budweisers, or Habsburg subjects with mostly local loyalties, gradually became Czechs or Germans. Who became Czech, though, and who German? What did it mean to be one or the other? In answering these questions, King shows how an epochal, region-wide contest for power found expression in Budweis/Budějovice not only through elections but through clubs, schools, boycotts, breweries, a remarkable constitutional experiment, a couple of riots, and much more. In tracing the nationalization of politics from small and sometimes comic beginnings to the genocide and mass expulsions of the 1940s, he also rejects traditional interpretive frameworks. Writing not a national history but a history of nationhood, both Czech and German, King recovers a nonnational dimension to the past. Embodied locally by Budweisers and more generally by the Habsburg state, that dimension has long been blocked from view by a national rhetoric of race and ethnicity. King's Czech-Habsburg-German narrative, in addition to capturing the dynamism and complexity of Bohemian politics, participates in broader scholarly discussions concerning the nature of nationalism.

what language do czech speak: *Czech Songs in Texas* Frances Barton, John K. Novak, 2021-07-15 On any weekend in Texas, Czech polka music enlivens dance halls and drinking establishments as well as outdoor church picnics and festivals. The songs heard at these venues are the living music of an ethnic community created by immigrants who started arriving in Central Texas in the mid-nineteenth century from what is now the Czech Republic. Today, the members of this community speak English but their songs are still sung in Czech. *Czech Songs in Texas* includes sixty-one songs, mostly polkas and waltzes. The songs themselves are beloved heirlooms ranging from ceremonial music with origins in Moravian wedding traditions to exuberant polkas celebrating the pleasures of life. For each song, the book provides music notation and Czech lyrics with English translation. An essay explores the song's European roots, its American evolution, and the meaning of its lyrics and lists notable performances and recordings. In addition to the songs and essays, Frances Barton provides a chapter on the role of music in the Texas Czech ethnic community, and John K. Novak surveys Czech folk and popular music in its European home. The book both documents a specific musical inheritance and serves as a handbook for learning about a culture through its songs. As folklorist and polka historian James P. Leary writes in his foreword, "Barton and Novak take us on a poetic, historical, and ethnographic excursion deep into a community's expressive heartland. Their *Czech Songs in Texas* just might be the finest extant annotated anthology of any American immigrant/ethnic group's regional song tradition."

what language do czech speak: *Culture Shock! Czech Republic* Tim Nollen, 2005 Whether you are conducting business, traveling for pleasure, or even relocating abroad, one mistake with customs or etiquette can leave a bad taste in everyone's mouth. International travelers, now more than ever, are not just individuals from the United States, but ambassadors and impression makers for the country as a whole. Newly updated, redesigned, and resized for maximum shelf appeal for

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