

## **Abstract**

Czech immigrants in America played an important role in the establishment of an independent Czechoslovakia after World War I, and even today more than one million Americans claim Czech ancestry. Czech Americans understandably kept a close eye on the young democracy in the centre of Europe during the interwar period. Their reflection is recorded primarily within the regional periodicals, which, despite their partial availability, are still not sufficiently reflected within the historiography. In general, the most researched period is the "peak" period of the immigrants America around the First World War, but elsewhere there are large gaps, especially in the interwar period. In my thesis, I will attempt a comparative view of Czechs in America on the events of 1929 to 1939, with the outer points of my examination being the crash of the New York Stock Exchange in the fall of 1929 to the occupation of the remnants of Czechoslovakia by Nazi Germany and the declaration of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia in March 1939. I will focus specifically on Czech periodicals published in three locations – Chicago, Nebraska, and Texas. Comparing these three perspectives will yield a unique comparison of the perspective of Czech Americans across urban and rural areas in three different states across the United States. It will also have the advantage of highlighting periodicals from a period in which scholars have shown little interest to date. The core of the work will be periodicals published in the three locations mentioned above by various interest groups, from the *Denní Hlasatel*, read by workers in Chicago, to the *Čechoslovák* and *Westské Noviny* printed for the Czech community in Texas, to the farmer – and gardener-oriented *Hospodář* published for several decades in Nebraska. Moreover, a comparison of these three enclaves will allow for an exploration of social, religious, demographic, and other differences, for "Czech part of America" has never been homogeneous, though it is often presented as such. The work aims to provide a fresh perspective on the key events in not only American but also Czech history that led to the collapse of the so-called First Republic and the beginning of the Second World War.