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**Politické dimenze československého exilu
v Kanadě 1948 - 1989**

Political Dimensions of the Czechoslovak Exile in Canada 1948 -1989

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SUMMARY

This study narrowly analyzed political and cultural-political dimension of the Czechoslovak exile in Canada during the selected period 1948-1989. Besides the introduction of the official political reactions and the evolution of political agendas, the cultural, educational and sports activities were examined, as they contributed to and supported other directly political events of the exile. The “other side” was presented too through the introduction of the strategies and tactics of the Czechoslovak communist regime used against the exile community in Canada.

Well-established Czechoslovak compatriots managed to react effectively to the changes in Czechoslovakia after 1948. Complex issues such as the assistance and support of the refugees and new immigrants were solved in the cooperation with other global Czechoslovak exile organizations. Main role among the organizations in Canada belonged to the Czechoslovak National Association in Canada, Masaryk Memorial Institute and to the gymnastic organization Sokol. Highly politically interested generation of newcomers changed the profile of examined community in Canada, yet not without internal problems; internal conflicts during the 1950s nearly paralyzed the agility of exiles. After 1968, Czechoslovak immigrants flooded into Canada since the homeland had been occupied by the troops of the Warsaw Pact army. The efforts of the exile contributed to the successful immigration of thousands of newcomers to Canada. During the 1970s, the impact and political reaction of the reunited exile surpassed the response from 1948. However, this achievement was particularly caused by the pragmatic and cautious approach of the Canadian government. Good organization, cooperation with other compatriotic movements from countries of the Soviet bloc, new methods and sharing of competences, as well as a solid long-term relationship with the Canadian ministries, all helped to pursue the political goals within selected political agenda. After 1975 the Czechoslovak exile successfully participated in the formation of the Canadian positions within the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe in Helsinki and Beograd. In 1989, many new democratic initiatives and organizations were established to help promote and push forward the transition to democracy and a market economy.