

Doctoral Dissertation

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English-Speaking Communists, Communist Sympathizers and Fellow-Travellers and Czechoslovakia in the Early Cold War

(Anglicky mluvící komunisté, komunističtí sympatizanti a podporovatelé a Československo v počátcích studené války)

Abstract

The dissertation is a study of some of those people with Communist Party affiliations and fellow-travellers, who journeyed behind the Iron Curtain to see for themselves what life was like in the new people's democracy. The research focuses on Czechoslovakia as a tourist destination for a surprising number of anglophones in the early years of the Cold War. It argues that Soviet experience served as a best practices model for officialdom in Prague. This was modified where necessary to take into account the lessons learnt, national particulars, and the new geopolitical context. In both situations, foreigners were evaluated in terms of importance and potential as far as the communist cause was concerned.

Key words: Czechoslovakia, communism, Cold War, English-speaking foreigners, hospitality techniques