**History of the Czech Republic**

In the 2nd century BC Celts were inhabiting our region. Boii were the most powerful tribe. They built fortified towns called Oppida. The biggest oppidum in South Bohemia was “Třísovské hradiště” near the town of Český Krumlov. Later on the Celts were replaced by Germanic tribes from the west.

Our territory was finally occupied by Slavic tribes from the east in the 6th century AD. There is a very popular story about our Forefather Čech who took his nation on the Říp mountain. The very first monarch in Czech lands is Bořivoj of the Premyslid dynasty. He took Christianity to Bohemia. Přemyslid dynasty instituted a new urban town - Prague. A famous representative of the Přemyslid dynasty is St. Wenceslas. He is the patron of our state. Another patron of our state is St. Vojtěch from the Slavonic dynasty.

The first really popular Přemyslid king was Přemysl I Ottokar because he became the first king of Bohemia and Moravia. In 1212 he obtained the Golden Sicilian Bull, which meant the royal title being made hereditary. Both the kings Přemysl II Ottokar and his son Wenceslas II instituted many towns. Přemysl II Ottokar found the town of České Budějovice in 1265. The last Přemyslid was Wenceslas III. He was murdered in 1306 in the town of Olomouc.

Another important historical character was the king was Charles IV who was also the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. He was residing in Prague for a long time. He instituted the first university in the Central Europe, the Cathedral of St. Vitus and a new stone bridge there. His sons were not good kings and Bohemia was going to downgrade. Later on the reformer priest Jan Hus was burned and the age of Hussite wars started.

In 1526 the dynasty of Habsburg took up the Czech throne. In the age of Rudolph II, Prague became very famous because Rudolph was staying there for a long time. For example, the famous scientist Tycho de Brahe worked there for Rudolph. The Czech nobility was not happy with domination of Habsburgs so they made a revolution but the king won in the Battle of White Mountain in 1620 and Habsburgs became even more powerful in our state. In the 18th century the queen Marie Therese held the power for a long time. Franz Joseph I was the last Habsburg before the 1st World War. After this war Habsburgs lost their power.

After this war, in 1918, a new state Czechoslovakia begun. Tomas Garrigue Masaryk was its first president. So-called First Republic was a great time for Czechs because the nation was powerful and prosperous. This age ended in 1938 when Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy signed the Munich Pact. Germany took 1/3 of the territory of Czechoslovakia, Slovakia pulled-away and Bohemia and Moravia became a Protectorate invaded by Hitler’s army.

During the World War II there were many brave Czech aircraft pilots in Britain fighting the Germans. In the year of 1942 a group of well-trained rebels even killed the Reich protector Reinhard Heydrich. In 1945 the American and Soviet troops liberated the country from nazi Germans. Unfortunately, in the year of 1948 the communist party took the power and later on they established totalitarian regime under the supervised control of the communist Soviet Union.

In the middle of this communist period it seemed the situation was getting better, but the process of democratisation was suddenly stopped by the invasion of the troops of The Warsaw Pact under the leadership of the Soviet Union. After the occupation there were another 20 years of totalitarian dictatorship of the communist party. At the end of this period the regime fell apart and Václav Havel became the first post-communist president of the Czechoslovakia. Four years later in 1993 Slovakia has peacefully become independent. The Czech Republic has got friendly relationships with Slovakia and both countries entered the European Union in 2004.