

DEUTSCH IN TSCHECHIEN: REICHE GESCHICHTE, BITTERE GEGENWART. MIT ENGLISCH KOMMEN SIE DURCH, MIT DEUTSCH KOMMEN SIE WEITER

Author **Jan Čapek**

University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, jan.capek@uhk.cz [ORCID: 0000-0002-3274-9468](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3274-9468)

Abstract:

This text explores the multifaceted relationship between the German language and the Czech Republic in both historical and contemporary contexts. Beginning with the rich history of the German language in Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, shaped significantly by the Habsburg Monarchy, it addresses the dramatic rupture caused by the expulsion and displacement of Sudeten Germans after World War II. The reunification of Germany and the democratization of the Czech Republic in the 1990s created new opportunities for German-Czech cooperation. The shared history serves as a key to understanding the Czech perspective on German culture and literature, often viewed within an interrelated context. Furthermore, the text analyzes the current importance of the German language in the Czech Republic, particularly in higher education, the labor market, and specific professional fields. Proficiency in German provides Czech professionals with significant advantages and new career opportunities. Finally, the role of the Czech government and other institutions in promoting the German language is highlighted as a means to further strengthen historical and cultural ties between the two countries.

Keywords: *German in the Czech Republic; Habsburg Monarchy; Sudeten Germans; Expulsion and displacement; German-Czech relations; German culture; Czech literature; Higher education; Labour market; German proficiency; Language promotion; Historical connections.*