

# Landlocked Countries: Czech Area

## Czechoslovakia, Continued

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### Czechoslovakia 1945-92, Continued

The centenary of the Slovak insurrection against Hungary was remembered with three 1948 stamps.

The 30th anniversary of independence was celebrated with two 1948 stamps, and from October 1948 new definitive stamps with the effigy of the new President, Klement Gottwald (1896-1953, President 1948-53). In November 1948 his 57th birthday was celebrated with a stamp and a souvenir sheet.



Left, 1948 centenary of Slovak insurrection Sc. 358; right, 1948 President Gottwald Sc.365



1949 Communist government one year Sc. 372

In 1949, for the first anniversary of his new government, two stamps were issued. The fifth anniversary of the Communist government was celebrated on three 1953 stamps.



1958 Communist government ten years Sc. 846-48

In 1958 three stamps were issued for the 10th anniversary of the Communist government.

Gottwald was a communist, and the ties with the Stalin regime in the Soviet Union were strengthened during his presidency. In 1948, a

Upper right, 1948 alliance with Soviet 5 years Sc. 369;

Below, 1950 Czech-Soviet friendship Sc. 436-37



stamp was issued for the fifth anniversary of the alliance with the Soviet Union. In 1950 two stamps celebrated the Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship.

The 30th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party was celebrated on five 1951 stamps,

and two of these displayed the effigies of both President Gottwald and Soviet leader Stalin. Also in 1951 was Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship celebrated with three stamps.

Both Stalin and Gottwald died in 1953, and Czechoslovakia issued mourning stamps for both. The first anniversary of their deaths commemorated with three stamps in 1954.



Left, 1951 Czechoslovak Communist Party 30 years Sc. 459; right, 1951 Czech-Soviet friendship Sc. 489



1954 Gottwald and Stalin deaths (mausoleums) 1 year Sc. 639, 641



1954 President Zápotocký 70 years Sc. 678



1953 President Zápotocký Sc. 618



1984 birth centenary of Zápotocký Sc. 2540

In Czechoslovakia, Gottwald was succeeded as President by Antonín Zápotocký (1884-1957, Prime Minister 1948-53, President 1953-57). Two stamps with his portrait were issued June 13, 1953, and with further values added 1953-56. His 70th birthday in 1954



was celebrated with two stamps and a souvenir sheet with his effigy. Upon his death in 1957 two stamps and a souvenir sheet with the same as the 1954 series but inscribed "18 XII 1884 – 13 XI 1957" were issued. In 1984 a stamp for his birth centenary was issued.

Stamps promoting the Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship continued to be issued: three stamps in 1953, and three stamps in 1954. In 1963 the 20th anniversary of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Treaty was celebrated with two stamps. A new fraternity treaty was signed in 1970 after the Soviet and Warsaw Pact 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia and the fifth anniversary of it was commemorated with a 1975 stamp, and the 10th with a 1980 stamp.

The fifth anniversary of the post-war Czechoslovak Republic was celebrated on two sets of four 1950 stamps.



1957 death of President Zapotocký Sc. 829



1953 Czech-Soviet friendship Sc. 521



1954 Czech-Soviet friendship Sc. 667-69



Left, 1950 5th anniv of post-WWII republic first issue Sc. 406; right, 1959 5th anniv of post-WWII republic issue 2 Sc. 413



1963 Czech-Soviet Treaty 20 years Sc. 1209

The seventh anniversary of liberation was the theme of two 1952 stamps and the tenth anniversary of liberation was commemorated with four 1955 stamps. In 1960, the 15th anniversary of liberation featured on five



1975 new Czech-Soviet Treaty 5 years Sc. 2004



1980 new Czech-Soviet Treaty 10 years Sc. 2315



Left, 1955 liberation 10 years Sc. 691; right, 1965 liberation and communist republic 20 years Sc. 1308



stamps and in 1965 stamps for the 20th anniversary. The 50th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic was celebrated 1968 with two sets for stamps.



Left, 1970 Prague uprising 25 years Sc. 1687-88; right, 1975 Prague uprising and liberation 30 years Sc. 2002-03



1960 liberation 15 years Sc 982



1990 liberation 45 years Sc. 2788



1978 independence 60 years Sc. 2208



1988 republic 70 years

A 1970 pair of stamps commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Prague uprising and liberation of Czechoslovakia. The 30th anniversary of the Prague uprising and liberation of Czechoslovakia was commemorated on two 1975 stamps, and the liberation also on a series of six 1975 stamps.

In 1978 the 60th anniversary of Czechoslovakia's independence was celebrated on a single stamp, and the 70th anniversary with a 1988 stamp. The 45th anniversary of liberation was remembered on a 1990 stamp.



President Zápotocký was succeeded by President Antonín Novotný (1904-75, 1958 President Novotný Sc. 870; 1967 President Novotný Sc. 1513). He first appeared on Czechoslovak stamps in June 1958. His effigy is also found on two 1967 stamps.

In July 1960 Czechoslovakia got a new Constitution and was re-named the Czechoslovakian Socialist Republic, and this was celebrated on a 1960 single stamp.



1960 Czechoslovakian Socialist Republic (proclamation) Sc. 2003



1967-70 President Svoboda Sc. 1541A

President Novotný was forced to resign in 1968, and was succeeded by Ludvík Svoboda (1895-1976, President 1968-75). His effigy first appeared on four 1967-70 stamps. On his 80th birthday in 1976, Svoboda was honored with a souvenir sheet picturing him in General's uniform.



Under Alexander Dubcek, who replaced Novotný as First Secretary of the Communist Party in January 1968, the so-called Prague Spring took place, when the government started a process of democratization of the Communist Party and pluralism in politics and society. This worried the Communist leaders of other countries, and on August 21, 1968, the country was invaded by the Soviet army aided with troops from four other Warsaw Pact countries.

Naturally, no pre-1990 stamps reflected this, but in 1991, Jan Palach was portrayed on a stamp. Palach was the student who protested the Soviet occupation by setting fire to himself on the Václav Square in the center of Prague on January 16, 1969, and died two days later, becoming a powerful symbol of the resistance to the occupation.



1975 President Sloboda 80 years Sc. 2042



1991 Jan Palach Sc. 2831



Czech 2019 Jan Palach and Jan Zajíc

In 2019 the Czech Republic issued a stamp portraying both Jan Palach and the student Jan Zajíc, who followed Palach's example a month later.

Dubcek was commemorated on a Slovak 1993 stamp on the first anniversary of his death. In 2001 the 80th anniversary of Dubcek's birth was commemorated on a Slovak souvenir sheet. The centenary of Dubcek's birth was commemorated on a 2021 Slovak stamp.

In 1969, Czechoslovakia officially became a Federal Socialist Republic, and the fifth anniversary of the federal republic was commemorated 1974 stamp. The 15th anniversary of the federation was commemorated on



Slovakia 2021 Alexander Dubcek birth centenary



Slovakia 1994 Alexander Dubcek 1st death anniversary Sc. 164



1974 federal government 5 years Sc. 1915 (Federal Socialist Republic)



1984 federal republic 15 years Sc. 2493



1989 federal republic 20 years Sc. 2729

birthday in 1983. A similar stamp was issued for his 75th birthday in 1988.



1990 President Havel Sc. 2777

stamp.

The events leading to a multi-party government is known as the Velvet Revolution, and Slovakia issued a 1999 stamp for the tenth anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. The Czech Republic issued two 2019 stamps for the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, and Slovakia issued a stamp identical to one of the Czech stamps.

April 20, 1990, Czechoslovakia became the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic, but ceased to exist December 31, 1992, when the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic became two independent states.

The first free general election was celebrated on a June 1990 stamp.

a 1984 single stamp, and the 20th anniversary on a 1989 stamp.

President Svoboda was succeeded by Gustáv Husák (1913-91, President 1975-89), and his effigy appeared on two 1975 stamps. A single stamp with his effigy was issued for his 70th birthday in 1983. A similar stamp was issued for his 75th birthday in 1988.

President Husák was forced to appoint a multi-party government December 10, 1989, and then he resigned as President and was succeeded December 29, 1989, by Václav Havel (1936-2011, Czechoslovak President 1989-92, Czech President 1993-2003). The effigy of President Havel appeared on a 1990



Slovakia 2019 Velvet Revolution 30 years



Slovakia 1999 Velvet Revolution 10 years Sc. 343



Czech 2019 Velvet Revolution 30 years



1990 first free elections Sc. 2791

To Be Continued