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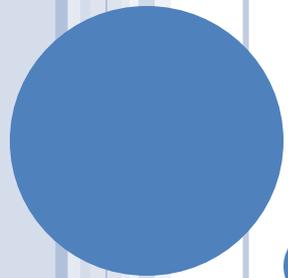
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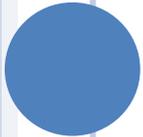
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INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ



THE CZECH REPUBLIC



BASIC FACTS OF THE CR

- the heart of Europe.
- bordered by Germany to the west, Poland to the north, Slovakia to the east and Austria to the south.
- three culture and historical regions: Bohemia(in the west),Moravia(inthe east), and Silesia(in the north-east).
- population: about 10 million.
- the capital city: Prague.
- currency: the Czech Crown.



POLITICAL SYSTEM

- parliamentary democracy.
- the parliament is two-chambered: the Chamber of Deputies(the lower house) and the Senate(the upper house)
- The government is formed from the lower house.
- The head of government: the prime minister.
- The head of state: the president-is elected every 5 years and can be elected only for two terms.



GEOGRAPHY

- The landscape is quite mountainous around the borders and flatter in the center.
- rivers: the Labe, the Vltava, and the Morava
- many ponds especially in south Bohemia(the country often suffers from floods).
- The land is quite heavily forested- Šumava in the south has some of the oldest forests in the country.
- Český Ráj (Bohemian Paradise) is a popular area for hiking.



HISTORY

- The country began to form in the 9th century with the creation of Great Moravia
- After its fall the Czech lands became a part of the Holy Roman Empire, king Charles IV was crowned Holy Roman Emperor in 1355-“the Golden Age“ of Czech history (established Charles university in 1348- the 1st university in Central Europe)
- The religious leader Jan Hus was executed in 1415, the Hussite Wars followed
- The Czech lands become part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire(Rudolf II’s rule is associated with Prague)
- 1618- started the Thirty Years Wars -a revolt by Czech protestants against Catholic rule-the Czech protestants were defeated in 1620 at the Battle of White Mountain



- 19th century –revival of the Czech language and of Czech national consciousness-the CR became an independent from the Austro-Hungarian Empire
- The independent Czechoslovakia was formed on 28th October in 1918-T.G.Masaryk was the 1st President
- 1938- the Munich Agreement between Germany, Italy, France and GB saw the Sudetenland region was given to Germany. The next year Germany invaded what remained of Czechoslovakia.
- 1948 the Communist Party took power.
- 1989- the Velvet Revolution saw the end of communism. Václav Havel became the 1st President of a newly democratic Czechoslovakia.
- 1993- was separated the Czech republic and Slovakia.
- 2004- the CR became a member of the EU.
- 2007- it became a member of the Schengen Area.



PRAGUE AND MAJOR CITIES

- **Prague** - the largest city and the capital city of the CR.
- **Brno** - the second largest city and unofficial capital of Moravia, it is called the „Moravian Manchester“ because of its fast industrialization in 19th century.
- **Ostrava** is known for its mining history.
- **Plzeň** and **České Budějovice** are internationally famous for their beers.
- **Karlovy Vary, Mariánské Lázně a Františkovy Lázně** are famous spa towns.
- **Zlín** is home to the Baťa shoe company.
- **Mladá Boleslav** produces Czech car brand Škoda.



FAMOUS TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

- **Prague** - the “Golden City” and “the City of Hundred Spires” because of its rich architecture (Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, the Astrological Clock, the Old Town Square)
- **Český Krumlov** - a UNESCO protected town.
- **Kutná Hora** - the „bone church” and the magnificent Gothic St. Barbara’s Church.
- **Ještěd Tower** - outside the city of Liberec.
- The **Konopiště** castle - near the town of Benešov.
- **Špilberk Castle** - in Brno
- **Pardubice** - Czech gingerbread and the annual Velká pardubická steeplechase horse race.
- **Moravian Karst** is famous for its cave systems.



FAMOUSE CZECHS

- **Charles IV**- Holy Roman Emperor, established Charles university, built Charles Bridge
- **Jan Hus**-important religious leader of the 14-15th centuries
- **Jan Ámos Komenský**-important educational theorist and reformer in the 17th century
- **Karel Čapek, Milan Kundera, Jaroslav Hašek, Franz Kafka**- famous writers
- **Miloš Forman**-an Oscar-winning director
- **Antonín Dvořák, Bedřich Smetana, Leoš Janáček**-significant composers
- Nobel Prize: Professor **Jaroslav Heyrovský**(for Chemistry) and **Jaroslav Seifert**(for literature)
- **Otto Wichterle**-inventor of contact lenses
- **Jaromír Jágr**- excellent ice-hockey player
- **Martina Navrátilová a Ivan Lendl**-tennis players



QUESTIONS

- What is the capital city of the CR?
- Which cities are the most visited?
- What sights do you remember?
- Which places would you like to visit? And Why?
- Do you know any famous Czech persons?
- What is the political system of the CR?
- Who is the President ,what do you know about him?



Seznam použité literatury a pramenů:

SMITH, G. *Anglická maturitní témata.*, 3. vyd. Infoa, Olomouc 2007. ISBN 80-7240-082-7

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