

Contents

List of Figures and Tables	ix
Acknowledgements	xi
Introduction	1
Background	2
The Rejection of Utopia	5
Empirical Sources and Narrativity	11
The Structure of the Study	14
Concluding Remarks	16
1 Narratives of the Revolutions	18
Estonia – the Singing Revolution	20
The German Democratic Republic – <i>die sanfte Revolution</i>	36
Czechoslovakia – the Velvet Revolution	54
By Way of Conclusion	71
2 Revolution as a Utopia	73
The Notion of Utopia	75
Freedom	83
Future	96
Concluding Remarks	100
3 Utopia Not Yet Fulfilled: Ambivalence after the Revolutions	103
Post-revolutionary Ambivalence	105
Postmodern Ambivalence	125
Concluding Remarks	131
Excursus: Ambivalence in Ivan Klíma's <i>Poslední stupeň důvěrnosti</i>	133
4 Utopia Not Fulfilled: Disillusionment	140
Material Reasons for Disillusionment	143
Atomisation	150
Alienation	159
Excursus: Diachronic and Synchronic Alienation in Post-communist	166
Novels	
Acceptance: Sacrifice	176
Concluding Remarks	179

5 Individualism as a Utopia	180
The Notion of Individualism	182
Individualism and Communism	187
Individualism and Post-communism	192
Individualism, Politics and Democracy	209
6 Collective Utopias: From National Independence to Europe	214
Nationalism and Communism	216
The Idea of the Nation: Present and Not Yet Present	220
The Utopian Struggle	223
National Identity: Universal or Particular?	227
Concluding Remarks	244
Conclusion: Politics between Utopia and Disillusionment	247
Understanding Post-communist Politics	248
The Utopia of Politics	257
Final Remarks	260
Appendices:	
1 The Interviews and the Method of Analysis	262
2 Themes of the Interviews	262
3 Themes for the Czech essayists	268
4 President Lennart Meri's Speeches Analysed in Chapter 6	275
5 Translations of the German Interview Passages	278
Notes	293
Bibliography	316
Index	328