

CONTENTS

List of abbreviations xiii

Acknowledgements xvii

Preface xix

Introduction 1

1 The silent majorities, Sovietization, and ‘life within a lie’ 5

The specificities of East European socialisms 9

In the shadow of Stalin’s Statue – Communism in Czechoslovakia 14

PRELUDE: Television as a concept between democracy and Nazism

CONTEXTUAL BOX No. 1: Czechoslovakia – The first democratic republic 1918–1938 23

2 Radio context: Among the first in Europe 25

3 Pioneers of television 33

Jaroslav Šafránek – the Czech Baird 43

4 Television as a political matter 51

A matter of all-state importance 55

CONTEXTUAL BOX No. 2: The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia 1939–1945 65

5 In the hands of the military 67

What was left after the Nazi occupation 67

Czechoslovak army attempts to seize control of television 69

What was left after the liberation 73

Czechoslovak military television is born! 79

THE MAIN ACT: Television should serve the Communist ideology

6 Context of Soviet approaches in the televisual space of the Eastern Bloc 83

Taking over the organizational patterns 85

Television content 88

The expansion and keeping of the colossus 91

CONTEXTUAL BOX No. 3: Czechoslovakia – Prelude to communism, 1945–1948 95

7 New totalitarianism on the horizon 97

Radio means power 97

Television harvest 1948 99

CONTEXTUAL BOX No. 4: Czechoslovakia – Stalinism 1948–1960 105

8 The birth of television in Stalinist Czechoslovakia 107

How the communists began to need television 109

1 May 1953 – we are broadcasting! 112

Experimental broadcasting 122

9 On its own feet 135

Television truly Czechoslovak 138

A sisterly division 146

CONTEXTUAL BOX No. 5: The golden sixties in Czechoslovak Socialist Republic 1961–1970 153

10 The birth of a TV nation 155

The helplessness of political power, the power of television 166

The fall of censorship and the Prague Spring 175

11 Occupation in 1968: We keep broadcasting! 181

Reaction of power 185

Fear of the first anniversary and reflections on the Prague Spring 189

CONTEXTUAL BOX No. 6: Normalization and post-totalitarianism
in Czechoslovakia 1970–1989 195

12 Television as the last instrument of power 197

Color television in the black-and-white normalization period 215

Fear of the opposition 221

13 Television as a participant of the Velvet Revolution 225**CODA: Towards public service**

CONTEXTUAL BOX No. 7: The Czech and Slovak federal republics'
return to democracy, 1989–1992 233

14 The birth of a public broadcaster 235

Conclusion 241

Bibliography 247

Sources of pictures 257

About the author 259

Index 261