

Table of Contents

Introduction	9
1 Beginnings of Christianity.....	11
1.1 Jesus Christ.....	11
1.2 First Christian congregations and the establishment of the Church.....	12
1.3 The Church and religious communities	14
1.4 First Christians in our territory.....	14
2 Medieval Church	17
2.1 Arrival of the Slavs in Bohemia	17
2.2 The character of Slavic paganism.....	17
2.3 Christian missionary work	19
2.4 Nations of Central Europe and Christianity	20
2.5 Great Moravia.....	21
2.5.1 Constantine and Methodius.....	22
2.6 The Church in Czech Lands from the 9th century until the beginning of the 14th century.....	23
3 Reformation Attempts in the Middle Ages	27
3.1 The Waldensians	27
3.2 Cathars	29
3.3 Catholic reaction.....	30
3.4 The Church in the time of Charles IV and Wenceslaus IV. Hus's predecessors	31
3.5 Reformer Master John Hus.....	32
4 Religion in Modern Times and the Birth of Modern Civil Society.....	35
4.1 The Reformation and Reformation movements in Europe.....	35
4.1.1 Martin Luther (1483–1546).....	36
4.1.2 John Calvin (1509–1564).....	38
4.2 Czech Lands at the beginning of the modern times.....	39
4.3 Revival of the Catholic Church.....	40

4.4	Traditional Evangelical Churches in the Czech Lands in the period of tolerance	40
4.5	New European revived religious movements	43
4.6	Religion in the period of the creation of civil society	44
5	Churches and Religious Societies in Inter-war Czechoslovakia	47
5.1	Catholic Church in Czechoslovakia	47
5.2	Evangelical Church after the establishment of Czechoslovakia	49
5.2.1	The beginnings of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren and the Czechoslovak Church	49
5.2.2	Foundation of the German Evangelical Church	50
5.2.3	Polish Evangelicals in Cieszyn Silesia	50
6	The State Policy Towards the Traditional Churches in Czechoslovakia between 1945 and 1956	57
6.1	The Churches in the period of limited democracy (1945–1948)	58
6.2	The Churches at the beginning of the communist regime (1948 – spring 1949)	62
6.3	The new state-church policy (spring 1949–1956)	63
6.3.1	The “Catholic Action”	63
6.3.2	State surveillance of the Churches – State Office for Church Affairs	63
6.3.3	State approval	64
6.3.4	Culminating persecution – monstrous processes and liquidation of monastic orders	65
6.3.5	Restricted religious education at schools	65
6.3.6	Restricted theological studies	65
6.3.7	Liquidation of the Greek Catholic Church and other actions	66
7	Non-dominating Religious Groups and Sects in Post-war Czechoslovakia	67
7.1	The “minority within the minority” – non-dominating groups within the traditional Churches	69
7.1.1	Missionary activities inside the Silesian Evangelical Church	70

7.1.2	The New Orientation within the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren.....	71
7.1.3	The “silent churches” within the Catholic Church	72
7.2	The “legal sectarians” – new religious communities	72
7.2.1	Adventists.....	73
7.2.2	The Unity of Czech Brethren	74
7.3	Sects	75
7.3.1	The sects “elevated” to Churches in 1956	77
7.3.2	Minor persecuted groups.....	78
7.3.3	Jehovah’s Witnesses	79
8	Churches in the Period of De-Stalinisation, the Spring of Prague and the Normalisation (1956–1989)	81
8.1	The traditional Churches.....	81
8.2	Disputes within the Unity of Czech Brethren	82
8.3	The “normalisation” period (1968–1989).....	84
9	Churches and Religious Congregations in the Czech Republic after 1989	87
9.1	A survey of registered Churches and religious associations	88
9.1.1	The Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic	89
9.1.2	The Roman Catholic Church.....	96
9.1.3	The Greek Catholic Church.....	97
9.1.4	The Old Catholic Church in the Czech Republic	98
9.1.5	The Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia.....	99
9.1.6	The Czechoslovak Hussite Church	100
9.1.7	The Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum).....	101
9.1.8	The Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic.....	102
9.1.9	The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic.....	102
9.1.10	The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic.....	103
9.1.11	The Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren	103

9.1.12	The Baptist Union in the Czech Republic.....	104
9.1.13	Evangelical Methodist Church.....	105
9.1.14	Evangelical Brethren Church.....	105
9.1.15	Apostolic Church in the Czech Republic	106
9.1.16	New Apostolic Church in the Czech Republic	107
9.1.17	The Seventh-day Adventist Church	107
9.1.18	Christian Congregations	108
9.1.19	Religious Society of Czech Unitarians	108
9.1.20	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.....	109
9.1.21	Jehovah's Witnesses	109
9.2	Legislative changes concerning the Churches	110
Final Summary		113
Shrnutí.....		119
Zusammenfassung.....		125
Streszczenie		131
Used literature		137
Name Index		145
Place-name Index.....		149
Subject Index		153