

# THE RECEPTION OF CZECHOSLOVAK REFUGEES IN THE US ZONE OF GERMANY FOLLOWING THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF FEBRUARY 1948

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Based above all on documents mainly from German, US, and British archives, here is a contribution towards writing a history of the beginning stages of the emigration from Czechoslovakia after the communist takeover of February 1948. The first part portrays the position of the Western allies with regard to the ČSR at the outset of the Cold War and thus their shift from cooperating with the Soviet Union, as they had during World War II, to a policy of confrontation and supporting the anti-communist emigration. The second part covers the flight of the first waves of refugees and how they were provisionally accommodated in the US zone of Germany, i. e. the stage before Czech and Slovak refugees were transferred to the responsibility of the International Refugee Organization. Finally, there is a sociological analysis of Czech and Slovak refugees or emigrants in the period immediately after the February turnaround. Here the author draws on statistical data collected by the US authorities in Germany.