

SUMMARIES

HOMAGE TO ERNEST GELLNER

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The author, giving the gist of Ernest Gellner's numerous writings and summing up an interview she conducted with him, offers an essay on life and work of this important British philosopher. Though born in Paris 70 years ago, Gellner grew up in Prague, whence, facing the threat of persecution by the Nazis, he and his family fled to Britain in 1939. A member of the Czechoslovak army in exile, he came back in 1945, only to leave again, for political reasons, a few months later. Ever since, while living in Britain, he has shown a vivid interest for Central European culture and history. While his writings on heuristics and cultural anthropology have elicited praise from all over the world (his book on *Nations and Nationalism* having been translated in 20 languages), his relationship to the Bohemian lands and especially to Prague are not as widely known. This is why this contribution centers on Gellner's recollections of his Prague experience and his views of the Bohemian lands past and present.