

FROM SOCIALIST POST-INDUSTRIALISM TO MARKET
ECONOMY: FUTUROLOGY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA
(1960s-1980s)

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This study deals with the changing patterns of futurology in Czechoslovakia from the 1960s throughout the 1980s, with the development of state socialist rule setting the stage. Part One is devoted to the scholarly work of Radovan Richta, a researcher who created an independent concept for a socialist post-industrialism: the so-called “scientific-technical revolution”. Part two looks at prognostics as the scientific discipline that united all attempts at using scientific methods in order to forecast future developments undertaken in Czechoslovakia during the final two decades of late socialism. The analysis focuses on expert findings about the future as representing an intellectual reflection of the rationality of modern government. The author traces the changes from post-industrial socialism, with its ideas aiming at communism reformed, through to the noticeable economization during the era of “consolidation” from 1968 until way into the 1980s, when efforts at organizing and controlling modern society were increasingly determined by market considerations.