

Famous Czech Immigrants in the 20th Century in the USA

(projekt)

Zpracovala: Lea Jakimičová
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Zadala: Mgr. Petra Quirenzová
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Anotace

Projekt obsahuje nejvýznamnější období české emigrace a zásadní důvody odchodů Čechů do USA ve 20. století. Cílem projektu bylo vybrat a porovnat tři významné české osobnosti, které emigrovali do USA. Projekt se zaměřuje na podobnosti a rozdíly v jejich dětství, v životě před emigrací, v životě po emigraci a v životě po Sametové revoluce. V tomto projektu jsou použity oficiální anglické zdroje.

Klíčová slova

Emigrace; Československo; Sametová revoluce; USA; Politika

Annotation

This project contains the main reasons for Czech immigration to the USA in the 20th century, including the most significant periods when Czechs immigrated. The aim of the project is to include a detailed analysis and comparison of three famous Czech people that immigrated to the USA, specifically focusing on the similarities and differences in their early life, life before immigrating, life after immigrating and life after the Velvet Revolution. Official English references are used in this project.

Keywords

Immigration; Czechoslovakia; The Velvet Revolution; USA; Politics

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INTRODUCTION

The aim of the project is to compare and analyse three significant Czech citizens, focusing on the similarities and differences of their early life, life before immigrating to the USA, life after immigrating to the USA and life after the Velvet Revolution. The three chosen people are Madeleine Albright, Miloš Forman and Martina Navrátilová. The author of this project decided to pick these three significant Czech citizens, because they each chose a different life and career path, which resulted in a larger range of information when comparing and analysing. Globally they are very popular as Madeleine Albright is known as the first woman Secretary of State in the USA, while Miloš Forman is the most successful Czech film director of all time and Martina Navrátilová is considered one of the best female tennis players in the world, which demonstrates how influential and important these Czech immigrants are.

This project includes the main reasons for Czech immigration to the USA in the 20th century. The focus is on World War I, the Occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1939, the Communist takeover in 1948 and the Prague Spring in 1968, because these periods contain the highest percentage of immigration, due to these significant periods negatively impacting Czechoslovakia. It is important to mention that the USA had many positive pull factors that convinced many Czechs to immigrate, such as the promise of jobs in new lands, cheap estate and freedom in the democratic regime. Whilst Czechoslovakia had many negative push factors, for instance poverty, shortage of land, military draft and political repression, due to the Nazi and Communist regime.

Official references are used in this project, such as the book autobiographies written by the selected people: Madeleine Albright, Miloš Forman and Martina Navrátilová. This project also includes reliable internet sources, for instance encyclopedia.org, everyculture.com, biography.com, britannica.com and official websites belonging to the selected people.

1 THE MAIN PERIODS OF IMMIGRATION TO THE USA

The following chapter includes the most important periods of Czech immigration, where each specific period contains the main reasons for immigration to the United States. The chapter is split into four main eras of Czech immigration: World War I, the Occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1939, the Communist takeover in 1948 and the Prague Spring in 1968. These periods are significant to the history of Czech immigration, as each era consisted of huge waves of Czech immigrants, searching for a life of higher quality, mostly in terms of their safety and well-being. By the beginning of the 20th century, approximately one and a half million Czechs and Slovaks lived in the United States [1], because of the *“economic conditions, low incomes and intolerable taxes in their homeland”* [33]. After the year 1968 Czech citizens either lived through the Communist regime or immigrated abroad, most commonly to the western side of the world, with the United States being a popular destination, because of the promise of jobs and freedom.

1.1 World War I

The assassination of Franz Ferdinand d’Este in Sarajevo on 28 June, 1914, brought Europe and then the whole world into World War I. Representatives of Czech clubs in New York met on August 24 1914 and agreed to support war refugees and orphans. In September of the same year, the American Committee for the Liberation of the Czech People was established in New York, whilst the Czech National Alliance was based in Chicago. [2] Czechs were among the largest and most popular groups of continental Europe immigrants, with more than 620,000 settling on the American Great Plains. The states Nebraska and Texas were the most popular, however large groups of Czechs also settled in Oklahoma, Kansas, North Dakota, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. [3] These states were the most common for Czech immigration, due to the cheap farmland and possibilities of owning large estates. [31]

1.2 Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1939

The Munich agreement in 1938 and occupation initiated a new wave of immigration and exile from Czechoslovakia to the West [1], causing a refugee crisis in Czechoslovakia and the United States. These refugees included hundreds of thousands of Jews who fled to Europe and Czechoslovakia in an attempt to escape *“Nazi Germany’s territorial expansion and the radicalization of Nazi Anti-Jewish policies.”* [4] Massive series of coordinated anti-Semitic attacks on synagogues, Jewish homes and property took place during the occupation of the Nazis, motivating many to immigrate. The Evian Conference of July

1938, organised by President Roosevelt, had attempted to discuss the Jewish refugee problem, but no country was prepared to contribute to a practical solution for Jewish refugees, including the 35,000 Czechoslovak Jews. [5]

Prior to the Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, Nicholas Winton, born in 1909, was known for organising the rescue of 669 Czech children from the occupation during the nine months before the war broke out in 1939. [31] The occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1939 also caused approximately 20,000 Czechs and Slovaks to escape the Nazi persecution, where “*about one-quarter of these were professionals, including artists and scholars.*” [6] As experienced professionals and skilled workers, they decided to continue their careers in the United States, avoiding the negative impacts that occurred during the war, such as poverty, shortage of land, military draft, political and cultural repression and religious discrimination. The occupation of Czechoslovakia

1.3 Communist takeover in 1948

Czech migration occurred during the Communist takeover, otherwise known as the Czechoslovak coup d'état in February 1948. In Czechoslovakia, democratic non-communist politicians, military officers, and business owners started disappearing. Ideally abroad, though many ended up in prison. They refused to live under a totalitarian regime, holding pro-democratic values. Therefore, to escape imprisonment and democratic suppression, some sought refuge in the United States. However, departing was not easy, as it meant all family ties had to be broken. Czechs who left were banned to return, since emigration was considered a criminal offense. Confiscation of possessions and sometimes persecution of relatives were frequent consequences. [7]

Czechs, considered political refugees were welcomed in the United States, where they gained financial support. Subsequent immigration of refugees was supported by the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, signed by president Harry S. Truman, which authorized the admission of refugees of Communist countries. [6] The act allowed thousands of European refugees, who were displaced from their home countries due to World War II, to resettle in the United States by granting American visas. Refugees were provided with basic life needs, such as clothing, food, soap and stationary, as well as a chance to find a job and obtain a valid entry visa. It is estimated that during the communist era (1948-89) 550,000 Czechoslovakian citizens immigrated to the United States. [7]

1.4 Prague Spring in 1968

Immigration of Czechoslovakian refugees, exiles and expatriates was prominent in 1968, because of the relaxed atmosphere under the Dubcek regime, which allowed hundreds to find refuge in the United States. They took advantage of the brief period of visa liberalizations, allowing themselves to go on vacation and do business. Nevertheless, this regime was quickly stopped by the Soviet Union. They decided that Alexander Dubcek's reformist experiment "socialism with a human face" was too dangerous and might provoke a wave of democratization across the Eastern Bloc. Thousands of Czechs were abroad in western Europe and the US when the tanks arrived in August 1968, the invasion known as the Prague Spring. The regime forced harsh communist repression and isolation, due to which many decided to seek asylum at the location they were at. Government censorship and controls preventing freedom of movement was reconstituted by the new leadership. [8].

Sometime in August following the invasion, a telegram was sent to Washington, D.C. from the American embassy in Geneva, Switzerland. The telegram reported that several thousand citizens of Czechoslovakia were in need of asylum. It requested instructions from D.C. on how to handle the situation, suggesting that the US allocate up to one hundred thousand dollars, which is about seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars in today's money, to ensure that the asylum seekers needs are sufficiently satisfied. The main purpose was to grant asylum to as many refugees as possible. A couple of weeks later, Walt Whitman Rostow, who served as an advisor on national security affairs, suggested President Lyndon Baines Johnson "*to allocate 20 million dollars to pay the costs of reception, interim care and maintenance, resettlement processing, transportation and integration*". The administration later on confirmed that they would spend the money to process and resettle Czechoslovak refugees. [9] Many refugees were middle-aged, skilled and educated, resulting in them efficiently finding employment in the United States.

2 SELECTED PEOPLE

The following chapter includes the three chosen Czech famous immigrants: Madeleine Albright, Miloš Forman and Martina Navrátilová. Each person engaged in a different career path and immigrated from Czechoslovakia within a different time period, therefore many similarities and differences are possible to detect for the practical part of this project. This chapter incorporates information about their early life, life and career in the United State and their life and carrier after the Velvet revolution. Furthermore, each chosen immigrant played an important role in representing Czechoslovakia on a worldwide scale and are very well known for their hard work and bravery.

The first section is about Madeleine Albright, who was a very significant woman in the politics industry. Madeleine Albright was chosen for this project, because she was the first woman to serve as the 64th United States secretary of state from 1997 to 2001, making her a remarkably unique and important immigrant from Czechoslovakia, since she was the first woman to hold that post. The second section is about the famous Czech-American film director, screenwriter, actor and professor Miloš Forman, who was selected because of his success recognised in Czech and USA history, directing Oscar-winning films such as *“One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest”* and *“Amadeus”*, that inspired many other directors. Whilst the third section is about Martina Navrátilová, a former Czech American tennis player, who was chosen in this project, because she is widely considered as one of the greatest female tennis players of all time, significant to Czechs. Martina Navrátilová dominated woman’s tennis in the late 1970’s and the 80’s, her career totals include 59 Grand Slam titles.

2.1 Madeleine Albright

Madeleine Albright (Appendix 1) was nominated to be the *“first woman Secretary of State by President William Jefferson Clinton on December 5, 1996, confirmed by the United States Senate on January 22, 1997”*. She served in this position for four years and ended her service on January 20, 2001. [10] At the time of her appointment, she was the highest-ranking woman in the history of the US government and she established institutions and policies, which help lead the world into a new century of peace and prosperity. Madeleine Albright represents the highest ideals and aspirations of immigrants who come to the United States and made major contributions for society. [11]

2.1.1 Early life

Madeleine Albright was originally born as Marie Jana Korbelová on the 15th of May, 1937, in the Smíchov district of Prague, Czechoslovakia. Her father Josef Korbel was a Czechoslovakian diplomat, who worked for the Czechoslovak government as a legation secretary at the Embassy in Belgrade. He also worked as an advisor to Edward Benes, a former Czechoslovakian president, who was sent to exile in London. After the Nazi occupation in 1939, Madeleine Albright experienced exile, living her childhood through World War II in London. After the war her family briefly resettled in Czechoslovakia, until the communist occupation. Thus, they immigrated to Denver, Colorado, on the 11th of November, 1948. [12, s. 1]

2.1.2 Life and career in the USA

She was eleven years old when she obtained political asylum and later on American citizenship. Madeleine Albright graduated from the prestigious Wellesley College (Appendix 2), where she pursued in political science and international relations. Later on in 1975 she received her PhD in public law and government from Columbia University in New York. In 1959, she married a reporter Joseph Medill Patterson Albright and had three daughters, twins Anne and Alice born in 1961 and Katherine born in 1967. However, Madeleine Albright and her husband got divorced in 1983. [12, s.1]

The beginning of her career includes working for Encyclopaedia Britannica, selecting illustrations. After receiving her PhD, she started working for Senator Edmund Muskie, the 58th U.S. Secretary of State under President Carter, as his chief legislative assistant. She also worked for several non-profit organizations and as a professor of international affairs at George University, Washington D.C. from 1982-1993. [13]

2.1.3 Life and career after the Velvet Revolution

Madeleine Albright began her political career, becoming a political activist of the American Democratic Party. Madeleine Albright met President Clinton in 1988, when she was working on Government Michael Dukakis' presidential campaign. President Clinton stated, *"I thought she would send the right image to the world. She would be America's first female secretary of state; she came from the Czechoslovakia, and she represented even more than she knew at the time. I just thought she was the right person for the right time, and boy, it turned out to be better than I ever dreamed."* [32] After the election of United States President Bill Clinton in 1992, she was named ambassador to the United Nations in 1993. Albright rose to prominence in the United Nations operations, gaining a reputation for

being a fierce advocate. In 1997 she was nominated by the Senate to the position of secretary of state. [13] In 2001, fifty-three-year-old Madeline Albright ended her tenure as Secretary of the United States. She began writing books, founded a large consulting firm and an investment fund, all while continuing to work in favour of democratic institutions around the world. [14, str. 1]

She always maintained a strong relationship with her native country. She supported the anti-communist opposition in Czechoslovakia and Poland and she actively helped the new democratic representation after the Velvet Revolution in 1989. She is the holder of the highest Czech honour that can be awarded to citizens of a foreign country, The Order of the White Lion. [12, str. 1] In 2021, she was appointed Chair of the Defence Policy Board, tasked with supplying the Secretary of Defence with independent, rational advice and opinions concerning matters of defence policy. She was also a seven-time New York Times bestselling author, her books often including her autobiography. [26] The former U.S. secretary and feminist icon, Madeleine Albright, died of cancer on the 23rd of March, 2022. Many political figures paid tribute to her, including U.S. presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton.

2.2 Miloš Forman

Miloš Forman (Appendix 3), the most successful Czech film director of all time, was known primarily for the American movies that he directed after his immigration to the United States. In the introduction of his autobiography, Miloš Forman stated that he always wanted to win, which was his essential motivation when making decisions. This mind set helped Miloš Forman overcome tough periods of his life and become famous in his homeland of Czechoslovakia and worldwide. [15]

2.2.1 Early life

Miloš Forman was born on the 18th of February, 1932 in Čáslav, Czechoslovakia, as the third son of a middle-class family. He was only 11 years old, when he lost both of his patriotic parents in concentration camps during World War II. His father was arrested in 1940 for being a member of the illegal resistance organisation Příbina and passed away on the 11th of May 1943 in the Auschwitz concentration camp, where he succumbed to the typhus disease. His mother was imprisoned in August 1942 for handing out anti-Russian leaflets and passed away on the 1st of March 1943, in the same concentration camp, also succumbing to the typhus disease. [16, s .41]

After arresting his mother in 1942, Miloš Forman grew up in Náchod with his uncle Boleslav Švába and his aunt Anna Sládková. In 1944, he moved back to Čáslav to live with his family's closest friend, the director of the local towns gasworks Pavel Hluchý. After the war, Miloš Forman applied himself

to the newly established secondary boys' boarding school of King George for war orphans in Poděbrady. His classmates included Ivan Passer, a Czech-American director, and Václav Havel, the first president of Czech Republic. He ended up graduating in 1950 at a Prague gymnasium, because in Poděbrady he was threatened with expulsion for allegedly "mocking the communist party". Then he started focusing on filmmaking and decided to study at FAMU, Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, from the year 1951-1956. [16, s.42] After he graduated in 1955, he made his debut with *The Audition (Konkurs)* in 1963 and released his first feature film, *Black Peter (Černý Petr)*, in the same year. The films *Love of a Blonde (Lásky jedné plavovlásky)* (1965) and *The Firemen's Ball (Hoří, má panenko)* (1967) followed.

2.2.2 Life and career in the USA

After filming four films in Czechoslovakia, Miloš Forman was already gaining success in his film-making career. However, after the military invasion of the Soviet tanks in 1968, cultural and film development was interrupted in Czechoslovakia. This motivated Miloš Forman to migrate to the United States, to implement an already agreed to project there. It was thus in New York where Forman worked hard for his cinematographic success (Appendix 4), which he was granted. His creative ambitions from the beginning, including his ambition to be unique and stand out, were directed towards a direct goal: "to creatively represent an authentic image of people in their natural form". He always wanted to show the truth in a surprising way, making sure that he presented his films in a fun way [17, s.17]. In 1967 Miloš Forman gained his American visa, whilst his wife Vera Křesadlová decided to stay in Czechoslovakia with their two sons, Petr and Matěj. However, they got divorced in 1999 and Miloš Forman married again to Martina Zbořilová in 1999. Nevertheless, Miloš Forman continued directing films.

Miloš Forman is the recipient of two Oscars, three Golden Globes and a whole host of other prestigious awards. He always combined a distinct sensitivity to American themes combined with the best cinematic sensibilities from Europe, signifying a consistent aesthetic integrity and a wide appeal to the general public. [18] His first American filmed film was *Taking Off* (1971), a story about an average New York couple, who get acquainted with a self-help group for parents and rediscover the pleasures of life, won the Grand Prix at the 1971 Cannes Film Festival [28]. Miloš Forman's second directed film, being his most famous film *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* firmly established his American reputation. The powerful film, adapted by Ken Kesey's book, dealt with life inside an American mental institution. Considered one of the masterpieces of American film, it swept Academy Awards, winning all five major Oscars (Best Picture, Director, Actor, Actress and Screenplay). Furthermore, Miloš Forman directed the

films *Hair* (1979), *Ragtime* (1981) and *Amadeus* (1984) [19, str. 1]. *Amadeus* was his fifth American directed film, as well as his second Oscar winning film, which was based on the life of Mozart. This film filmed in Czechoslovakia garnered eight Oscars. [18]. In addition, he directed *Valmont* (1989), a film based on the 1782 French novel *Les Liaisons* by Choderlos de Laclos, about the fortunes of two scheming lovers, who manipulate and toy with each other on a grand scale.

2.2.3 Life and career after the Velvet Revolution

After the Velvet Revolution Miloš Forman continued to live his life in the United States, carrying on with his career. He lived in Connecticut with his wife Martina Forman and his twin sons Andrew and James. In 1997 he directed *The People Vs. Larry*, an American biographical drama film, chronicling the rise of a pornographer Larry Flynt and in 1999 Miloš Forman directed *Man on the Moon*, a film about the comedian Andy Kaufman. His last directed film *Goya's Ghost* in 2006 is about a painter Francisco Goya, who faces a scandal with his muse, the film portraying a totalitarian system, when Spain was overwhelmed with chaos. During his career Miloš Forman was also a professor at Columbia University, New York. Subsequently, according to a statement released by his agent, he died at the age of 86, April 13, 2018, at Danbury Hospital, near his home in Warren, Connecticut. [25]

2.3 Martina Navrátilová

Martina Navrátilová (Appendix 5) is considered one of the best female tennis players in the world, winning 59 Grand slam tournaments, including the prestige Wimbledon tournament, which she won 9 times. [20] She won her first Czechoslovakia championship at the age of 15 and attended her first American championship at the age of 17, where she realised that she needed to immigrate from Czechoslovakia. In her autobiography she states how the immigration positively influenced her life.

2.3.1 Early life

Martina Navrátilová was born on October 18, 1956, in Prague, Czechoslovakia. At the age of three, her parents got divorced and she moved with her mother to a family house. She began playing tennis at the age of four and competed in her first tennis tournament when she was eight years old. Her first tennis coach was her stepfather Miroslav Navrátil, whose last name she took, as her biological father Mirek Šubert committed suicide when she was nine years old. In her autobiography, she mentions that something was always missing during her childhood and never felt like Czechoslovakia was her home, as she despised the strict communist regime that caused her grandparents and parents to lose their property [21, s.8]. At the age of 10 she started playing tennis every day and in 1972, at the age of 15,

she became the number-one player in Czechoslovakia after she won the national tennis championship. A significant year for Martina Navrátilová is in 1973, when she experienced her first American tennis tournament and finally saw the real America, “*the America without the communist propaganda and felt like home.*” [21, s.9]

2.3.2 Life and career in the USA

Martina Navrátilová understood that staying in her home country would most likely limit her chances on the professional level. The Czechoslovak government was not fully supportive of her career, hence she decided to emigrate to the United States in 1975 [22]. The decision meant she was cut off from her family for years, however it also set her career up for success, because she consistently ranked among the top five female tennis players in 1975. In 1978, she won her first Grand Slam tournament with a victory over American Chris Evert at Wimbledon, a significant step for her career and life in the United States, becoming the number one female tennis player in the world [22]. She won both the women’s singles and doubles Wimbledon championship the following year, dominating woman’s tennis in the 80’s. In 1981, Martina Navrátilová became an American citizen, where she lived in North Dallas. In 1981 she also publically admitted to being homosexual, which was not common in the 20th century, risking her chance of losing sponsor’s and fans, though to her advantage, did not experience a loss of support. In 1987 she became the first person to win the singles, doubles and mixed doubles championships at the U.S. Open since 1970. By 1990 she had won two French Opens, three Australian Opens, four U.S. Opens and a record of nine Wimbledon women’s single titles. Over a spectacular career that has spanned four decades, Martina won 59 Grand Slam titles, including 167 singles and 177 doubles championships. Martina Navrátilová retired completely from competitive tennis in 2006. [23].

2.3.3 Life and career after the Velvet Revolution

After her retirement from professional tennis in 1994, she was inducted to the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2000. Martina Navrátilová decided to continue being involved with tennis, working as a commentator for BBC and Tennis Channel during tournaments, whilst being an ambassador for the WTA. Martina Navrátilová also wrote many books, such as *The Total Zone* (1994), *Breaking Point* (1996) and *Killer Instinct* (1997). [24] Martina Navratilova is also an ambassador for the gay-rights movement and now lives in South Florida with her wife, Julia Lemigova, whom she has been married to for 10 years. They have two daughters, Victoria and Emma (Appendix 6), who are from Lemingova’s former relationships. She has also been supporting the LGBTQ+ community, by raising awareness about pride month and standing up for better legal protection under the law for all LGBTQ+. [30]

3 RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH

The following chapter includes a detailed analysis and comparison of the three selected Czechs, Madeleine Albright, Miloš Forman and Martina Navrátilová, who immigrated to the USA in the 20th century. The analysis and comparison consists of the similarities and differences in their early life, life and career after immigrating to the USA, life and career after the Velvet Revolution. The main focus of the research section is to analyze how emigration from their home country affected their personal judgement and decisions, as well as their growth in worldwide popularity. The following chapter also includes a discussion, where the author discusses their methods of contacting the selected people or organization and the different sources that helped find useful information about the three famous immigrants.

3.1 Early life and career before immigrating to the USA

Madeleine Albright, Miloš Forman and Martina Navrátilová were all born in Czechoslovakia, where their childhood was negatively affected by either the Nazi or Communist regime, because it resulted in experiencing many difficult stages at a young age. Madeleine Albright and her family were sent to exile, when she was only two years old, due to her father being a Czechoslovakian diplomat working alongside Edvard Beneš when the Nazi's occupied Czechoslovakia. Subsequently, due to the Communist occupation in 1948, they emigrated to the USA when Madeleine Albright, where she gained her USA citizenship in 1957. Miloš Forman's parents were sent and died in a concentration camp, because of the Nazi regime, which meant that he was relocated to live with his close relatives and family friends. In his autobiography he mentions how this made him more independent and aware of how limited his opportunities were in Czechoslovakia. Martina Navratilova and her family also experienced the negative aspects of the Communist regime and its system when her grandparents were forced to give away their property and land to the state. She mentions her desire to leave Czechoslovakia, never feeling satisfied with where she grew up. Therefore, the main similarities are in how either the Nazi or Communist regime influenced their early life.

The differences are in the way they immigrated to the USA and the way they began their career. Whilst Madeleine Albright immigrated to the USA with her family and graduated from prestige schools, Miloš Forman and Martina Navratilova had to choose whether to focus on their career or stay with their family in Czechoslovakia. Both of them became famous in Czechoslovakia, Miloš Forman becoming famous, because of his films *Ambition*, *Black Peter*, *Loves of a Blonde* and *The Fireman's* that were directed in Czechoslovakia. However, his films were not supported by the communists, since he often enjoyed

mocking the Communist system by incorporating satire hidden meanings into his films, which can be seen in *The Fireman's Ball*. Milos Forman admitted that the film was indeed a criticism of the ruling communist leaders. [27] This therefore resulted him in immigrating, in order to expand his career, which Martina Navrátilová did as well. She was also very popular in Czechoslovakia as she was ranked the number-one tennis player in Czechoslovakia at the age of 15. However, the Communist were not supportive of her career, resulting in her secret immigration.

3.2 Life and career after immigrating to the USA

The states that the selected people chose to immigrate to in the USA are different. Madeleine Albright immigrated to Denver, Colorado in 1948, whilst Miloš Forman immigrated to New York in 1968 and Martina Navrátilová immigrated to North Dallas in 1975, though she often travelled throughout the USA due to tennis tournaments. After obtaining political asylum and immigrating to the USA Madeleine Albright immediately enrolled to Kent Denver School for middle and high school, later on graduating from Wellesley College and receiving her PhD from Columbia University. This helped her gain a higher rank in the American democratic system and slowly worked her way up in becoming the Secretary of State in 1997. She was then known as the highest ranking woman in politics. Whereas Miloš Forman and Martina Navrátilová immediately started focusing on their career, both of them aiming to stand out, by working on their unique individuality to gain popularity. Miloš Forman and Martina Navrátilová prospered in gaining prestigious awards, as Miloš Forman was awarded Oscars for his films *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Amadeus* and Martina Navrátilová became the number one woman's tennis player in the world, two years after immigrating, quite clearly dominating woman's tennis. Therefore, although they all had a different career focus, their ambition in gaining success is very similar and clear.

In terms of their life and relationships, Madeleine Albright married Joseph Medill Patterson Albright in 1959 and they had three daughters together, which means that she had her family together. Whereas Miloš Forman's wife and two twin sons stayed in Czechoslovakia. Martina Navrátilová known to be homosexual in 1981 did not have a family of her own.

3.3 Life and career after the Velvet Revolution

Even though Madeleine Albright lived in the USA for 74 years and Miloš Forman lived in the USA for 50 years, they still maintained a strong relationship with their native country. Madeleine Albright supported the anti-communist opposition and actively helped the new democratic representation after the Velvet Revolution, gaining the award of The Order of the White Lion, whilst Miloš Forman inspired many Czech directors after the Velvet Revolution, as the directors gained freedom in expressing

themselves. In addition, he mentioned in his autobiography that Prague was always a city he felt a connection to. Martina Navrátilová never expressed her relationship to her native country after the Velvet Revolution, though she admitted that Prague is a very beautiful city to visit. Otherwise Madeleine Albright, Miloš Forman and Martina Navrátilová never moved back to their native country. Madeleine Albright lived in the USA as a best-selling author with her daughters Alice, Anne and Katherine, whereas after the Velvet Revolution Miloš Forman continued teaching as a professor at Columbia university and directed three last films: *The People Vs. Larry*, *Man on the Moon* and *Goya's Ghost*. He married again in 1999 to Martina Zbořilová and had yet another pair of twins, Andrew and James Forman. While Martina Navrátilová decided to focus on being involved with tennis as a commentator for BBC and Tennis Channel during tournaments. She also decided to write books, such as *The Total Zone*, *Breaking Point* and *Killer Instinct*, as well as books that are autobiographies. Martina Navrátilová also decided to stand up for the LGBTQ+ community, as she is married to Julia Lemigová. All three selected people wrote books, mainly autobiographies about their life, where they incorporate the stages of their life. For many their work and life is very inspiring and influential. Each selected person managed to immigrate from a Communist country to the USA and change their life completely.

3.4 Discussion

The author of this project enjoyed writing the theoretical and practical part of this project, due to the new information found during the research process, specifically how the Communist regime immensely influenced the lives and careers of the selected Czech immigrants, as the political system brought a negative impact on each person. The references that helped the most were the written autobiographies of the selected people, such as *Madeleine: An Autobiography*, *Hell and Other Destinations*, *Co já vím aneb Co mám dělat když je to pravda?* and *Já, Martina*. Official websites were also very useful and websites such as *EveryCulture* and *Britannica* were convenient, due to the clear and structured formatting. The most challenging part of this project was to find information about the selected people after the Velvet Revolution as multiple sources did not mention enough information. Additionally, the challenge to organise a distinct structure of the comparison and analysis was difficult. Martina Navrátilová was contacted through her official website, where the email address mary.greenham@newspresenters.co.uk is listed. Though the email has not been replied to yet. The Miloš Forman manager for the Czech Republic has also been contacted at the email address info@radkaproduction.cz, however no response has yet been received. Unfortunately, Madeleine Albright does not have an official administrator on an online database website, therefore no possible contact was available.

CONCLUSION

The main reasons for immigrating to the USA from Czechoslovakia were because of World War I, the Occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1939, the Communist takeover in 1948 and the Prague Spring in 1968. Czechs settled mainly in states on the American Great plains, such as Nebraska, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and North Dakota, due to cheap farmland and opportunities of owning large estates. During the Occupation of Czechoslovakia 20,000 Czechs and Slovaks immigrated to escape Nazi persecution, whilst about 550,000 Czechoslovakian citizens immigrated during the communist era, including the Prague Spring in 1968, resulting in an extreme decrease of professional and skilled workers in Czechoslovakia, which demonstrates how immigration in the 20th century significantly affected Czechoslovakia and the USA.

Madeleine Albright, Miloš Forman and Martina Navrátilová were all affected by the Nazi and Communist regime, which substantially influenced their life and career decisions, since each person was negatively affected by the strict political systems. At a young age Madeleine Albright was forced to live in exile, while Miloš Forman lost both of his parents in a concentration camp and Martina Navratilova's family faced loss of property. In addition, Miloš Forman's and Martina Navrátilová's careers were not supported by the Communists. The selected people immigrated during different periods, Madeleine Albright in 1948, whereas Miloš Forman in 1968 and Martina Nabrátílová in 1975. Their main motivation for immigrating to the USA was to improve their life and career, to live in a democratic state, where they could experience freedom, prosperity and worldwide popularity.

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Appendices



Appendix 1. *Madeleine K. Albright*

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Appendix 2. Madeleine K. Albright studying at Wellesley College

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Appendix 3. *Miloš Forman*

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Appendix 4. *Miloš Forman in action*

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Appendix 5. *Martina Navrátilová*

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Appendix 6. *Martina Navrátilová with her wife Juli and daughters*

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