

Západočeská univerzita v Plzni

Fakulta filozofická

Bakalářská práce

A survey of the evolution of the Czech immigration to the United States of
America in the 20th – 21st century

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Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracovala samostatně a použila jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

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.....

Poděkování

Tímto bych ráda poděkovala vedoucí mé bakalářské práce, paní PhDr. Alici Tihelkové, především za ochotu, vstřícnost a trpělivost při konzultacích a za veškeré rady a připomínky.

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1 INTRODUCTION

I have selected “A survey of the evolution of the Czech immigration to the United States of America (USA) in the 20th – 21st century “ as a topic of my bachelor thesis.

Throughout history, world wide migration was closely tied to the political, economic, and religious condition of the migrants’ country of origin. The first large migratory movement of Czechoslovakian citizens was mostly motivated by the desire to escape the oppressive communist regime of Czechoslovakia at the time. In the early 20th century, life in America was full of potential and opportunities therefore further increasing the desire of Czechoslovakian migrants to start a new life in the USA. Naturally, the new immigrants created large communities in different parts of the USA to help them cope with the new challenges such as language barrier and lack of resources. The successes of these new migrant communities lead to upward economic mobility and easier assimilation to the american society. At the same time provided opportunities for new migrants. The second migratory movement of the 21st century was mainly driven by the desire to enhance one’s economic situation, such as by study abroad, professional advancement, or simply gain new experience and possibly return back to the Czech republic.

This thesis is divided into two parts – a theoretical part and an analytical part. In the theoretical part I will describe the immigration of Czech citizens to the USA in the early 20th century. I will then describe what the immigration process involved on Ellis Island in New York which serves as a museum now.

The analytical part consist of two parts. The first part is focused on interviews with three Czech immigrants. First two interviews describe two immigrants who were seeking refuge from the oppressive Communist regime of Czechoslovakia at the time. The third interview describes the current immigration process in the 21st century.

The second part is devoted to the discussion. The purpose of this section is to compare these three different evolutions of the immigration process. This part ends with an analysis of the results obtained with these questionnaires and a recording from a dictaphone.

The primary sources used for the theoretical part are for instance Ellis Island Immigration Station presenting the immigration process on the Ellis Island.

This work is accompanied by a list of bibliographic and Internet sources. There is also an appendix that contains photos and the informed consent of one of the respondents.

This work is intended for everyone who wants to learn more about the immigration process from the Czech land to the USA and its history.

2 IMMIGRATION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Europe had been devastated by the WWI . Many young men had been conscripted, and million of them had died in the battle, of cold, disease, and in prison camps. Population had starved, their land had been plundered, their economies ruined.¹

Most of them were members of the poorer section of the population. They were craftsmen who saved money for many years before their tour to the United States of America. They set out to seek a better life.

The journey abroad from interior Europe to the USA took weeks. Many people did not want to leave their homeland but felt that it was a matter of survival. They were using any means possible to get the ports, from where the ships sailed to America.²

For example Charles Bartunek was one of those poor people. He was living in a farm in Austria-Hungary. He gives his view what his life was like in his country:

"I was born in what is now Czechoslovakia it was Bohemia in those days. It was under Austrian-Hungarian rule, Franz Josef was the Emperor. We were a family of four girls and three boys with our mother —we lost our dad when I was six years old, and times was pretty tough for us. We were one of the poorest families in the village—probably a little over a thousand people lived there. We had a couple or three pieces of land that wouldn't amount to more than two acres altogether—it was separated and in different places. There were farmers who had quite a bit of land and they lived pretty good, a lot better than the common ordinary man. And, of course, my older sisters and brothers, they worked in the factory up there, making rugs and stuff for a few dollars. It was hard for us to get along, but then Mother was a good manager, and we just managed to struggle through it. In 1913, my brother, Joe, was scheduled to go into the army. He had his examination and everything. He was supposed to report, but instead he and my brother-in-law left their country and went to the United States. They arranged things for

¹ History [online]. 2018. Available from: <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/outbreak-of-world-war-i> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

² DAVID M. BROWNSTONE, IRENE M. FRANCK, and DOUGLASS BROWNSTONE. "Island of Hope, Island of Tears: The Story of Those Who Entered the New World through Ellis Island – In Their Own Words", (New York) 1997. ISBN 1-58663-578-6, p. 34

us to come over to America, We sold what we had over there. That brought us about under \$300 in American money. That plus the difference that my brother borrowed from the banks in America, and we made it here. We came to this country in 1914. On my fourteenth birthday we left Prague."

2.1 Transportation

People were transported to the port mostly by train.³ They had to arrive by train at the shipping ports.

The ports were located in Northern and Western Europe (Germany, Ireland, Britain and the Scandinavian countries).⁴

The price of the ticket was about \$30. Some immigrants had their relatives already in America purchasing the tickets for them, others got tickets from the small army or traveling salesman employed by the steamship lines.⁵

The journey on the ship from Europe to America took about 6 weeks. However, in case of bad weather the journey could also last fourteen days.⁶

2.2 Boarding

In 1924, the United States required primary medical examinations of immigrants before boarding to America. The U.S. Immigration Act also required navy companies to obtain basic information about each immigrant before they set sail.

³ DAVID M. BROWNSTONE, IRENE M. FRANCK, and DOUGLASS BROWNSTONE. "Island of Hope, Island of Tears: The Story of Those Who Entered the New World through Ellis Island – In Their Own Words", (New York) 1997. ISBN 1-58663-578-6, p. 34

⁴ History [online]. 2009. Available from: https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/ellis-island?fbclid=IwAR2bG6DQlpSSdaNsG3iioNZNfC8rFDosX4XeRo_SHLb7VvtOS4gzzVt75HA [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

⁵ DESTINATION AMERICA [online]. 2005. Available from: https://www.pbs.org/destinationamerica/usim_wn_noflash_4.html?fbclid=IwAR2Fz5kH20rdgHu5u9oz7-IKDsK0ELjgRSS4sP9I3KZQJ1tP54AXBL-1DRk [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

⁶ Spartacus Educational [online]. 2020. Available from: <https://spartacus-educational.com/USAEjourney.htm?fbclid=IwAR1mXM4PID8DS-leKq5UsHQ543iYV-jQDG4uxhZ7LQx1z3EnXIQNEqBKnIo> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

The ship's officer requested from the passengers:

- basic identification
- origin
- destination
- ticketing
- financial resources and sponsorship, as well as on medical, psychological, political, marital and other personal matters.

A final medical examination was performed on board, which included an examination of the scalp for possible lice.

2.3 Equipment of the ship

A steerage compartment was indistinguishable from any upper cargo hold, without portholes or any other effective ventilating mechanism, unpartitioned and six to eight feet high crammed with two or more tiers of narrow metal bunks containing minimal mattress.⁷

About 700-800 people, sometimes 1000 people could fit on the boat. Passengers had to create two lines, one for women and children and the other of men.⁸

2.4 Catering on the board

"On the boat we came in steerage. Third class was plain steerage....They piled us up eight or ten people in one cabin, and the food was the worst that could be."
—Sam Auspitz, emigrated from Czechoslovakia in 1920.⁹

⁷ DAVID M. BROWNSTONE, IRENE M. FRANCK, and DOUGLASS BROWNSTONE. "Island of Hope, Island of Tears: The Story of Those Who Entered the New World through Ellis Island – In Their Own Words", (New York) 1997. ISBN 1-58663-578-6, p. 125

⁸ History [online]. 2018. Available from: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.history.com/.amp/news/immigrants-ellis-island-short-processing-time?fbclid=IwAR3BObFxpNxqeF7FeNPSid4RV8gz15vknHiL9rxFjnJjeVPv8bFXYbiQB4c> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

⁹ WILTON, S. TIFT. "Ellis Island Immigration Station ", (New York) 1990. ISBN 0-8092-4418-7, p. 16.

The main dishes included: lukewarm soup, black bread, boiled potatoes, herring or string beef.¹⁰

¹⁰ Smithsonian MAGAZINE [online]. 2010. Available from: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-foods-that-passed-through-ellis-isla76907163/?fbclid=IwAR35hOdnSL2dTITYG2TiWamxyrC6NyducHZq7eFHpjYof8xwRs2YDLN-5Q> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

3 ELLIS ISLANDS

Ellis Island is a small sand island also known as “The Island of hope and tears“ or “Through America’s Gate“.It is located at the mouth of Hudson River between New York and New Jersey in the United States of America. The area of Ellis Island is 11 acres.¹¹

3.1 History of the Ellis Island

The native inhabitants of this island were Indians of the Mohegan tribe. They called the island Kioshk or Gull Island.

Later, Dutchman Michael Paauw acquired the island and gave it a new name Oyster Island because of the many oysters on its coast. The island was used to hang pirates at the time.

During the Revolutionary War the island was bought by the New York merchant Samuel Ellis, hence the name Ellis Island.

After his death, the island was bought by the New York State. Due to the Civil War, the government built a military fortification on the island.

3.1.1 Immigration on Ellis Island

The first federal immigration and citizenship law was announced in 1790.

The immigration center was officially opened on Ellis Island in 1892 which until then was located in New York Castle Garden in lower Manhattan. This facility was fully prepared for the influx of immigrants arriving on large ships.

Roughly 12 million immigrants crossed Ellis Island over the following 50 years.¹²

3.1.2 Ellis Island on fire

In 1897 a fire broke out in one of the towers of a building on Ellis Island. The structure of the building was made of Georgia pine, so it took only three hours for the

¹¹ usa.svetadily.cz [online]. 2012. Available from: <http://usa.svetadily.cz/clanky/Ellis-Island?fbclid=IwAR31my-lmE53x4aRHfw97nQhi4593OcBmFakS7hzv9w6EGYoT-wpLHkvK2Q> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

¹² History [online]. 2009. Available from: https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/ellis-island?fbclid=IwAR2UcDVRZ6zBB9Sbc2tsIO7kvyjgigf_y75ACN3juaQQMPUvqEMqyIvnDeo [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

building to burn down. No one was injured in the fire but all immigration records were destroyed.¹³

The immigration station had been moved to the Battery Park neighborhood of Manhattan for a while until a new building was built.

3.1.3 New Ellis Island

Three new islands have been created on Ellis Island to gain more space for immigration processes.¹⁴

A new building on the first island of Ellis Island for immigration facilities was reopened in 1900. This new French fire-fighting building was built in renaissance style made of brick and limestone.¹⁵ The second island was used to build a hospital and building for quarantined immigrants. The third island was used to build a psychiatric ward.¹⁶

These immigration facilities were used until 1954. This building has become a symbol of American immigrants.¹⁷

3.1.4 Museum of Immigration

In 1990, the immigration office building became the a Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration.

Museum is open to the public, exhibiting all American immigration experiences from 1892 until 1954.

¹³ WILTON, S. TIFT. *“Ellis Island Immigration Station“*, (New York) 1990. ISBN 0-8092-4418-7, p.35

¹⁴ History [online]. 2009. Available from: https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/ellis-island?fbclid=IwAR2UcDVRZ6zBB9Sbc2tsIO7kvyjgigf_y75ACN3juaQQMPUvqEMqyIvnDeo [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

¹⁵ usa.svetadily.cz [online]. 2012. Available from: <http://usa.svetadily.cz/clanky/Ellis-Island?fbclid=IwAR31my-lmE53x4aRHfw97nQhi4593OcBmFakS7hzv9w6EGYoT-wpLHkvK2Q> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

¹⁶ History [online]. 2009. Available from: https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/ellis-island?fbclid=IwAR2UcDVRZ6zBB9Sbc2tsIO7kvyjgigf_y75ACN3juaQQMPUvqEMqyIvnDeo [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

¹⁷ usa.svetadily.cz [online]. 2012. Available from: <http://usa.svetadily.cz/clanky/Ellis-Island?fbclid=IwAR31my-lmE53x4aRHfw97nQhi4593OcBmFakS7hzv9w6EGYoT-wpLHkvK2Q> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

4 IMMIGRATION PROCESS

The ship with the immigrants arrived in New York Harbor. On the way to the port, the immigrants were greeted by the Statue of Liberty, a symbol of freedom, justice and equality.¹⁸

Before docking in the final port, the ship stopped at a checkpoint where doctors were looking for dangerous contagious diseases such as smallpox, yellow fever, plague, cholera and leprosy. It was not until the ship underwent an inspection that it could have continued to the final point.¹⁹ This process was usually swift.

When a large boat full of immigration arrived on Ellis Island, the final destination, the immigrants were loaded into small boats by their class, first, second and then third.

The boats with the immigrants gradually lined up at sea, waiting to be escorted to the immigration building. Here the process took much longer, typically they were waiting for several hours.

First they entered the luggage storage room, where they left their property and then continued upstairs to the second floor. This was a location of the registration room, where immigrants had submitted their identification documents.

4.1 Medical examination

The immigrants gradually climbed the stairs. The doctors secretly monitored their movements. It was called a "six-second medical examination" where doctors detected the rigors or shortness of breath of new immigrants.

Doctors throughout the building used a coded system of letters to indicate the problem, for which further examination was required.

¹⁸ WILTON, S. TIFT. *“Ellis Island Immigration Station“*, (New York) 1990. ISBN 0-8092-4418-7, p.163, 188-89, 200-01

¹⁹ History [online]. 2009. Available from: https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/ellis-island?fbclid=IwAR2UcDVRZ6zBB9Sbc2tsIO7kvyjgigf_y75ACN3juaQQMPUvqEMqyIvnDeo [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

For example: L- suspected gloomy, B- indicated problem with back, F- face, Ft- legs, E- eyes, etc.

After entering the registry office, the immigrants underwent a few minutes of medical examination.

The medical examination included an eye examination. The eyelids lowered back over a special tool that resembled a button hook. The most common reason for failure in this test was trachoma, a contagious and chronic eye disease. The examination was particularly very painful.

It also included the mental tests, when the doctor during normal conversation was testing the intelligence of an individual immigrant. In this test the immigrant was to respond quickly to questions posed by a doctor.

4.1.1 Legal examination

This examination followed the medical examination. Officials asked the immigrant about age, dependence, financial status and other questions. They were also subjected to grammar tests.

This exam also included translators who were looking for young enterprising men who could speak another foreign language. Immigrants were also required to show that they were carrying 25 US dollars.²⁰

4.1.2 Unsuccessful examination

If these examinations were unsuccessful, that is, the investigator found some signs of physical or mental defects, the subject was sent to the wire hall area to await further medical tests. If this examination did not remove any serious problems, the immigrant could return to the process again. However, some of them were confined to an island hospital for further study or treatment. The others were immediately deported. Anyone who was refused on medical, mental or legal grounds could appeal to a three-person Special Investigation Council.²¹

²⁰ WILTON, S. TIFT. *“Ellis Island Immigration Station“*, (New York) 1990. ISBN 0-8092-4418-7, p.163, 188-89, 200-01,p.86

²¹ WILTON, S. TIFT. *“Ellis Island Immigration Station“*, (New York) 1990. ISBN 0-8092-4418-7, p.163, 188-89, 200-01,p.87

Immigrants who were suffering from a dangerous contagious disease or who were considered criminals were deported back at the expense of the shipping company to the country from which they arrived.²²

4.1.3 Passed through

If they passed the health and legal examinations, immigrants moved to the main immigration service. There they were asked a simple question: “What is your name?”

The answer to this question was sometimes not understandable to immigration officers, so they either misspelled the name or helped themselves propose “Americanized” names. Some immigrants wanted their names to change, so they responded with shortened and altered versions of their original names.²³

Immigrants who passed all examinations could join their relatives with whom they traveled on the boat or were numbered by groups to create a rail link to balance their journey inland.

Immigrants who had not been investigated before dusk were detained overnight on the island and resumed examinations the next day because the immigration proceedings were not allowed to be done in the dark.²⁴

The immigration service did not allow immigrants to leave the island with people who were not relatives or sponsors. They were particularly careful not to let go of young women with unknown men.²⁵

²² Češi v Americe [online]. 2007. Available from: http://cesivamerice.sweb.cz/06_2_diplomka_1848_1914.htm?fbclid=IwAR2ULSbKMhPmmgbz2jcNHvj rTITr-YkMEr87wsHy0UWljrhaa8vTwLB4ocQ [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

²³ DAVID M. BROWNSTONE, IRENE M. FRANCK, and DOUGLASS BROWNSTONE. “Island of Hope, Island of Tears: The Story of Those Who Entered the New World through Ellis Island – In Their Own Words“, (New York) 1997. ISBN 1-58663-578-6, p.178

²⁴ DAVID M. BROWNSTONE, IRENE M. FRANCK, and DOUGLASS BROWNSTONE. “Island of Hope, Island of Tears: The Story of Those Who Entered the New World through Ellis Island – In Their Own Words“, (New York) 1997. ISBN 1-58663-578-6, p.160- 172

²⁵ DAVID M. BROWNSTONE, IRENE M. FRANCK, and DOUGLASS BROWNSTONE. “Island of Hope, Island of Tears: The Story of Those Who Entered the New World through Ellis Island – In Their Own Words“, (New York) 1997. ISBN 1-58663-578-6, p.172

5 ADAPTATION OF CZECHS IN THE USA

5.1 Czech settlement in the USA

In 1867, Austria-Hungary allowed free emigration from Bohemia. The number of Czech immigrants thus increased, and large colonies soon emerged in several American cities. By 1920 Chicago were more than 100, 000 Czechs. There were even cities named Prague in Nebraska and Texas.²⁶

Immigrants gradually settled in urban areas, where they established businesses or opened small shops. Czech immigrants preferred urban destinations such as Chicago, St. Louis, New York and Cleveland. The city of Chicago has become the most important regional centre. These cities had districts with names, such as Ceska Plzen, Ceska Kalifornia, Novy Tabor or Cicero.²⁷

The Czechs established their homes in the midst of other immigrant communities. Czech cities in the USA were self-sufficient, setting up banks, theatres, entertainment halls and shops.²⁸

5.2 Czech language in the USA

Czech is a Slavic language while English is Germanic. It was a big challenge for Czech Americans to learn the second language.

The American public-school system and Czech American charities provided systematic English language instruction to help Czech American immigrants learn English.

²⁶ DENNIS WEPMAN “Immigration from the founding of Virginia to the closing of Ellis Islands“ (New York) 2002. ISBN 0-8160-3999-2, p.164

²⁷ ELLIOTT ROBERT BARKAN “Immigrants in American History: Arrival, Adaptation and Integration“ ISBN 159884220X, 9781598842203

²⁸ Czech Americans [online]. 2006. Available from: <https://www.everyculture.com/multi/Bu-Dr/Czech-Americans.html> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

As early as in 1860, the first Czech-language newspaper was published in the American state of Wisconsin in the town of Racine, where there was already a large Czech community at the time.²⁹

5.3 Work of Czech immigrants in the USA

Urban cities have proven to be particularly attractive to skilled workers, self-employed and professionals. The most common trades were craftsmen, miners, bricklayers, locksmiths, shoemakers, butchers and blacksmiths.

Women, in turn, used their skills in the American clothing industry. In 1900, more than a fifth of the Czech women worked in needle shops and more than half of them were tailors. The rest consisted of seamstresses and mills. Unmarried women have found employment mainly in domestic services such as maids, housekeepers, waitresses in hotels or laundries.

Czechs in the American country rather tried to use their own skills to become independent and self-employed. They were not inclined to become paid workers. For example, tailors, blacksmiths and carpenters set up their own workshops.

Butchers, bakeries, hairdressers, lounges and shoemakers were common in immigrant neighbourhoods and near Czech agricultural communities. The Czechs also worked in the industrial sector. The men found employment in breweries because they had experience in Czech brewing.

In Chicago, New York, Connecticut and New Jersey, there was a production of buttons. The Czechs allegedly also owned mother-of-pearl buttons.

There were also Czech musicians who found a place within an American orchestra. There were also Czech actors who organized amateur theatre performances.

Czech communities went to support artists and thus helped to develop the Czech self-sufficient community.

²⁹ KAREL D. BICHA "The Wisconsin Magazine of History: The Czechs in Wisconsin History ", Vol. 53, No. 3 (Spring, 1970), p. 194-203

5.4 Chain migration

The immigrants kept in touch through letters with their family and friends who were in the Czech lands. Because people learned about the good conditions in the United States of America more people began to emigrate as well. They settled in the same locations because they wanted to join relatives or friends.³⁰

5.5 Czech culture in the USA

Czech immigrants wanted to keep the Czech language and Czech culture their new homeland various associations, Sokol divisions and newspapers. Czech newspapers served as an example of cultural expression.³¹

5.6 Journalism

The founder of Czech-American socialism, Lev J. Palda, founded the first Czech social democratic or socialist newspaper, Narodni noviny in St. Louis in Missouri. Josephine Humpal- Zeman was an important proponent of the women's electoral movement. She also founded the Women's List.³²

5.7 Relationships

The Americans expected that immigrants, including Czechs, to want to be assimilated in their culture as soon as possible. The differences that distinguished them from the locals, such as a different language, were not desirable and were to disappear as soon as possible. One of the few positive things, according to the Americans, was Czech hard work. On the contrary, our immigrants saw Americans as people who were contemptuous of other nations, blinded by money, lazy and rude.³³

³⁰ ELLIOTT ROBERT BARKAN "Immigrants in American History: Arrival, Adaption and Integration" ISBN 159884220X, 9781598842203

³¹ Výzkum a vývoj [online]. 2016. Available from: <https://www.geograficke-rozhledy.cz/archiv/clanek/110/pdf> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

³² Czech Americans [online]. 2006. Available from: <https://www.everyculture.com/multi/Bu-Dr/Czech-Americans.html> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

³³ ECKERTOVÁ EVA "Kameny na préríi" (Praha) 2004. ISBN 80-7106-359- 2, p. 155-170

Relations with the Czech neighbours, such as the Germans, were no better. The Germans classically overlooked the Czechs and considered them poor. What began in Europe continued in the United States. However, the Czechs did not like them as well and considered the Germans conceited and stupid.³⁴

Czech immigrants had the most problematic relationship with the Irish. The Irish called Czech immigrants dumb and stupid. The Irish were not considerate and understanding.³⁵

5.8 Holidays

5.8.1 Christmas

Christmas began on December 24. When the first stars came up in the sky, dinner was served. It was customary to serve bread and honey before dinner. On December 25, Christmas Day was celebrated by people gathering in a church for worship.³⁶

The Czech immigrant George Banover, who arrived at Ellis Island in 1922 as a six-year-old boy, describes in the book his first Christmas in the USA, that children sang Christmas carols. He describes that in the Czech land they had a Christmas coniferous tree with a couple of candles. Unlike America, they celebrated Christmas very simply in the Czech lands. The American Christmas tree was richly decorated. There were lights on it and everything you could imagine. The six-year-old boy was impressed.³⁷

European immigrants also brought with them many traditions from their original home country. Already during the 20th century, Christmas in America became a commercial event due to the shopping days before Christmas. Christmas also included Christmas secular icons such as Rudolf, Frosty, Grinch and The Nutcracker.

³⁴ HÁJKOVÁ DAGMAR “Naše česká věc“ (Praha) 2011. ISBN 978-80-7422-086-9, p. 18

³⁵ DENNIS WEPMAN “Immigration from the founding of Virginia to the closing of Ellis Islands“ (New York) 2002. ISBN 0-8160-3999-2, p.237

³⁶ Czech Americans [online].2006, Available from: <https://www.everyculture.com/multi/Bu-Dr/Czech-Americans.html> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

³⁷ DENNIS WEPMAN “Immigration from the founding of Virginia to the closing of Ellis Islands“ (New York) 2002. ISBN 0-8160-3999-2, p.237

While they turned into more and more commercial events during Christmas during the 20th century which was very beneficial for American retailers, but this tradition was still mainly about family.

The Americans celebrated Christmas with the arrival of morning, when the children woke up and met their parents at the tree under which there were presents.³⁸

5.8.2 Easter

Easter was celebrated on the day of the first spring full moon. On Easter Monday, boys from the area went to spray girls. Sometimes it also happened that the girl was thrown into the river. As a token of gratitude, the girl was obliged to offer the boy homemade food.

5.9 Religion

When the Czechs arrived in the USA, most of them were Roman Catholics. As many as 50 percent of them renounced this religion, which was connected with the repressive Habsburg regime that ruled in the Czech land at the time. Their arrival on American land gave them the opportunity to sever their relations with this institution. The Roman Catholic Church was active mainly in rural areas.

About two percent of Czechs were Protestants who joined American denominations. The common relations were Presbyterian, Methodist, Czech Moravian brethren and congregational. The descendants of the followers of Jan Hus, known as the initiator of the reform movement, settled in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.³⁹

5.10 Czech buildings in the USA

5.10.1 The Pilsen Brewery and The Pilsen Park

The Pilsen Park, located in the city of Chicago, was designed by designer Adolf Lonek at the instigation of a gathering of seven Czech pub owners who decided to

³⁸ Historical Boy's Clothing [online]. 2010. Available from: <https://www.histclo.com/act/holiday/xmas/nat/us/chron/xcus-c20.html> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

³⁹ Czech Americans [online]. 2006. Available from: <https://www.everyculture.com/multi/Bu-Dr/Czech-Americans.html> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

establish it. This six-acre facility was opened in 1903. This cooperative brewery employed mostly Slavic workers.

A shareholder of the Pilsen brewing company decided to open a beer garden on the neighboring plot. Previously, this land was used by Sokol groups for gymnastic demonstrations.

This park included a dining room for 600-700 people, a salon, a dance pavilion and a large podium. It was opened in 1907 and became the center of Czech cultural and institutional life and a place for community celebrations. The Pilsen park was used for trips, picnics, business meetings, Sokol exhibitions, concerts ethnic festivals and political gatherings.

Fuegner-Tyrs Sokol, Czech Catholic Organization, Union of Czech Old Settlers, Czech National Alliance, United Moravian Society, Alliance of Schools of Free Thought, Prague Odd Fellow Lodge and Czechoslovak Garden Club of a Czech groups that used Pilsen Park.⁴⁰

5.10.2 Joseph Triner Company

This modern factory, designed to produce various elixirs, was built by entrepreneur Joseph Triner, who became an importer and exporter of production. His most famous products included the Elixir of Bitter Wine and Triner's Angelica Bitter Tonic. He received an award in the form of a gold medal for these two elixirs.⁴¹

5.10.3 Sokol Slavsky Theater Hall

Sokol was designed by Czech architect Frank Randak. This five-floored building in the style of a classic revival boasted a theater with 2,000 seats, several meeting rooms and lounges. Sokol served as a place to listen to concerts, exhibition grounds and sports gatherings.⁴²

⁴⁰ CSAGSI [online]. 2019. Available from: <https://csagsi.org/pilsen-brewing-co/> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

⁴¹ Bay Bottles [online]. 2017. Available from: <https://baybottles.com/2017/01/23/jos-triner-chicago/> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

⁴² Curbed Chicago [online]. 2019. Available from: <https://chicago.curbed.com/2019/6/14/18677823/pilsen-historic-district-czech-sokols-preservation> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

5.10.4 Thalia theatre

The Romanesque-style theater was located in the Pilsen neighborhood of Pilsen. The building was decorated with a terra-cotta facade with shop windows. The theater served as a meeting hall for the predominantly Czech native population in the Pilsen neighborhood. Later, the building became a place of live entertainment and a movie house.⁴³

5.10.5 Saint Procopius Catholic Church

This building was built at the instigation of population growth, when Czech Catholics moved to the Pilsen district through the construction of a rectory and school. The upper part of the church was used for worship and the lower part was used for school.⁴⁴

5.10.6 Bohemia Club

The club was founded in 1899 and served for sophisticated members to celebrate and enjoy the literature, drama and music of the most famous and talented Czech artists. The club was attended by the Chicago Czech elite and the Czech elite.

5.10.7 Cermak Road

This street is named after the Czech politician and architect Antonin Cermak. With the support of a group of Czech immigrants, he later became mayor of Chicago. He was assassinated in 1933. To commemorate the slain mayor, Chicago had the 22nd Street renamed Cermak Road.

5.10.8 Town of Cicero and city of Berwyn

Modern and world-class cities offered plenty of land for the construction of modern housing and to establish businesses. These cities became the home of Czech families. The cities included shopping districts, Czech community buildings, highly rated universities, which were attended by generations of Czechs living in the area. There were

⁴³ Cinema Treasures [online]. 2006. Available from: <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/4594> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

⁴⁴ CSAGSI [online]. 2019. Available from: <https://csagsi.org/saint-procopius-cc/> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

neighbourhoods like Pilsen and Czech California. Picnics, Czech women's clubs, Czech men's lodges, dance groups, and Sokols are held here every year.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ A Historical Look at Czech Chicagoland [online]. Available from: <http://www.chicagocacc.org/the-historical-czech-chicagoland/> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

6 FAMOUS CZECH NAMES IN THE USA

6.1 Vojtech Preissing

A Czech graphic artist, painter, illustrator and participant in the anti-Austrian and anti-Nazi resistance, he decided to leave his homeland for the USA in 1910. The reason for his trip was his long-term financial problems. In America, he worked as a utility graphic designer and educator. Here his financial situation was improved.

He worked at art schools in New York and Boston, where he was the director of the School of Printing and Graphic Arts at the Wentworth Institute until 1926. He has led courses in typography, applied and free graphics. He was perceived as an irreplaceable expert, introducing many new printing techniques. He designed a set of famous posters for Czechoslovak volunteer forces and for the American war effort.

In 1931, however, he returned to the land of the Czech lands, where he continued his profession.

He died in 1943 in the Dachau concentration camp.⁴⁶

6.2 Antonin Dvorak

The well-known prosperous Czech composer had long-term financial problems in the Czech lands. He received a great offer from the President of the American National Conservatory of Music to become headmaster of the school and to perform several concerts. As a reward, she offered him three times higher income than he would have had in the Czech land at the Prague Conservatory. The amount was \$15,000.

In 1892, he left his homeland and went to America with his family. There, he taught composition and instrumentation three hours a day and attended eight months of rehearsals with conservatory students for four concerts as well as six concerts in other American cities.

⁴⁶ ART BOHEMIA [online]. 2005. Available from: http://www.artbohemia.cz/cs/131_preissig-vojtech [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

Another reason for leaving the Czech lands was also the vision of the ability to expand his "operational reach" far beyond the borders of Europe.

He stayed in New York with his family in an apartment for which he paid \$80 a month. The apartment located near the conservatory and the school to which he was principal was only five minutes away.

For Dvorak, New York was a modern, bustling big city that offered many advantages and disadvantages.

He worked with selected talented students at the New York Conservatory and supported the admission of African American students because he was fascinated by their natural musicality. He was so fascinated by it that he created building with music school based on African folk music. Dvorak sought to make them the foundation of the American music school. However, the local American press did not like this idea, and expressed doubts about "primitive songs of black slaves".

However, Dvorak's theory proved its worth a few years later. Jazz soon became an icon of American culture.

As a result of the first great economic crisis, the school lost financial support, on which Dvorak was dependent, and Dvorak did not receive the total amount that was in the contract. Despite this, he had enough funds to return to his home country. A salary from the New York Conservatory provided his entire family with financial security for the rest of their lives.

Among his most famous works is the New World Symphony, which premiere was at Carnegie Hall in New York.⁴⁷

6.3 Ales Hrdlička

He was a physic Czech anthropologist who studied Neanderthal man and his theory of migration of American Indians from Asia. Hrdlička emigrated to the USA as a little boy with his family.

⁴⁷ DVORAK AND NEW YORK [online]. 2005. Available from: <http://www.antonin-dvorak.cz/en/new-york> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

He studied medicine. In 1896 he went to study anthropology in Paris and returned to the USA a year later. Hrdlicka became a collaborator in anthropology in New York. He then became the director of physical anthropology for expeditions.

In 1910 he became the curator of the collections of physical anthropology. During his life, he traveled extensively and explored places. In 1927 he published his first edition of the Neanderthal Phase of Man.

He organized expeditions to Alaska and the Bering Strait.

After his death, a museum was named after Hrdlička.⁴⁸

6.4 Tomas Garrigue Masaryk

The first Czechoslovak president had personal and family ties with America.

He had a personal relationship with America because he married Charlotte Garrigue, an American citizen. He took her last name to his name.

He highly respected the idea of American democracy which reflected his political views.

Thanks to trips to the USA in the years 1878-1907, he learned about American values and customs, which he later used to fight for the independent Czechoslovak state, which he worked so hard for.

In 1902, Masaryk was invited by an industrialist Charles R. Cranel to give a lecture at the University of Chicago. Charles R. Cranel established a foundation for Slavic studies at this university.

- In the USA Masaryk attended Czech immigrant circles in New York, St. Louis, Baltimore, and Cedar Rapids.
- He showed an interest in understanding the moral and mental state of Czech-American communities and the conditions of Czech immigrants in the USA.

⁴⁸ ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA [online]. 2020. Available from: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ales-Hrdlicka/> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

- He gave a lecture on the situation in the Czech land so that members of Czech-American culture could learn about the situation of those who remained in the Czech land.
- He attended the Congress of Religious Liberals in Boston, where he addressed the religious situation in the Czech lands. He argued that religion should be ethical and practical. He also mentioned the dynamics of Czech communities in the USA.
- He met many important personalities who influenced American society.
- He participated in discussions with American statesmen, journalists, members of Congress, scholars, activists, and foreign diplomats.
- He maintained a friendly relationship with the 28th president of the United States of America, Woodrow Wilson. He raised funds for the Czechoslovak cause thanks to a propaganda campaign that took place in the USA at the time. The United States thus supported Czechoslovak independence.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ T.G. MASARYK AND THE UNITED STATES 1878-1918 [online]. 2018. Available from: <http://reviewsmagazine.net/t-g-masaryk-and-the-united-states-1878-1918/> [Retrieved 20 January 2020]

7 ANALYTICAL PART

7.1 FORMULATION OF THE PROBLEM

Immigration is the process during which person moves permanently to a foreign country.

It is my belief that the general public does not understand the immigration process.

7.2 Research objective

In the practical part of this work, I focused on obtaining information about the immigration of Czechs to the United States in the form of interviews.

7.3 Intermediate objective

- 1) Find out about the immigration process from Czechoslovakia that has taken place since 1948.
- 2) Find out about immigration process from Czech Republic today.
- 3) Compare these immigration processes

7.4 Research questions

- 1) How does the immigration process work?
- 2) Who is financing the immigration process?
- 3) What documents are needed to approve immigration?
- 4) How the adaptation to the life in the USA after immigration process?

8 METHOD

I used a case study as a method in the practical part. The interviews were conducted in a natural way.

My respondents were given almost the same questions in order to compare their answers.

The questions from the text from the theoretical part of this work, helped me to compare the immigration processes at the beginning of the 20th century, the immigration process since 1948 and the immigration process today.

8.1 Case selection

Three respondents were deliberately selected for the research. The first two respondents emigrated to the USA from Czechoslovakia and the third respondent emigrated recently.

8.2 Method of obtaining information

The research was done through semi-structured interviews with people who emigrated. The interviews were recorded on a dictaphone or in the form of sending emails.

Questions for the interviews were prepared in advance but during the interview I also improvised according to the suggestions of the respondents themselves.

The participant, who participated in the recording, signed an informed consent.

8.3 Organizing the research

The data collection took place in March 2020. I planned the length of the interviews to be approximately 1.5 hour. I adjusted the time according to the current mood of the respondent.

All respondents were informed that the information obtained is used only for the purposes of the bachelor thesis and that it will not be misused in any way.

9 INTERVIEWS

9.1 Interview 1

Tomas Stibral, born in 1954 in Prague

Executive chef and owner of Prague restaurant in Florida.

- 1) **What year did you emigrate in and where are you from?**
 - I emigrated in 1979—1980 and I am from Prague.
- 2) **Why have you decided to leave Czechoslovakia?**
 - I left Czechoslovakia for political reasons. I disagreed with the Communists.
- 3) **What was your job in Czechoslovakia?**
 - I was working as a waiter.
- 4) **Were you traveling to the US yourself?**
 - No, I was traveling with my wife and my son.
- 5) **How long did your trip to the US last?**
 - I went from Vienna to Frankfurt and from Frankfurt to New York. I was waiting a year in Austria for a US visa.
- 6) **What was life beyond the borders of Czechoslovakia?**
 - It was hard, we were still scared.
- 7) **What documents did you have with you to emigrate?**
 - I had a passport and my medical records and immigration visa and when I came to the USA I received a green card.
- 8) **Did you keep in touch with your family in Czechoslovakia during your emigration?**
 - No, I did not. It was better not keep in touch with family during communist regime.
- 9) **Where did you learn English language?**
 - I learned English in the US. I was only speaking German language until then.

10) Can you describe immigration process?

- We were waiting for year for an emigration visa to the USA in Austria in the refugee camp, we were waiting for a year for a green card.

11) How expensive was the journey from Australia to the US?

- Well, I was in the program called "American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees, it was sponsored by Czechoslovak immigrants.

12) Did you have any relatives in the US?

- No, I did not have any relatives in the US.

13) Did you have any contacts in the US at least?

- Yes, I had contacts in Ohio.

14) What was your first job in the US?

- I was washing the dishes.

15) Where were you living in the US?

- I was living in New York, Ohio, Denver, Colorado. Now I live in Florida.

16) Do you have American citizenship?

- Yes, I do.

17) Do you vote?

- Yes, I do.

18) I suppose you are watching a political situation in the Czech Republic remotely. What are your thoughts about where the Republic has gone over the years?

- There is great progress, especially for young people. I think it would be best if all the communists disappear.

19) Did you meet someone in the US who also emigrated from Czechoslovakia?

- I did a lot of them unfortunately.

20) Did you know somebody who also wanted to emigrate and did not pass the borders?

- Yes, I did. It was my friend he was arrested by StB at the border in Czechoslovakia.

21) Were you afraid to emigrate?

- Everyone was afraid. I was worried about my family (wife and son). I was afraid that the StB would catch us.

22) How did you adapt to American lifestyle?

- It was difficult at the beginning and I have to say that I am still adapting (after 40 years of living here).

23) Are you missing something Czech in the US?

- Yes, previously. Czech girls.

24) Have you ever regretted that you were going abroad?

- Sometimes I have, but overall, I think that I am happy here.

25) How would you like to raise your children? As Czechs or as members of the USA?

- There are Czechs and Americans, bicultural.

26) Why have you chosen America?

- Wild Wild West.

27) If you could not choose the US at that time, what country would it be?

- It would be Australia.

28) Do you still feel like a Czech after so many years of living here in the US?

- That is a good question. Yes and no.

29) Would you ever want to return to the Czech Republic?

- No.

9.2 Interview 2

Vladimir Uhlik, born in 1950 in Pilsen

Pensioner living in Arizona.

1) What year did you emigrate in and where are you from?

- I emigrated in 1969 and I am from Pilsen.

2) Why have you decided to leave Czechoslovakia?

- I had the opportunity to work abroad for better money as a waiter. There was a chocolate exhibition in Expo at exhibition grounds in Prague. The owner of the chocolate company hired people to work for one month when the show was taking place. It was a good extra income, so I took the job. I was working there in 1966-1967. By the way there were things I hadn't seen in my life, like sugar packed in paper for example.
- The owner of the chocolate company offered me and other waiters from the exhibition job in Vienna for next year (1968).
- I wanted to go to Vienna in 1968 and the Communists did not let me go unfortunately.

3) What was your job in Czechoslovakia?

- I was working as a waiter in the hotel Slovan in Pilsen.

4) What was the life beyond the borders of Czechoslovakia?

- Honestly it was like a paradise for me. I have seen things that I have never seen before in my life. For example, I saw a mango for the first time.

5) How did you get to the US?

- My cousin was working for Skoda company in Pilsen. He was transporting the produced cars by truck to Germany and he was also living there. I made the decision that I want to get off from Czechoslovakia and move to Germany.
- I crossed the borders of Czechoslovakia I was hiding in a truck with brand new cars.

- I lived there for a while and then my other cousin from Chicago came to visit in Germany. He said to me "You cannot live like that here, let's go to the US with me! " And so, I went.

6) Can you describe the immigration process?

- Well, I had to pass a medical examination in Germany and they gave me an immigration visa. When I came to the USA I received a green card immediately.

7) How long have you been waiting for this card?

- I was waiting for 6 weeks.

8) How was the medical examination in Germany?

- I remember that they took my blood to check for tuberculosis, also they took my urine to check for gonorrhoea and I also passed a lung x-ray.

9) In order to emigrate, you had to have what documents?

- I had to have my passport and medical records.

10) How did you get to the "Green card? "

- Well I already had a family in the US. You can get this card if you have some relations in the USA. You must have had someone who will be responsible for you and who will take care of you.

11) Was "Green card" enough to live in the US?

- Yes, I came to Chicago and they gave me a green card on the local emigration.
- Then I applied for citizenship (it is called 229- form) and I was called to the army not long after.
- We had to pass the Army test which was in English language of course and according to the results we were all included in the appropriate section.
- I could not write in English very well so they put me in the kitchen and I was cooking for the soldiers. I was there for four months and then I went back to Chicago.

12) How long did your trip to the US last?

- I flew 6 hours from Frankfurt to Chicago.

- 13) Were you traveling to the US by yourself?**
- Yes, I was traveling by myself.
- 14) Where did you learn English?**
- I learned English at the hotel school in Pilsen and then when I came to the US I was studying a local school.
- 15) How expensive was the journey from Frankfurt to the US?**
- I do not know, my uncle paid it. It was around \$600. My uncle was my sponsor because he was American citizen.
- 16) Did you have any relatives in the US?**
- Yes, I have 3 generations of the Uhlik family.
- 17) What was your first job in the US?**
- I was working under my uncle. He had a construction company. I was working as a carpenter in one of his workshops in Chicago.
- 18) Where were you living in the US?**
- I was living in Chicago.
- 19) Do you have American citizenship?**
- Yes, I do.
- 20) Do you vote?**
- Yes, I do.
- 21) I suppose you are watching a political situation in the Czech Republic remotely. What do you think about where the Republic has gone over the years?**
- No, I do not care about a political situation, I do not live there anymore.
- 22) Did you meet someone in the US who also emigrated from Czechoslovakia?**
- Yes, I know some Czechs who also emigrated.
- 23) Do you know somebody who also wanted to emigrate and did not pass the borders?**
- No, I do not.

- 24) Were you afraid to emigrate?**
- No, I was not afraid.
- 25) How did you adapt to American lifestyle?**
- It was awesome, I had my family here so it was not so hard.
- 26) Are you missing something Czech in the US?**
- Definitely not!
- 27) Have you ever regretted that you were going abroad?**
- No, I never regretted it.
- 28) How would you like to raise your children? As Czechs or as members of the USA?**
- Well, my children are Americans, they have American citizenship and they do not speak much Czech.
- 29) Why did you choose America?**
- Well, I knew that there was better work and life also. I was young and curious. I wanted to have an adventure.
- 30) If you could not choose the US at that time, what country would it be?**
- It would be Australia definitely.
- 31) Do you still feel like a Czech after so many years of living here in the US?**
- I feel like being 100% American.
- 32) Would you ever want to return to the Czech Republic?**
- No, never.
- 33) Did you keep in touch with your family in Czechoslovakia during your emigration?**
- No, not too much.

9.3 Interview 3

Marketa Wernerova, born in Krnov in 1986

Student of Chinese medical in college in Florida.

1) What year did you emigrate in and where are you from?

"I emigrated in 2018 and I am from Krnov."

2) What was your job in the Czech Republic?

"I was a student and I was teaching yoga."

3) Why have you decided to leave Czechoslovakia?

"I was always a traveller. I was living in Spain for a year and I came back to Czech to finish my university. After that I went to Australia for a year. When I came back from Australia I met my future husband, he was living for 20 years in the USA and he has a citizenship of USA. We were living for 5 years in Krnov together and then we decided to move somewhere else because living here did not fill us anymore. I wanted to go to Australia, but he did not want to go there. He did not have citizenship there, he wanted to go back to the USA. He had a good business in the USA and he did not want to start again somewhere else. We decided to go to the USA. I also have my dad in Canada so it was nice to have him closer. We choose Florida because of the weather."

4) What did you need to travelling to the USA?

"I had to have a passport and I had to have just a permission to enter the country. I chose ESTA. It is a permission to the country which is valid for 3 months and you cannot exceed this period, because it is illegal."

5) Can you describe the immigration process?

"My first immigration process was in the airport when we came to the USA after 14 hours of flight from Czech Republic. I had to show them

the ESTA and also my return ticket. The return ticket serves as proof that I will not exceed that period of 3 months.

The immigration officer also had few questions on me, he was asking me:

- What brings me to the USA?
- What is my job?
- If I have a return ticket."

6) Do you have any relations in the US?

"Yes, I have. My cousin lives here. We were living in her house for a month. During that period my husband found work, because he already had citizenship so he could work."

7) What was your job in the US?

"I did not have any papers so I could not work. To work here you need to have a social security number and Employment authorization document, known popularly as a work permit. I married my husband a few years ago in Czech and he has American citizenship. It is easier to get a green card, you have to have relation in the USA (spouse, daughter, mom, etc) to apply for a green card, you cannot just go and apply for it without some reason."

8) When and how did you apply for it?

"To apply for it you have to be in the USA at least a month, I had to wait one month and then I visited an immigration lawyer, you can do it by yourself but it is better to be informed.

The lawyer gave me a list with forms that I will need:

- i-130a Petition for Alien Relative
- i-485 Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status
- i-765 Application for Employment Authorization
- i-864 Affidavits of Support
- i-130 Supplemental information for Spouse Beneficiary."

9) What did you do with these forms?

"I had to fill them out and send them. I also had to attach these papers:

- marriage license
- paper from bank (that we have a shared account
- birth certificates of both spouses
- driving licenses of both spouses
- letter from sponsor's work about his annual income
- shared photos
- shared insurance (car, health)
- lease, proof that you live together
- shared communication (emails, letters, text messages)
- shared gift cards."

10) Did you need any medical exam?

"Yes, of course. I had to find an immigration doctor and make an appointment. The immigration doctor took my blood for testing Syphilis, HIV Gonorrhea and Chlamydia. The doctor also acquired my urine for testing drugs. After that he vaccinated me against the flu. After a week I received the results by mail."

11) What did you do with your results?

"I received two envelopes from immigration doctor. One envelope was for me and the other one was for immigration. The envelope for immigration I could not open or damage, if I damaged an envelope, the results would be invalid and I would have to go through it again."

12) What did you do with an envelope for immigration?

"I attached it with other documents we were supposed to substantiate, and I sent everything to the Immigration Department and after two weeks I received 3 notices for i-485 Green card, i-765 Employment authorization document and i-130a Petition for Alien Relative. These notices indicated that I was in the process."

13) What happened after you received the notification?

"I received another letter about a Biometric appointment a month later. I had to go to the Immigration Department for a biometric appointment. I came to the big hall with a lot of immigrants, officers and armed soldiers. First of all, I had to fill out a paper. There were 10 questions about me (race, color of eyes and hair, age, religion, etc.). After that they took my fingerprints and they took a picture of me and that was all. This meeting lasted about an hour."

14) You said that you were in the process. Could you have travelled and worked?

"No, I could not travel or work. After four months from a biometric appointment I received a work card by mail. I went to the Social Security Administration for my social security number. I showed them my Employment Authorization card and they gave me my social security. I was finally able to start working and studying."

15) What is the social security number?

"It is the number that is given to you by the government to track your earnings throughout your life. As you get older you will be able to collect social security income for your retirement. "

16) Could you have travelled after receiving a social security number?

"No, unfortunately that is not allowed and it is a criminal offense. But if you have serious reasons to travel, you can fill out the form of the i-131 travel document. It is only up to the immigration if they allow departure or not."

17) When did you receive the green card?

"Three months after receiving the Employment Authorization card I received a letter from the immigration by mail to attend the appointment. Me and my husband (US citizen), we both had to come. It was an interview with an immigration officer. "

18) How was the interview with the immigration officer?

"We were very nervous, I was afraid I would say something wrong. We had to be well dressed. We came to the immigration building and waited for immigration officer in the waiting room. He came for us after a while and we went to a small room. He also brought the forms and all papers (the results from the medical exam, etc.) at the first he wanted to see the original papers because all we sent to them were just copies. The immigration officer wanted passports from both of us and then he started asking my husband as my sponsor. He asked him common questions, name, age, if he was married, and so on.

He was asking us:

- where we met
- when we got married (he also wanted to see an album from our wedding
- how long we know each other
- where we live together (he wanted to see how we pay a lease agreement).

We had all the papers in order. I think when you have everything in order you will not have any problem. You are actually going to an interview there to prove that you did not get married because of the green card. That is what they are all about. The interview ended and the immigration officer told us that within two weeks I should receive a green card.

I received my green card after a week, and it was a permanent card which was valid for 10 years and after that time you have to go to the interview again. By the way, if you divorce within two years of receiving the card, your green card will be revoked. "

19) What would happen if they found any discrepancies?

"If an immigration officer finds an irregularity, he divides the married couple into two rooms and starts an investigation."

20) After receiving your green card, you were able to work and travel?

"Yes, I was able to travel and work."

21) How much money did the immigration process cost you?

"It cost me a lot of money.

- application for a green card \$1225
- application for Petition for Alien Relative \$530
- immigration medical exams \$600
- mail (overnight) \$100

It cost me more than \$2455. It is very expensive and it takes a lot of patience but my husband was my sponsor so he paid for it."

22) What is your job now?

"Well, I am a student. I study Chinese medicine here in the USA and as a housecleaner. Here in America, it pays a lot of money."

23) Have you ever regretted that you were going abroad?

"No, I never regretted it."

24) Do you still feel like Czech after 2 years of living here in the US?

"Yes, I still feel like Czech still."

25) How would you like to raise your children? As Czechs or as members of the USA?

"Me and my husband are Czech so we would like to raise our children as Czech. "

26) Do you have American citizenship?

"No, I do not have one."

27) How did you adapt to American lifestyle?

"It was easy because I had my husband and my cousin."

28) Would you ever want to return to the Czech Republic?

"I do not know now. We are happy here but you never know."

10 DISCUSSION

In this bachelor thesis, information was gathered about immigration at the beginning of the 20th century through today. The goal of the bachelor thesis was to analyze, compare, and discuss these periods of immigration to the USA.

The analytical part includes qualitative research from three individuals who experienced immigration to the USA. The interviews were compiled through a semi-structured interview via dictaphone and electronic correspondence.

The first two interviews were conducted in the form of questionnaire that was sent to respondents, replied to via e-mail. These individuals illegally emigrated from Czechoslovakia during a communist regime. Refer to them as respondents No. 1. and No. 2.

The third interview was conducted in-person, utilizing a dictaphone to record responses. This individual emigrated from Czech Republic legally under present immigration laws. Refer to her as respondent No. 3.

Respondent No. 3. signed an informed consent to the interview. All three respondents were acquainted with the research and were assured that the information obtained would not be misused.

In the interviews, all three respondents were given some of the same questions that I am comparing and some different ones.

Question: What year did you emigrate in?

- Respondent No. 1. answered: "In 1979—1980."
- Respondent No. 2. answered: "In 1969."
- Respondent No. 3. answered: "In 2018."

The biggest difference in the fact that the first two respondents emigrated illegally from the then Czechoslovakia, while respondent No. 3. emigrated from the Czech Republic legally.

Question: Why have you decided to leave Czechoslovakia?

- Respondent No. 1. answered: "I left Czechoslovakia because of political reasons. I disagreed with the Communists."
- Respondent No. 2. answered: "I left because I wanted a better job, which the Communist forbid, so I decided to emigrate for a better job."
- Respondent No. 3. answered: "I wanted to change my lifestyle and try something different."

Respondent No. 3. did not emigrate under duress unlike respondents No. 1 and No. 2.

Question: How did you get to the USA?

- Respondent No. 1. answered: "I went to Vienna to Frankfurt, and from Frankfurt to New York. I was waiting one year in Austria for USA visa."
- Respondent No. 2. answered: "I crossed the borders of Czechoslovakia to Germany, I was hiding in a truck. I was living in Germany for a while and then my cousin from Chicago came to visit me in Germany and we left together to the United States."
- Respondent No. 3. Answered: "We came to the USA after 14 hours of flight from the Czech Republic."

Respondent No. 3. flew directly from the Czech Republic to the United States, while respondents No. 1. and 2. had to travel via neighboring countries because it was not allowed to travel there from Czechoslovakia.

Question: What documents did you have with you to emigrate?

- Respondent No. 1. answered: "I had a passport and my medical records and immigration visa."
- Respondent No. 2. answered: "I had to have my passport and medical records and immigration visa."
- Respondent No. 3. answered: "I had to have a passport and I had to have just a permission to the country, I chose the ESTA."

All three respondents had to have a valid passport to enter the United States. Respondent No. 3. did not have to have a medical record with her to entry to the USA.

Question: Can you describe the immigration process?

- Respondent No. 1. answered: "We were waiting a year for immigration visa to the USA in Austria in the refugee camp and when I came to the USA I received a green card."
- Respondent No. 2. answered: "I received immigration visa at immigration station in Germany after two weeks because I had relations in USA. When I came to USA, I received a green card."
- Respondent No. 3. answered: "I had to have ESTA to enter the country. I had to undergo an immigration medical examination in the USA and apply for a green card."

The ability to receive a green card is less difficult when you have a familial relationship in the United States. To get a green card without a relationship in the USA, you would need to be for example a financial supporter of the US Army.

Question: Who sponsored the immigration process?

- Respondent No. 1. answered: "I was in the program called "American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees, it was sponsor of Czechoslovak's emigrants."
- Respondent No. 2. answered: "My uncle paid it. It was around \$600. My uncle was my sponsor because he was American citizen."
- Respondent No. 3. answered: "It cost me more than \$2455. It is very expensive, and it takes a lot of patience, but my husband he was my sponsor, so he paid for it."

While respondents No. 2. and No. 3. were funded by their family relative, respondent No. 1. was funded by refugee program.

Question: How did you adapt to American lifestyle?

- Respondent No. 1. answered: "It was difficult at the beginning. I have to say that I am still adapting after 40 years of living here."

- Respondent No. 2. answered: "It was awesome, I had my family here so it was not so hard."
- Respondent No. 3. answered: "It was easy because I had my husband and my cousin."

11 CONCLUSION

After studying the history of the immigration process in the theoretical part and analyzing the results of questionnaires and interviews in the analytical part I conclude that the immigration process is an continually evolving subject. Illustrated by the historical framework provided by this essays rich sociodemographic and political background in the theory portion. Furthermore, supported by the difference in the random responses of the participants in the analytical part.

The research has given light to that fact that there are clear and evident differences in immigration to the United States during the two time frames depicted. Mind you that not all individuals experience the same processes, due to varying personal situations. There is no generalized experience which has been supported in both the rich theoretical sociopolitical background and the analytical part of this essay. These participant were randomly selected and have had smooth immigration process, but others may differ. The two time periods are directly related to the political uncertainties and can only evolve further, even as we see to the present day and the consistnent uncertainties that present to us everyday.

All information regarding immigration to the United States can be found on the official U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website. This website has all the information necessary to applying for a green card. The complexities of application process instructions from the USA government website can often be daunting task to navigate for first time applicants. Due to this, it is often advisable to talk to an immigration lawyer, who will recommend which applications or forms are suitable for an immigrant.

This essay could provide as guide or assistance for potential readers who have limited experiences with immigration understanding.

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14 APPENDIX

Appendix 1: Appendix 1- Passport of the Czech immigrant Anna Hudinová



Scanned with CamScanner

Available from: WILTON, S. TIFT. "Ellis Island Immigration Station", (New York) 1990. ISBN 0-8092-4418-7, p. 81

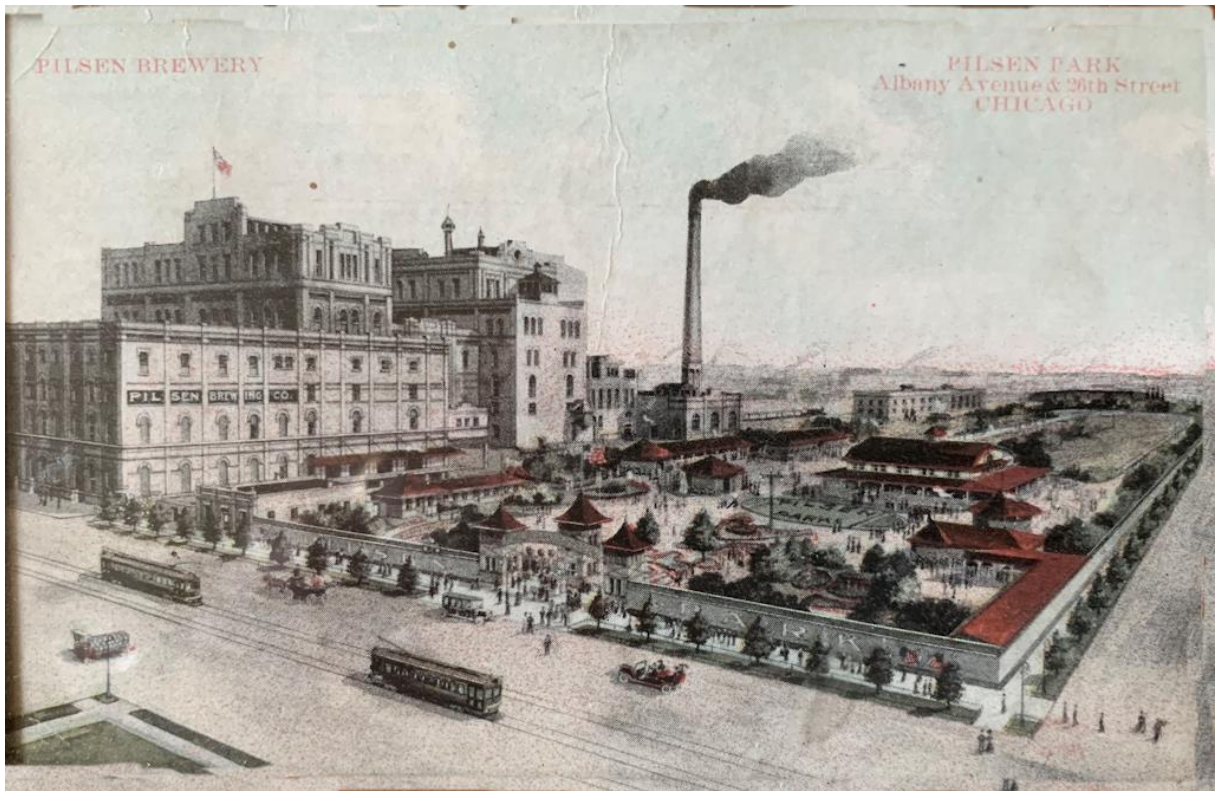
Appendix 2: Eye medical examination on Ellis Island



Scanned with CamScanner

Available from: WILTON, S. TIFT. *“Ellis Island Immigration Station “*, (New York)
1990. ISBN 0-8092-4418-7, p. 98

Appendix 3: Appendix 3- Pilsen Park



Available from: <https://csagsi.org/pilsen-brewing-co/>

Appendix 4: President Masaryk at a tea party for American Czechs



Available from: <http://reviewsmagazine.net/t-g-masaryk-and-the-united-states-1878-1918/>

Appendix 5: Informed consent

INFORMOVANÝ SOUHLAS

Informovaný souhlas týkající se bakalářské práce na téma: A survey of the evolution of Czech immigration to the United States of America in the 20th – 21st century.

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Cíl studie: Cílem studie je zjistit, rozdíl mezi imigračním procesem na začátku 20. století, imigračním procesem po roce 1948 z Československa do USA a imigračním procesem na počátku 21. století.

S Vaším svolením bude proveden rozhovor s Vámi, který bude zaznamenán na diktafon. Pořízený záznam nebude sdílen nikým jiným než studentem a vedoucím bakalářské práce. Záznamy budou ihned po kompletaci studie vymazány.

SOUHLAS S VÝZKUMEM

Já MADYLENA WEINEROVÁ.....

Souhlasím s účastí ve výzkumné studii. Souhlasím se záznamem rozhovoru na diktafon. Rozumím, že mohu kdykoliv od rozhovoru nebo studie odstoupit.

Podpis účastníka výzkumu: Datum: 17/5/2020

Podpis studenta: Datum: 17/05/2020

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