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Period 4

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5/16/12

Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is located in central Europe, southeast of Germany. The country itself is slightly smaller than South Carolina. Its location in Europe allows it to have rolling plains, hills, and plateaus surrounding the low mountains. This landscape mostly consists of mountains in the lower eastern region of the country, one of which contains the tallest point in the Czech Republic, Shezka, which is 1,602 km. The lowest point in the Czech Republic is in the valleys with only 115m. The countries natural resources include a few things such as Hard and soft Coal, clay, graphite, and timber. The total land area of the country is 30,450 square miles.

The roots for the Czech Republic lie in their history. The Czechs lost their independence in 1620 at The Battle of the White Mountain and was ruled by Austria for the next 300 years. At the end of WWI the fall of the Austrian Empire caused for a new nation to be formed called Czechoslovakia. Both the Czech and the Slovaks got along well, but there were cultural differences as well as technological differences. When WWII came along, the Nazis occupied this country and over 100,000 Jews inhabited this nation. After the war was over, only several thousand remained. On January 1st, 1977, the charter 77 was signed by 250 Human rights activists to criticize the government on their inability to implement human rights that was stated in their constitution. This was considered the Velvet Revolution. The Velvet Revolution was the roots for the 1989 Civic Forum movement. On November 17th, 1989, the communist police had broken up a peaceful pro-democracy demonstration violently, and caused charter 77 and a few other groups to unite and create the Civic Forum, which immediately had millions of supporting Czechs. The communist party forced with all of this opposition, had collapsed and the leaders, Husak and the party Chief Milos Jakes resigned in December 1989. Havel was elected the president of Czechoslovakia on December 29th. Eventually the Nation peacefully agreed to split on January 1, 1993, when they formed the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

There are 10.2 million people in this nation with 336 people per square mile. About 67% of the total population is Urban. 13.5% of the population is between 0-14 years old, and the majority of the populations, 70.2%, are between 15 and 64 years. People who are 65 years and older, are part of the 16.3 percentile of the population. Most of the population (99%) has literacy in the Czech Language, as of 2010, and only about 3.5 million out of the 10.2 million people in the Czech Republic use the Internet.

The Czech Republic stands well in its economy. It currently holds trading partners with Germany, Slovakia, UK, Austria, Poland, France, Italy, Netherlands, China, and Russia. This Nation Exports about $106.4 billion per year, and imports about $99.97 billion per year, with a ‘per capital’ GDP of %15,700. Their industries include Metallurgy, the science of separation of metals from their ores, machinery and equipment, Motor Vehicles, glass, and Armaments. Only about 9.3% of the country is unemployed.

High quality bread that is a typical meal for Czech special occasions is called Houska Bread. This bread is a Czech/polish Cuisine and it is made quite carefully. The ingredients include milk, sugar, butter, and eggs, and this dough is usually split into two separate bread dough and are braided together and cooked. It comes out of the oven soft and as a very tasty thing for many Czechs holiday breakfast traditions.

Technology in the Czech Republic is starting to thrive. For example, the Czech Republic signed with NATO recently. Signing with NATO will make it easier for the Czech to be in relations with republics, planning, and intelligence. A main project was the Afghanistan Mission Network which changed the way information was shared with NATO allies and ISAF partners. The Czech is moving forward in technology to make situations in their country easier.

Traditional food in the Czech Republic is usually heavy. It consists of meat, potatoes, and dumplings. Fruit dumplings are usually a favorite as well as other sweets for the Czech people. The national beverage is called Pivo, which is a special kind of beer. The economy is self-sufficient but imports oil and gas. Some major industries include; machinery, automobiles, chemicals, fertilizers, cement, iron and steel, glass, textiles, and beer. The country was under communism and controlled land as well as production. The Czech Republic does a lot of foreign trade with countries such as Germany, Slovakia, the United States, Austria, Italy, and Russia.

Family in the Czech Republic is a very important part in their culture. They are most likely to eat together as a family during special occasions and holidays. Employers are also easy going towards family necessities and mothers usually stay home with their kids until the age of 3. Some other customs that the Czech practices include taking off your shoes when you enter someone’s house. It shows respect. Another gesture that can be seen is bringing a small gift to the house you are going to.

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