

Résumé

The book *Czech Foreign Policy in 2000. Analysis of the IIR* intends to become the first volume of an annually presented deep analysis of the Czech foreign policy. The idea of this project stems from the fact that the Czech academic sphere has so far lacked any continual and comprehensive research on the Czech foreign policy. The project thus aims to offer a long-term and gradual observation of the development of the Czech foreign policy in various firmly given areas: its ideational background, its concrete agenda, events that occurred in a given year, the influence and involvement of various actors and the overlap of the Czech foreign policy with the media, political and public spheres.

These referential points are built into the structure of each chapter, so that the analysis enables the reader to differentiate and trace the various ways in which the Czech foreign policy is produced, executed, implemented and reflected. This concept, among others, promises to disclose the changes in the process of Czech foreign policy making with respect to different issues and different actual political contexts. As the “issue area” research in the field of Foreign Policy Analysis suggests, a specific agenda tends to attract different actors in terms of positions in the foreign policy making process as well as in terms of ideational and political backgrounds. In short, the foreign policy making process is not constant and does not remain the same regarding various issues and agendas.¹ A further added value of the book rests in the effort to focus on very specific and detailed outcomes of the Czech foreign policy. These particulars too often belong to a domain that escapes any substantial scholarly and media attention. The rationale for the thus conceived structure of the book lies in the need to provide the deepest possible analysis of the foreign policy making as well as of its outcomes. To reach this goal, each chapter is embedded in a unifying analytical framework, which combines polity, policy and politics analysis with a more traditional outline of the Czech external relations.

The book is divided into sections, each corresponding to a given dimension of the Czech foreign policy. These sections are in several instances further separated into single chapters so as to enable the reader to gain a more differentiated insight into the agenda. The first section (pp. 13–57) deals with the context of the Czech foreign policy, particularly with the general relations and influence of various actors as well as with the political, public and media setting in which the Czech foreign policy takes place. The second section (pp. 61–91) focuses on the Czech foreign policy in EU matters. It is concerned namely with the preparation of the Euro adoption, the Schengen accession, institutional reform, the Lisbon Treaty and the upcoming Czech EU presidency. Czech EU policy is also observed with regard to changes in its institutional setting. The third section (pp. 95–110) addresses questions of the Czech security policy

in areas relevant to foreign policy. Specifically, it focuses on the emplacement of the Czech Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan, the Czech military presence in Iraq and the Czech co-presidency of the Senior Defence Group on Proliferation. This section also inevitably touches on the question of the planned US anti-missile defense radar base. However, it does so from a broader and multilateral perspective.

Some more bilaterally oriented sections and chapters follow afterwards. The fourth section (pp. 113–182) thus analyzes the Czech foreign policy towards its immediate geographical area, that is, towards the broadly defined Central Europe. The Central European section focuses on both multilateral (the Visegrad group) and bilateral (Austria, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Germany) aspects of the Czech foreign policy. The Czech foreign policy towards other selected countries and regions is then covered in the fifth section (pp. 185–317), which specifically deals with the following countries and regions: the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, countries of the eastern dimension of the European Neighborhood Policy, Balkan countries, Near East countries, Mediterranean countries, Afghanistan, Far East countries and sub-Sahara African countries.

Since the Czech Republic stresses its concern with multilateral bodies like the United Nations or the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, this dimension is handled separately in a sixth section (pp. 321–329). At this point, it is necessary to emphasize that the goal of these sections was not to provide a complex map of the Czech external relations to all countries, regions or institutions. Such a map is annually provided by the *Report on the Foreign Policy of the Czech Republic*, published by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Therefore, this book aspires instead to provide a deep understanding of the diverse aspects of the foreign policy, sacrificing complexity for analytical intensity.

The rest of the book (the seventh section, pp. 333–393) then brings studies of the remaining important dimensions of the Czech foreign policy, particularly its economic diplomacy, human rights protection policy, development policy and cultural diplomacy.

The book is concluded by a contemplation (pp. 395–402) about the ideological orientation and overall continuity of the Czech foreign policy. The volume is complemented by a comprehensive overview of relevant publications and articles, published in 2007, that are related to the Czech foreign policy.

The book *Czech Foreign Policy in 2007. Analysis of the IIR* is supposed to serve students of foreign policy, bureaucratic and political actors and the broader public as a valuable source of information as well as a basis for a long-term and continual analysis of the Czech foreign policy.

Endnotes

- ¹ Kořan, Michal (2007): *Struktura a proces zahraniční politiky*. In: Kořan, Michal–Hrabálek, Martin (eds.): *Česká zahraniční politika: Aktéři, struktura, proces*. Brno: Mezinárodní politologický ústav, p. 16.