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CENTRAL EUROPEANS IN CANADA

Bakalářská práce

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Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci na téma “Central Europeans in Canada”
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V Olomouci dne.....

Podpis.....

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1. INTRODUCTION

Canada belongs among the most popular countries where emigrants, coming from all over the world, choose to start their new life. Even though the years of the largest waves of immigrants coming to Canada are over, it still remains one of the top immigration destinations. However, migration to Canada from Central Europe is rather a broad matter to cover in a bachelor thesis; therefore, this paper mainly focuses on only two countries of this area in particular. The Czech Republic is used as the representative of the post-communist states while Austria as its democratic contrast. The immigration to Canada from both surveyed countries happened for various reasons, depending on the situation in the central European states as well as on the Canadian immigration policy. On that account, it is fairly interesting to analyze each significant time period of migration in reference to the conditions within a country and also to the immigration policy.

The aim of this thesis is to state the basic information about Canadian immigrants from the Czech Republic and Austria and compare the variant factors that led people to leave their homeland and settle in Canada. The main stress is put on the historical times when the urge to migrate was above all created by the two World Wars and by the political situation of the countries. Although the emigration nowadays does not occur as often, it is still noted, as occasionally there can be found references to more recent reasons as well. For even though no war or overthrow of a government took place within the last twenty years, there are still quite people who decide to emigrate.

The thesis consists of three major chapters, two of which are dedicated to each one of the Central European countries that are the main concern of this paper. The remaining part will cover the Canadian immigration policy and the milestones of its history, for it directly affected the number of incoming immigrants from both of the nations. The concluding part compares the immigration from the two states to Canada and, where the Czech Republic represents a country which had to face many years of communist regime. In Austria, on the other hand, the democracy was restored in 1955, which provides with intriguing contrasting material to research.

The first part summarizes the immigration policy of Canada. It starts with the early history in the middle of the 19th century when the first immigration laws were passed. The changes that took place in the beginning of the 20th century and between the two World Wars are mentioned later on, followed by the pivotal modifications of immigration policy after 1945. Here, the primary focus is on the events that led to the formation of the Immigration Acts passed before the 21st century. The last part of the chapter discusses the contemporary Canadian immigration policy and its proposed changes that will soon come in effect.

“Austrians in Canada” is particularly an interesting chapter as this topic has not been given much attention before. The first subchapter deals with the question of what is Austrian identity and who falls under the definition of being Austrian. The history of the Austrian immigration to Canada is the following issue where a summary of the important events affecting the migration are stated. Lastly, the chapter presents current bilateral relations between Austria and Canada as well as it gives an instance of one active Austrian community that serves as a representative for all Austrian clubs and societies in Canada.

The third part of the thesis gives an overview of the Czech immigration to Canada. Most of the history of the emigration of the Czech nation is closely related to its neighbour Slovakia that once formed the same country. As a result of this, the chapter does not concentrate as much on the history. More recently, the Czech Republic has been exposed to an imposition of needing a travelling visa for the Czech citizens, an issue greatly debated by the media and the government. Consequently, the reasons of what could possibly lead Canada to such a surprising decision towards a member of the European Union are reviewed. The last subchapter then similarly to the previous part, recounts some of the bilateral agreements between the Czech Republic and Canada.

2. CANADIAN IMMIGRATION POLICY

Canadian immigration policy plays an important role in the life of every emigrant who wants to become a resident of Canada. The immigration policy of Canada was constantly changing according to the situation of each time period, depending on the needs of the country at that time. The goal of this chapter is to outline the crucial events that occurred when immigration policy of Canada was formed. The main stress is not entirely on the history, but also on the present conditions that an applicant for Canadian residency must fulfill.

2.1 Immigration Policy during the 19th Century

The history of formation of immigration policy dates back to the second half of the 19th century when the Canadian government's intention was to expand the territory to the West and form a Confederation. In order to do that, one of the plans was to increase the number of population by immigrants. Therefore, the main goal of immigration policy was; in fact, to promote it. The restrictions for entering the country were very mild during that time period.

In 1869, the first Canada's Immigration Act came into effect and its main focus was put on the safety and protection of the incoming settlers; however, it contained some limitations. By this Act, not only criminals were forbidden to seek home in the country, but also the people with physical disabilities as well as those without sufficient financial support were not allowed to enter. Although the financial restrictions were not always enforced and the immigration policy was friendly, it still failed to bring a major wave of immigrants and pursue the chief goal of the government.¹

Another allurements that the Canadian government introduced to attract new immigrants was the Dominion Lands Act of 1872.

According to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act of 1872, any male twenty-one years of age or older, and any sole head of a family,

¹ Ninetty Kelley, and Michael J. Trebilcock, *The Making of the Mosaic: A History of Canadian Immigration Policy*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010), 62–64.

upon the payment of a \$10 registration fee, could obtain a quarter-section consisting of 160 acres of public homestead land. Title to the land would pass upon the fulfillment of settlement conditions, which included continuous residence on the land for six months of each of the first three years.²

The Canadian government, at that time led by the Prime Minister Macdonald, tried to entice new inhabitants in many ways. Unfortunately, the success was not as high as desired and most immigrants preferred the United States to Canada due to better climate conditions. The immigration agents, advertising the employment opportunities, free land and promise of a better life, were sent out to all parts of the world including their American neighbours. Nevertheless, in some countries it was not allowed to promote emigration, inclusive of Austria-Hungary.³ On the other hand, during the construction of Canadian Pacific Railway, the government authorized the entrance of thousands of Chinese immigrants who were hired to work on the construction in the West Prairies.

The Chinese workers were considered profitable as they were willing to work for 30-50 percent of the regular wage and it was easier to transport them, for they came to Canada through the West Coast.⁴ Nevertheless, this led to a creation of one of quite discriminating laws towards immigrants. At the end of the construction of Canadian Pacific Railway in summer of 1885 the government passed the Chinese Immigration Act imposing a \$50 head tax on all Chinese immigrants with few exceptions. The decision was made on the basis of complaints of the employers to the commissioners who consequently concluded: “[...] while Chinese workers tended to be an asset to the economy, their inability to assimilate into larger white community, and the prevalence of white antagonism towards their continued presence, made some restrictions advisable.”⁵

² Kelley and Trebilcock, *Mosaic*, 69.

³ *Ibid.*, 80–81.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 94–95.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 98.

2.2 Early 20th Century until the End of the World War II

Although the strategy of Canadian government did not reach the desired results in the 19th century, in the beginning of the 20th century eventually came much larger number of immigrants. In particular, the record number was noted in the year 1913 when over 400,000 immigrants came to Canada. The raise of the numbers was primarily caused by economic growth of the country, which brought more opportunities for the newcomers within the terms of finding a good job. In total, between the years 1900 and 1914 over 2.9 million people entered Canada.⁶

The immigration policy of this period of time started to be more restrictive and, in some cases, fairly discriminating. For instance, the head tax on Chinese immigrants was raised to \$500 in 1903 by then Minister of Interior Clifford Sifton, which naturally led to a marginal decrease of the Chinese immigration. Later on, the new Immigration Act of 1906 was passed, which allowed the deportation of the undesirable immigrants who could become potential criminals, infirm and so on. “In 1907, consequently, there were regulations to exclude certain subsidized migrants and to require \$25 to \$50 in landing money, except from agricultural workers, domestic servants, and immigrants who were coming to join close relatives.”⁷ More restrictions to immigration policy that brought more denials of entry and set further factors for deportations were likewise added by the amendments to Immigration Act of 1919.⁸

When the First World War started, the numbers of immigrants decreased significantly. From the 34,000 immigrants who came in 1915 the evidence of arrivals rose up again to over 150,000 per year towards the end of 1920s. However, the arrival of the Great Depression followed by the Second World War brought even greater decline in immigration to Canada. Over this period, for the first time in history, there were more women than men among the settlers. Regarding immigration policy of this time, there were introduced further restrictions on incoming immigrants or refugees;

⁶ Monica Boyd, and Michael Vickers, “100 Years of Immigration in Canada,” in *The Changing Face of Canada: Essential Readings in Population*, ed. Roderic P. Beaujot et al. (Toronto: Canadian Scholars’ Press, 2007), 145–146.

⁷ Robert Bothwell, Ian M. Drummond, and John English, *Canada 1900–1945*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1990), 56–57.

⁸ Janet Dench, “A Hundred Years of Immigration to Canada 1900–1999,” Canadian Council for Refugees, last modified May 2000, accessed March 11, 2013, <http://ccrweb.ca/en/hundred-years-immigration-canada-1900-1999>.

both groups were dealt with by the same rules as there was no refugee policy. Moreover, after 1939, when the World War II started, the people of nations fighting against Canada were banned from the country.⁹

2.3 Immigration Policy since 1945

After the end of the Second World War, the immigration policy remained limitative for a while. The government of Mackenzie King was supportive of restrictions, for a fear of a possible economic recession as the one that followed the First World War and for a claim that there were not enough ships to transport people from Europe. Nonetheless, the circumstances in the end called for facilitation of conditions for immigrants, namely for the refugees and the displaced persons.¹⁰

Two years after the war, a statement on immigration policy was made at last on May of 1947 by the Prime Minister Mackenzie King: “The policy of the government is to foster the growth of the population of Canada by the encouragement of immigration.”¹¹ The program consisted of other key ideas such as that immigration must be selective and related to absorptive capacity which may be different each year depending on economy growth. The last matter of the statement was concerned with the Asiatic immigration, the everlasting issue of Canadian immigration policy. Unsurprisingly, it was stated that the restrictions must persist, for “the people of Canada do not wish to make a fundamental alternation in the character of their population through mass immigration.”¹² Nevertheless, the Chinese Immigration Act was repealed the same month, hence relieving the nation of the head tax.¹³

Regarding the ban on the entry of emigrants whose origin was of the countries that were fighting against Canada during the war, so-called enemy aliens, they were

⁹ Boyd and Vickers, “100 Years”, 148–150.

¹⁰ Valerie Knowles, *Strangers at Our Gates: Canadian Immigration and Immigration Policy, 1540–2006*, (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2007), 155–157.

¹¹ Canada, *House of Commons Debates*, vol. III (Ottawa: Queen’s Printer, 1947): 2644–2647, quoted in: Freda Hawkins, *Canada and Immigration: Public Policy and Public Concern* (Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 1988), 91.

¹² Hawkins, *Canada and Immigration*, 92–93.

¹³ “A Hundred Years of Immigration Canada 1900–1999.”

subsequently allowed in the country. Starting with Italians in 1947, followed by Germans in 1950 and the last were the Japanese at 1952.^{14 15} In 1952 was passed a new Immigration Act as well. Although it did not bring any essential changes to immigration policy, it determined the powers of the minister of immigration and his officials. Furthermore, it established new terms on people who should be subject to arrest, deportation, etc.¹⁶

In 1962, the Minister of Citizenship Ellen Fairclough introduced the new Immigration Regulations which removed most of the racial discrimination that was often criticized. Nevertheless, this adjustment was not sufficient to the revision of the whole Act, therefore was prepared the White Paper on immigration of 1966.¹⁷ This document urged to banish the last remains of the law and regulations that were discriminating racial or ethnic groups. Moreover, it encouraged the reunification of families and even though it was a little controversial it was certainly a step forward.

The white paper recommended that landed immigrants, those not yet citizens, only be allowed to sponsor immediate dependents and that Canadian citizens be permitted to sponsor only those relatives who satisfied the educational and occupational qualifications then demanded of independent immigrants.¹⁸

Additionally, in 1967 were introduced new regulations that created a point system evaluating each immigrant based on education, language skills, age and other qualifications. All in all, these modifications of the law made it quite easier for nations that were disadvantaged before in terms of immigration to Canada. These regulations made to the Immigration Act of 1952 were the rules that formed the Canadian immigration policy until the new Immigration Act of 1978 came into force.¹⁹

The point system proved to be effective since it enabled more skilled workers to enter Canada, which was beneficial to the economy. In spite of the fact that the system

¹⁴ Hawkins, *Canada and Immigration*, 99.

¹⁵ "A Hundred Years of Immigration Canada 1900–1999."

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 101–102.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 105.

¹⁸ Harold Troper, "Canada's Immigration Policy Since 1945," *International Journal*, 48, no. 2 (1993): 268–269, accessed March 15, 2013, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40202881>.

¹⁹ Boyd and Vickers, "100 Years", 152–153.

worked well, a new law was passed by government in April 1978. The new Immigration Act mainly emphasized the importance of family reunification and the commitment of Canada's international obligation to admit refugees. Moreover, from then on, the number of accepted immigrants was set annually; however, the target number of refugees per year was meant to be separate. Despite the humanitarian objectives of this act an economical progress was still highly desired and the focus from earlier years remained on the attraction of skilled labourers as well.²⁰

The Annual Report to Parliament on Future Immigration Levels presented in 1985 suggested that if the immigration level remained low it would cause a decline in population of Canada. The report provoked a revision of the last Act and alleviated some of its regulations to raise the number of incoming immigrants. As one of the results of this, the individuals looking for a job in Canada from 1986 do not have to come with a prearranged employment as required by the Act of 1978.²¹ Another amendment during this time period dealt with the refugees, the Bill C-55. This law created the Immigration and Refugee Board as well as enabled the process of oral hearing for refugees.²² As for the level of immigration, it had indeed increased, by 1993 the total number of incoming immigrants was almost 250,000 and it stays on more or less the same level until now.²³ For an overview of the numbers of immigrants from 1860 to 2010, see appendix 1.

2.4 Immigration Policy of Recent Years

The most recent law regulating the Canadian immigration policy is the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act which came into effect in June 2002. The urge to renovate the old Immigration Act of 1978 came in year 1997, the law was thoroughly

²⁰ Alan G. Green, and David Green, "The Goals of Canada's Immigration Policy: A Historical Perspective," *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, 13, no. 1 (Summer 2004): 121–122.

²¹ Green and Green, "Goals of Canada's Immigration Policy," 122–123.

²² Robert Vineberg, "Continuity in Canadian Immigration Policy 1947 to Present: Taking a Fresh Look at Mackenzie King's 1947 Immigration Policy Statement," *Journal of International Migration & Integration*, 12, no. 2 (Spring 2011): 214.

²³ Green and Green, "Goals of Canada's Immigration Policy," 122–123.

reviewed and the preparation of a new one commenced.²⁴ Professor France Houle of Université de Montréal indicates the major changes in an interview for online journal *Academic Foresight*. According to her, the people with a university degree have now the top priority of acceptance. As for the skilled immigrants, the most preferred are those that have experience in a particular area. Therefore, the selection process has changed and no longer deals with immigrants chronologically but based on the demand of labour market.²⁵

In addition, the power of regulating the immigration is not only in the hands of the federal government, but also the provincial governments are now given more power in these matters. At the moment, they share the responsibility for the selection, integration and settlement of immigrants. The extent of the influence of each province is determined by law.²⁶ Moreover, the federal government now negotiates bilateral agreements with other countries to attract more skilled workers. For instance, there are ongoing discussions with India regarding specialists in high technology. What is more, “Canada is in the process of negotiating a global commercial and economical agreement with Europe which will contain provisions regarding the mobility of workers.”²⁷

Despite the government constantly introducing new amendments to the late act, the current conditions are criticised for being more restrictive and harder for immigrants to accomplish. A recent study shows that some of the recent changes are questionable, such as the intention to eliminate backlog applications or more strict citizenship requirements. It also suggests that the modifications are made too fast and are too extensive.²⁸ Besides, an already accepted immigrant may as well occur in an unpleasant situation:

²⁴ “Immigration and Refugee Protection Act,” The Canadian Bar Association, last modified November 2012, accessed March 20, 2013, <http://www.cba.org/CBA/advocacy/pdf/immigration-refugee.pdf>.

²⁵ “Canadian Immigration Law,” *Academic Foresights*, no. 1 (July-September 2011), accessed March 20, 2013, http://www.academic-foresights.com/Canadian_Immigration_Law.html.

²⁶ Triadafilos Triadafilopoulos, and Harold Troper, “Canadian Immigration and Settlement Policy,” Wiley Online Library, accessed March 21, 2013, <http://triadafilopoulos.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/encyclopedia-immigration-policy-july-29-2011.pdf>.

²⁷ “Canadian Immigration Law.”

²⁸ Nicholas Keung, “Immigration policies make Canada less welcoming, study says,” *Toronto Star*, last modified October 5, 2012, accessed March 21, 2013, http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2012/10/05/immigration_policies_make_canada_less_welcoming_study_says.html.

While credentials and experience accumulated abroad assist immigrants' in gaining admission to Canada, they are heavily discounted by Canadian employers and professional organizations; as a result, many immigrants have been forced to accept employment far below their qualifications and expectations – the cliché of the immigrant doctor driving a cab is, sadly, all too common in Canada's major cities.²⁹

The most recent development in Canadian immigration policy is the new point system which is referred to as Federal Skilled Worker Program. The system is currently suspended so that a set of new rules could be adjusted. As of now, the anticipated date of its re-launch is set to the beginning of May of 2013; however, it is possible that it will be yet postponed. One of the most significant changes will emerge in the level of language proficiency. The minimum of points that an applicant should achieve will depend on his or her occupational skills. It was established so based on a research indicating that the level of language affects the search for jobs; the immigrants with a higher level of English tend to find better employment and earn higher salary.

Another altered condition will appear in the evaluation of applicant's education. Under the proposed rules, the studies that an immigrant completed outside of Canada should be compared with the Canadian education system. This should provide the information whether the candidate's education correlates with Canadian background and thus prevent potential misleading applications to get approved. On the other hand, better conditions are to be provided for those with arranged employment. Although the potential employer and the job offer must be thoroughly examined, if it is later approved, it should speed up the whole application process. Therefore, the applicant instead of waiting for granted residency for years could become a resident in a few months.

In conclusion, whether the prepared improvements to immigration policy will help the potential immigrants to become residents will most likely show with the time when they are in use. The current Minister of Citizenship, Jason Kenney, has a plan for

²⁹ "Canadian Immigration and Settlement Policy."

the future immigrants as well. There would be created a system where applicants could post their resumes into a database where Canadian employers could pick the workers they needed. This would mean that the immigrants picked by employers would be able to come to work in Canada already as permanent residents and again could make the process quicker. These changes are necessary to adopt, for the current situation of unemployment of immigrants in Canada is at high rates and the solution to it is essential.³⁰

³⁰ Ralph Dzegniuk, and Divya Shahani, "Strong Fence, Wide Gate: Canada's Changing Immigration Policy," The Epoch Times, last modified January 31, 2013, accessed March 22, 2013, <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/canada/strong-fence-wide-gate-canadas-changing-immigration-policy-337388.html>.

3. AUSTRIANS IN CANADA

Austria is a small central European country with not many inhabitants. It may seem that the migration of Austrians, to Canada in particular, would not reach a significant number. Nevertheless, there have been times throughout the history of Austrian immigration to Canada that the numbers were high indeed. Moreover, at present there are still existing active communities of Austrians in Canada. The aim of this chapter is to summarize the history of Austrian immigration to Canada and to enclose the current Austrian-Canadian relations.

3.1 Austrian Identity

In order to start with the beginnings of Austrian migration, it is necessary to define who falls under the category of Austrians at first. Historically speaking, the region where the Republic of Austria lies now had been a part of many different polities before.³¹ Austria was originally a part of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. During that time period, the history of Austria was closely bonded with the history of Germany. Nevertheless, there have been many conflicts between the countries regarding mainly the issues of sovereignty and power. Subsequently, Austria was yet again a part of a great Empire called Austria-Hungary.

After the First World War, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was dissolved and the First Republic of Austria originated. The existence of the First Republic lasted only until 1938 when Austria was reunited with Germany once more by the so-called Anschluss. This was quite an infamous time for the history of Austria as it is associated with the misdeeds performed by the Nazis. However, after the Second World War, the democracy in Austria was restored once more and the Second Republic of Austria was established.³² Although the country may go through many difficult times and can be a part of different empires, what defines a nation is its culture.

³¹ Franz. A.J. Szabo, "Reflections on the Austrian Identity in the Old World and the New," in *A History of the Austrian Migration to Canada*, ed. Frederick C. Engelmann, Manfred Prokop and Franz A.J. Szabo (Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1996), 7.

³² Ibid., 11–16.

A notable aspect of Austrian culture that is rather typical would be its “pervasive sense of hierarchy, its obsession with rank and title, with forms and properly affixed seals and stamps.”³³ The long history of aristocratic Habsburg monarchs ruling the country has imprinted upon the culture of its nation. By far, this was not the only mark that the one of the most powerful dynasties made on Austria. One of the typical signs of Habsburgs was being universal; they pursued their ambitious vision to create a large empire and to absorb as many domains as possible to have influence everywhere. As a result, Austria is cosmopolitical and rather open than self-centered such as Germany.

What is more, Austrians share their roots with many other nations than just Germans. As Bohemian and Hungarian regions were parts of Austria-Hungary, Austrians acquired the habits of those cultures as well. They share similar habits, cuisine and even some vocabulary, especially the names for food. The impact is visible not only on Austria but also on the Czech Republic. It is common to hear German surnames in the Czech Republic as well as Czech names in Austria, not to mention the similarities of vocabulary in the dialects. This background of multiculturalism makes Austrians highly adaptable. Even though they may miss their home when they emigrate, they tend to integrate into a new culture with ease.³⁴

To conclude, the identity of Austrians is influenced by many cultures and factors; however, it is still original and unique by its openness. Besides that, they have another advantage in the official language of Austria which is German. There may not be many of them but when it comes to the communities formed abroad, they can join other German-speaking immigrants and vice versa. Moreover, Austrians also like to unite themselves with other neighbours from Central Europe when they migrate into a foreign country. In general, emigrants have the tendency to get along better when outside of their home. It is the need to spend time with someone in the same situation that creates this behaviour. The result that it leaves is surely positive as it maintains community of the same origin together thus preventing them from losing their ancestral identity.³⁵

³³ Szabo, “Austrian Identity,” 17.

³⁴ Ibid., 17–21.

³⁵ Ibid., 22–23.

3.2 The History of Austrian Migration to Canada

In order to cover the history of important events accompanying the factors influencing Austrian migration to Canada, it is necessary to divide this chapter into two sections. One is dealing with the time period before Austria became a sovereign country when the conditions for acceptance in Canada were yet not very restricted; nevertheless, as Austria was considered an enemy alien for a few years, the situation for them was not as favourable. The second part sums up the progression of Austrian-Canadian bilateral agreements that were forming after 1945 until now.

3.2.1. Immigration before and during the World Wars

Before the 20th century, the relations between Canada and Austria were quite complicated. At first, Austria was a part of Austria-Hungary and secondly, Canada was bonded by the treaties that were made in the name of the British Empire. Therefore, the relationship between Austria and Canada themselves can be only defined from the Austrian point of view, for there was no great interest from Canadian side at first. However, the first Austrian consul in Canada was established in 1856. On the other hand, Canadians did not send any representatives to propagate life in their homeland until 1950s. This was presumably influenced by the situation in Canada as there was no Department of External Affairs until 1909 and even after its commencement there were not enough Canadian diplomats to be sent abroad to represent the country.³⁶

“Three phases of immigration can be identified: the thirty years before World War I, the inter-war period, and after World War II.”³⁷ By the end of the 19th century came the first bigger wave of immigrants from Austria-Hungary; nevertheless, most of them were of Slavic origin and Austrians did not migrate in significant numbers until the

³⁶ Robert H. Keyserlingk and Bettina S. Steinhauser, “The Growth of Austro-Canadian Relations to 1968,” in *A History of the Austrian Migration to Canada*, ed. Frederick C. Engelmann, Manfred Prokop and Franz A.J.Szabo (Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1996), 25–26.

³⁷ Michaela C. Schober, “Austrians,” in *Encyclopedia of Canada’s people*, ed. Paul Robert Magocsi (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999), 240.

1930s.³⁸ Until the collapse of Austro-Hungarian Empire approximately 250,000 emigrants came to Canada of which about 15% were indicated to be Austrians.³⁹ The majority of these immigrants were farmers; hence the main reasons for emigration during this time period were the lack of land, unfair conditions from landlords, overpopulation or compulsory military service. In addition, a small number of Austrian immigrants who came from the United States was recorded to settle in Canada between 1901 and 1914.⁴⁰

After the First World War, Austria was struggling on many levels. The economy was in poor condition as the country had to pay for retributions; there was a high rate of unemployment and a loss of markets occurred as well. The Austrian government decided to deal with this problem partially through emigration, for it could resolve the alarming unemployment. As a result, an institution called Migration Office was founded, where emigrants could come to seek information about a country where they would possibly like to start a new life.⁴¹ However, after the war, Austrians were considered as enemy aliens in Canada and it was not until 1925 that the consulate of Austria was reopened.

The year 1930 brought new hopes for Austrians by virtue of establishment of Consulate General in Ottawa where Ludwig Kleinwächter was appointed to run it. Austrian-Canadian relations were on good terms and the trade between the countries was growing. Unfortunately for Austria, by the end of 1931 the consulate was closed again due to the Great Depression.⁴² Even though the conditions for Austrians were harder after the war, there are still some instances of successful immigration from that period. "A second phase of Austrian immigration brought about 5000 people to Canada between 1926 and 1933. This group was more urban and tended to settle in the larger population centres to a greater extent."⁴³

³⁸ Schober, "Austrians," 240.

³⁹ Keyserlingk and Steinhauser, "Austro-Canadian Relations," 26.

⁴⁰ For more information on Austrian immigration before the end of WWI see Schober, "Austrian Immigration to Canada in the imperial period," in *A History of Austrian Migration to Canada*.

⁴¹ Schober, "Austrians," 240.

⁴² Keyserlingk and Steinhauser, "Austro-Canadian Relations," 27–28.

⁴³ R.W. Masshowl, "Austrians," *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, accessed March 29, 2013. <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/austrians>.

The annexation of Austria to Germany in March 1938 had completely changed the situation. Not only did the Republic of Austria cease to exist, but also the Austrians were from then on considered as German citizens and the paperwork was dealt via German embassy in Ottawa. Moreover, as they were classed as enemy aliens, the immigrants of Austrian origin who came to Canada after 1922 had to register with the police. “However, in the fall of 1942 [Canadian government] decreed that all enemy aliens, except the Japanese, would be treated as friendly aliens if they agreed to take out papers towards Canadian naturalization.”⁴⁴ This led to termination of the requirement of registering with the police as the government acknowledged that Austrians, in fact, showed disapproval of Nazi regime and were loyal to Canada.⁴⁵

Before the Anschluss, most of the emigrants from the First Republic of Austria left the country for political or religious beliefs as well as for better job opportunities. These factors for migration prominently changed with the establishment of Nazi regime. People migrated for they were persecuted and had to escape; this principally concerned the Jewish refugees.⁴⁶ Nevertheless, the Austrian Jews did not find “open door” to Canada as the government of Mackenzie King intensified the restrictions on Jewish immigration already in 1938. Some of the Austrian Jews and non-Jewish immigrants likewise managed to get into Canada; however, not voluntarily, for they were captured and arrested for being enemy aliens. Most of them were shipped to Canada from the United Kingdom. The rather anti-Semitic attitude of the Canadian government against Jews was abolished by law in 1948.⁴⁷

3.2.2 Immigration After 1945

After the end of the World War II, Austria was politically and economically devastated and, in addition, divided and occupied by military forces of four countries. Naturally, this situation was by no means favourable for Austria as it was occupied by

⁴⁴ Keyserlingk and Steinhäuser, “Austro-Canadian Relations,” 29.

⁴⁵ Ibid., 28–29.

⁴⁶ Traude Horvath and Gerda Neyer, “Austrians Abroad: Austrian Emigration after 1945,” in *Austrian Immigration to Canada: Selected Essays*, ed. Franz A.J. Szabo (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1996), 84.

⁴⁷ Anna Maria Pichler and Gabrielle Tyrnauer, “Austrian Refugees or World War II,” in *A History of the Austrian Migration to Canada*, ed. Frederick C. Engelman, Manfred Prokop and Franz A.J. Szabo (Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1996), 80–81.

American, French and British forces in the west and even more undesired Soviet troops in the northeast. Therefore, the prime interest of Austria was to gain as many diplomatic relations among the Western countries as possible. Canada was one of them; nonetheless, the Mackenzie King's government "remained remarkably deaf to Austrian pleas."⁴⁸ In spite of other nations already having legations opened in 1947, including Czechoslovakia, Austria was condoned until 1949 when a consulate general reopened in Ottawa.⁴⁹

When Canadians slowly began to realize the importance of Austria, above all its capital Vienna, the conditions started to improve. Moreover, the Austrian State Treaty which freed Austria of the occupational armies was signed in 1955. The country was sovereign and independent once more and Austrian-Canadian relations were ameliorating. The key person of this time period was Kurt Waldheim, who was appointed as Austrian Minister to Ottawa. Throughout the years when he was in charge of the Austrian relations with Canada, he managed to achieve great things, such as promoting the consulate in Ottawa to an embassy. Due to his unrelenting efforts, Canada latterly signed the Austrian State Treaty as well.⁵⁰

Furthermore, in 1949 was opened the first Canadian Immigration Office in Austria. The chances for Austrians to come to Canada were better within a year; however, the number of applications did not rise instantly as the nation was not yet conscious of the improved conditions for emigration to Canada. "After 1952 a special program created to bring agricultural workers, general labourers, domestics, nurses, and skilled and semi-skilled workers to Canada attracted many Austrians. In subsequent years they were selected for a wide range of occupational backgrounds."⁵¹ This was a significant change, for before the migration to Canada was rather motivated by relatives already living there, which also provided preferences for being eligible for visas. Therefore, the trend shifted from following the footsteps of one's family to individual reasons for emigration that also influenced the choice of destination according to different interests.⁵²

⁴⁸ Keyserlingk and Steinhauser, "Austro-Canadian Relations," 31.

⁴⁹ Ibid., 31–33.

⁵⁰ Keyserlingk and Steinhauser, "Austro-Canadian Relations," 34–35.

⁵¹ Schober, "Austrians," 241.

⁵² Horvath and Neyer, "Austrians Abroad," 85.

Overall, the 1950s was an important decade in the history of Austrian immigration to Canada, for it is noted as the period when the highest number of Austrians settled in Canada. The reasons for such increase were divergent. After the war, not only the country was devastated, but also the people were hopeless and sceptical about the future of their wellbeing. As mentioned before, Austria was occupied, partially by the Soviet Union; therefore, there were many displaced persons and refugees fleeing the country. In addition, from 1953, the Austrians were classified separately from other German speaking nations in immigration statistics which contributed to at last having more accurate records of the Austrian immigration to Canada. What is more, the statistics show that after 1945 for the first time in history, the comparison of the number of Austrian emigrants in the United States was smaller than that of Canada.⁵³

On the contrary, later, when the economical situation of Austria improved, the government realised that emigration of skilled workers led to a lack of qualified labourers in the Republic of Austria. This awakening provoked the state to enforce some precautions to stop such high loss of prospective workers. In order to discourage the population from migration to Canada, the government started to pressurize the media to write negative facts of immigrants struggling with establishing their new home in the so-called Promised Land. Despite the discouraging efforts, the Austrian immigration to Canada was culminating by 1957; nevertheless, from the next year started to decrease significantly. The figures mentioned in an essay by Bettina Steinhauser on post-war immigration indicate that in the 1950s approximately 25,300 Austrians migrated to Canada. By contrast, in the 1960s the number was merely 7,400.⁵⁴

Although these numbers should be accurate since the Austrians were listed as a distinct nation in Canada since 1953, it is still questionable whether they are correct.⁵⁵ As the result of the demand for manpower, Austria accepted many immigrants from other countries itself. The majority of these immigrants were the refugees from Eastern Europe where a political situation was much less amiable. In 1967, it was ascertained

⁵³ Bettina S. Steinhauser, "Post-War Austrian Immigration to Canada," in *A History of the Austrian Migration to Canada*, ed. Frederick C. Engelman, Manfred Prokop and Franz A.J.Szabo (Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1996), 101–103.

⁵⁴ Steinhauser, "Post-War Austrian Immigration," 108–110.

⁵⁵ In general, the statistics stating the number of Austrians in Canada notably differ from source to source.

that only 24.4% of the immigrants coming from Austria were of Austrian origin that year. The refugees were predominantly staying in Austria only provisionally before migrating overseas to Canada where the officials mainly asked for the country of last residence, not of origin.⁵⁶ In addition to the negative publicity on Canada that was yet prevailing, the migration of Austrian citizens decreased marginally.⁵⁷

Among other negative aspects of immigration to Canada claimed in Austrian newspapers, the issue of language was emphasized. Even though the advertisements of a better life in Canada assured the emigrants of great job opportunities, the press pointed out that this was directly affected by the knowledge of either English or French. A Canadian official in Austria, Laval Fortier, subsequently agreed that satisfactory language skills were indeed a necessity for finding an employment more easily and to obtain a higher salary as well. Regardless this and many other factors, the economy of Austria was recovering fast and the life in Austria became desirable in comparison to the situation after the World War II. The Austrian immigration to Canada never reached the numbers as high as in the 1950s again.⁵⁸

Nowadays, the reasons to migrate are quite different. It is no longer the need to escape that convinced people to emigrate before. The urge to migrate is now caused more by the desire to either learn a new language or to seek better education or job. It is popular as well to only stay temporarily and later return back to Austria.⁵⁹ The statistics of recent years show that since the 90s, only more than a hundred immigrants come from Austria to Canada every year. The last evidence from 2011 indicates that the number even dropped below hundred to 93 Austrians coming to Canada that year.^{60 61}

⁵⁶ For more information about the numbers of Austrians in Canada from 1946 to 1970 see Table 12 in Hawkins, *Canada and Immigration*, 58.

⁵⁷ Steinhauser, "Post-War Austrian Immigration," 111.

⁵⁸ Ibid., 114–115.

⁵⁹ Peter Suschnigg, "A Social Profile of Austrian-Canadians," in *A History of the Austrian Migration to Canada*, ed. Frederick C. Engelman, Manfred Prokop and Franz A.J. Szabo (Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1996), 132–133.

⁶⁰ "Immigrant Population by Place of Birth and Period of Immigration (2006 Census)," Statistics Canada, last modified October 14, 2009, accessed March 31, 2013, <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/101/cst01/demo24a-eng.htm>.

⁶¹ "Facts and Figures 2011 – Immigration Overview: Permanent and Temporary Residents," Citizenship and Immigration Canada, accessed March 31, 2013, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2011/permanent/10.asp>.

3.3 Bilateral Relations of Austria and Canada

Presently, the relations between Austria and Canada are on good terms and the two nations cooperate with each other on many levels. This is most likely caused by the similar views of the countries on many aspects. Moreover, both of the nations share the same fate regarding the view of the world on their neighbouring states. The United States of America and Germany have always been considered as one of the strongest nations with influential economies that determine the future development of the whole world. On the other hand there is Austria and Canada, likewise successful countries that have the same language; nonetheless, as they are less powerful, still somehow living in the shadow of their neighbours.

Not only is Austria an important trading partner of Canada, but they also agree upon many political matters. “Austria is a key multilateral partner for Canada, and [the countries] work together closely on a range of issues, particularly human rights and the rule of law, in the UN and in other international bodies.”⁶² In terms of the economy, Austria exceeds Canada in the merchandise exports (its total number reached over a billion in 2011); however, the import and export is clearly beneficial to both sides. Canada mainly exports aircraft commodities, machinery and vehicles to the Republic of Austria.⁶³ For the Central European Alpine country, Canada is the fifth largest overseas country to which they export their goods. Some of the examples are surprisingly similar to what Canada exports to Austria, for instance car parts or aviation products. Environmental and energy technology forms an important part of the Austrian export as well and representatives for the non-technological imported manufacture would be the Swarovski Crystal or Red Bull Energy Drink.⁶⁴

As both nations are particularly passionate about winter sports, naturally the economic trade is represented in this area too.⁶⁵ “A famous example is the Peak-to-Peak

⁶² Roswitha Mayer, “Canada and Austria – Bilateral Relations,” Government of Canada, last modified July 23, 2012. accessed April 2, 2013, http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/austria-autriche/bilateral_relations_bilaterales/canada_austria_autriche.aspx?lang=eng&menu_id=11&menu=L.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Werner Brandstetter, “Austria and Canada: An Expanding Partnership,” Diplomatic Magazine, accessed April 3, 2013, http://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/bmeia/media/Vertretungsbehoerden/Ottawa/Austria_and_Canada.pdf.

⁶⁵ Mayer, “Canada and Austria – Bilateral Relations.”

Gondola in Whistler, B.C., the work of the Austrian company Doppelmayr.”⁶⁶

Furthermore, a perfect example of a company that is related to the two countries is Magna International Inc., for it is world’s largest supplier of car components founded by perhaps the most well-known Canadian of Austrian origin, Frank Stronach.⁶⁷ He was born in Weiz, Austria and in 1954 immigrated to Canada where after only three years started his own business. Now he is one of the richest and most influential men in the world and has accomplished many great things during his life, including contribution to education, charity or politics.⁶⁸

Apart from having strong trading background, Austria and Canada have impressive academic alliances with each other. Such an example is undoubtedly the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies which operates under University of Alberta in Edmonton. It was established on the proposal of several institutions, for instance Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Austrian Federal Ministry of the Sciences. The centre opened in 1998 and later was supported by other governments from Central Europe, among others Czech Republic, Poland or Slovakia. The main goal of the institute is to increase the interest of Central European studies in Canada and to offer further cooperation on this matter with other universities, for the University of Alberta has the prominent institute of its kind. Additionally, it organizes conferences, festivals, exhibitions and many other events linked to Austria and Central Europe.⁶⁹

Austria is not falling behind as there are three Canadian Studies Centres in the country. In addition, the partnership of Austria and Canada on academic background is broadened by other programs that offer a possible exchange experience for Austrians to Canada and vice versa. These programs are not only providing the possibility of international exchange to students, but also for young prospective workers who want to gain new valuable experiences through working abroad. The nominal annual number for granted work permits per year is 150 from both nations. The plan for the future years is

⁶⁶ Werner Brandstetter, “Austria and Canada”

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ “Our Founder,” Magna, accessed April 3, 2013, <http://www.magna.com/about-magna/our-founder>.

⁶⁹ “Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies,” University of Alberta, accessed April 3, 2013, <http://www.wirth.ualberta.ca/en/AboutUs.aspx>.

to come through with more such bilateral agreements and make the bonds between Canada and Austria stronger.⁷⁰

There are several other conventions and agreements between Canada and Austria besides those regulating the exchange programs. For instance, the Agreement on Social Security between Canada and Austria that treats with the mutual relations in terms of social security between the two states. Another example is a treaty which deals with extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.⁷¹ Last but not least, a convention on Canada-Austria Income Tax that was updated in 2012 and which is designed for the “avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital.”⁷²

To conclude, it is appropriate to mention the current communities of Austrians in Canada. As this could be a separate chapter, for there are more than twenty Austrian clubs or societies in Canada, it is quite convenient that all these communities are represented by one that is called Austrian Canadian Council. It was established in 1994 upon an initiative by then Austrian Ambassador to Canada, Walter Lichem. The mission of the charitable foundation is to inform Canadians about Austrian culture and assure the awareness of Canadians about the contribution of Austrian immigrants. What is more, it focuses on maintaining the Austrian culture in Canada and functions as the national voice of Austrians and Austrian-Canadians to Canada. Aforementioned Frank Stronach provided financial means for the legal fees necessary for the incorporation of the group; therefore, was chosen as the first Honorary Chairman of the Council during its initial four years of existence.

The Austrian Canadian Council is entirely run by volunteers and cooperates with the Austrian Embassy in Ottawa as well as it participates on the organization of projects that are related to the Republic of Austria and Canada. As a matter of fact, the book that

⁷⁰ Mayer, “Canada and Austria – Bilateral Relations.”

⁷¹ “Bilateral Treaties (in German),” trans. Michaela Strihová, The Austrian Foreign Ministry, accessed April 4, 2013. http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/foreign-ministry/foreign-policy/voelkerrecht/treaties-in-german/bilateral-treaties-in-german.html?LNG=de&submit=1&mode=country&vb_vp_id=77&dv_staet=76&dv_name=Kanada&cHash=15.

⁷² “Second Protocol Amending the Convention between Canada and the Republic of Austria,” Department of Finance Canada, last modified March 9, 2012, accessed April 4, 2013, http://www.fin.gc.ca/treaties-conventions/austria-autriche_2-eng.asp.

served as the key source for the chapter on Austrian immigration to Canada of this bachelor thesis was written thanks to a project that was supervised by the Council. Moreover, in 1998 was launched the OeCulture magazine as a result of another project sponsored by the Council together with the Austrian embassy. The magazine was published from 1998 to 2004 once or twice a year and informed of the activities of Austrian-Canadian society as well as of the relations between Austria and Canada.⁷³ The council is active up until now and organizes events related to Austrian culture all over Canada.⁷⁴

⁷³ Presently it is an online magazine accessible at <http://oeculture.ca/>.

⁷⁴ "History of the ACC," Austrian Canadian Council, accessed April 4, 2013, <http://www.austrian-canadian-council.ca/WebContent/WebPages/ACC%20History.html>.

4. CZECHS IN CANADA

The purpose of this chapter is to summarize the Czech immigration to Canada. Firstly, there is briefly described the history of the Czech emigration during the crucial times relevant to the development of the country. Secondly, the chapter deals with an issue of a recent act of Canada through which they imposed visa on the Czech Republic. The main focus is put on how this situation emerged and what possible reasons led Canada to act this way towards a democratic member of the European Union. The closing part, again, sums up the bilateral relations, but this time of the Czech Republic and Canada.

4.1 The History of Czech Immigration to Canada

Similar to Austria, the Czech Republic is also quite a small state that was before a part of the large Austro-Hungarian Empire. However, its history is yet more complicated, for from 1918 until 1993 it formed one country of two nations, the current Czech Republic and Slovakia. What is more, after the World War II the country was occupied for more than forty years by the Soviet Union which influenced it in many different ways. Regarding the former two factors, it may be hard to distinguish the exact numbers of Czechs who came to Canada within each time period.^{75 76} On that account, this part is rather a short overview of the history of Czech immigration to Canada.

Czech immigration to Canada can be divided into four phases: 1880s–1914, 1919–39, 1945–89, and 1990 to the present. The first two phases, from roughly 1880 to 1939, were dominated by strong economic incentives for immigration, not to meet basic wants, but to seek a better life and accumulate wealth. In contrast, Czech immigrants who arrived in Canada between 1945 and 1989 were mostly political refugees, who left their homeland to avoid both the

⁷⁵ “Canada and the Czech Republic: Partners in Transition,” *Europe, Middle East and Maghreb Branch graduation publication* (Gatineau: Canadian International Development Agency): 3, accessed April 6, 2013, [http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/inet/images.nsf/vLUIImages/Czech_Republic/\\$file/Czech.pdf](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/inet/images.nsf/vLUIImages/Czech_Republic/$file/Czech.pdf).

⁷⁶ “Czech Voices in Canada,” in *Migrating Memories: Central Europe in Canada*, vol.1 – Literary Anthology, ed. Vesna Lopičić (Brno: Central European Association for Canadian Studies, 2010), 79.

economic turmoil of post–World War II reconstruction and also the Communist regime which was established in Czechoslovakia in 1948.⁷⁷

The first sign of Czech immigrants in Canada comes from the late nineteenth century when the first settlers of Czech origin established a settlement in the area of today's Saskatchewan.⁷⁸ The early immigrants were predominantly farmers attracted by the promised possibility to own a land for only small amount of money in the West Prairies. Many of the first Czech settlers in Canada were formerly trying to seek a new home in the United States; nevertheless, as they were not fortunate there, they decided to come to Canada instead. Later, when there was not much land left in the west, the popularity of the eastern parts of Canada rose among the Czech immigrants as well.⁷⁹

After the First World War, when Austria-Hungary was dissolved, the First Czechoslovak Republic was proclaimed on 28 October 1918.⁸⁰ Subsequently in 1920, the total number of Czechoslovak people registered in Canada was 8,840 and as the quotation above suggests, the predominant reasons for emigration was the economic situation that was supposedly better in Canada. During the inter-war period, which is regarded as the second phase of immigration, the number of Czechoslovakians in Canada reached 40,000. However, most of these immigrants were of Slovak origin and only 13,000 were Czechs.⁸¹ Then, the grounds for leaving Czechoslovakia were the Jewish persecution and the need to fight the Nazis.⁸² The Czechoslovaks were quite active community and in 1939 formed the Czechoslovak National Association of Canada that supported the resistance of their homeland against the Nazi regime as well as it tried to help Czechoslovakian refugees as much as possible.

With the end of the World War II came another hope for Czechoslovakia to be a sovereign democratic state again; nevertheless, it did not last for long and in 1948 when

⁷⁷ Marek J. Jovanovic, "Czechs," in *Encyclopedia of Canada's people*, ed. Paul Robert Magocsi (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999), 399.

⁷⁸ "The Czech Republic," in *Migrating Memories: Central Europe in Canada*, vol.2 – Oral Histories, ed. Rodica Albu (Brno: Central European Association for Canadian Studies, 2010), 73.

⁷⁹ Jovanovic, "Czechs," 399.

⁸⁰ Ibid., 398.

⁸¹ "The Czech Republic," 74.

⁸² Josef Čermák, *It all started with Prince Rupert: The story of Czechs and Slovaks in Canada* (Luhačovice: Atelier IM Publishing Company, 2003), 154.

the overthrow of the government by Communists took place. This event provoked the third wave of immigration and in the early 1950s the number of Czechs and Slovaks in Canada was approximately 64,000. The emigration from Czechoslovakia; however, was almost impossible as the main concern of the new regime was to prevent it. Despite this factor some 5,000 people of Czech and Slovak origin escaped to Canada from 1951 to 1968. When the armies of the Warsaw Pact invaded Czechoslovakia in August of 1968, Canada faced arrival of yet another large numbers of refugees.⁸³ This was commonly known as the Czechoslovakian refugee movement for which the Canadian Department of Manpower and Immigration itself prepared a program that softened the admission requirements for the Czechoslovak refugees. In addition, during the first months they were provided special assistance upon arrival. In total, close to 12,000 Czechoslovakian refugees were admitted into Canada between 1968 and 1969.⁸⁴ This great gesture on the part of Canadian government was accomplished mainly thanks to the Czechoslovak Association of Canada, which appealed for help for their compatriots.⁸⁵

The Czech refugees who immigrated to Canada after 1948 tended to be qualified in many different fields; most of them were educated and were primarily white-collar workers. Even though they probably had better vocation and working conditions at home, they were willing to do anything that was available and most of the times had to accept much lower positions. One of the biggest problems for incoming immigrants was the inability to speak English; hence in order to obtain a similar job for which a person was trained before, it was necessary to have the language skills at first. The beginnings for the newcomers were not always easy; however, the already successful immigrants of Czech descent gave the new ones opportunity to work for them.⁸⁶ Furthermore, the Czech and Slovak communities active during that time were helpful to their countrymen.

The Census of Canada of 1971 indicates 82,000 people of either Czech or Slovak origin living in Canada and another 9,000 reportedly came until 1990.⁸⁷

⁸³ "The Czech Republic," 74–75.

⁸⁴ Hawkins, *Canada and Immigration*, 439.

⁸⁵ "Czech Voices in Canada," 81.

⁸⁶ Jovanovic, "Czechs," 400.

⁸⁷ "The Czech Republic," 75.

In the 1991 Canadian census, 47,175 persons claimed that they were wholly (21,190) or partially (25,985) of Czech ethnicity. [...] In addition to persons who claimed Czech ethnicity (single and multiple responses), in 1991 there were another 54,030 persons who claimed that they were wholly (21,990) or partially (32,040) of “Czechoslovakian” ethnicity. A certain percentage of them are undoubtedly of Czech background. Therefore, a reasonable estimate of the number of persons of Czech ancestry in Canada would be between 50,000 and 60,000.⁸⁸

The Czech immigration to Canada may be rather hard to distinguish, considering the fact, that for the most time of its existence, the nation was a part of a bigger state or empire made up of several nations. After the Velvet Revolution towards the end of 1989, the democracy in Czechoslovakia was restored and a new start for the country began. Later, on 1 January 1993, the two nations agreed upon a separation of the state to the Czech Republic and Slovakia.⁸⁹ Since then, every year approximately 200 Czechs choose Canada as their new home.⁹⁰ Nonetheless, in the scope of last five years, the numbers have decreased sometimes significantly below 200.⁹¹

4.2 The Visa Requirement for the Czech Republic

When Canada imposed a temporary resident visa requirement for the Czech citizens on 14 July 2009, it provoked a strong wave of criticism not only from the Czech Republic, but also from the European Union (EU). As the Czech Republic is a member of the European Union since 2004, by this act, Canada basically went against the EU immigration policy which includes the right of short-term visa regime for its members. Therefore, the EU is likewise concerned with the issue and there have been raised

⁸⁸ Jovanovic, “Czechs,” 400–401.

⁸⁹ Ibid., 400.

⁹⁰ “Immigrant Population by Place of Birth and Period of Immigration (2006 Census).”

⁹¹ “Facts and Figures 2011 – Immigration Overview: Permanent and Temporary Residents,”

questions of the possible consequences for Canada's actions.⁹² The aim of this subchapter is to specify the situation that led to the imposition of the visa requirement in the first place, and to state some of the measures that have been adopted in response to it.

The temporary resident visa requirement for the Czech Republic was lifted for the first time in April of 1996, for the country was an aspiring member of the EU. Nonetheless, as this possibility of easier entry to Canada raised the number of refugee claimants to around 1500, Canada reintroduced the visa shortly after they were abolished in October 1997. Ten years later when the Czech Republic was eventually a member of the EU, Canada lifted the obligation for visa once more on 31 October 2007. Yet again, this did not last for long, same as in the past, the numbers of Czech refugees claiming asylum in Canada rose rapidly and merely two years after they reached 3,000. It is assumed that a main influence causing this situation, are the asylum seekers of Roma origin who intended to escape to Canada in large numbers during both times, when the visa requirement was lifted.⁹³ For the full list of refugee claims from the Czech Republic to Canada until June of 2009, see appendix 2.

In the first case of 1997, the possible cause for such increase in asylum claims may have been a report aired in early August by then most popular TV station in the Czech Republic, TV Nova. The program showed how Romanies, who had before lived in the Czech Republic and fled to Canada, have better living standards overseas. In general, the program gave the impression of being an invitation to Canada for Roma community.⁹⁴ By the end of the same month, the "homeless shelters of Toronto were full to capacity of Czech asylum seekers."⁹⁵ Two months later, the temporary resident visa was re-imposed.⁹⁶ The situation in 2009 was very much alike, the Czech government was aware of the possibility of the visa since May. However, when a

⁹² Sergio Carrera, Elspeth Guild and Massimo Merlino, "The Canada-Czech Republic Visa Dispute two years on: Implications for the EU's Migration and Asylum Policies," (working paper, CEPS Liberty and Security in Europe, October 2011): 2–3.

⁹³ "Backgrounder – The Visa Requirement for the Czech Republic," Citizenship and Immigration Canada, last modified July 13, 2009, accessed April 8, 2013, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/backgrounders/2009/2009-07-13a.asp>.

⁹⁴ Čermák, *It all started with Prince Rupert*, 194.

⁹⁵ Helen O'nions, *Minority rights Protection in International Law: The Roma of Europe* (Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2007), 125.

⁹⁶ "Backgrounder – The Visa Requirement for the Czech Republic."

statement from Canadian government came on 13 July, no one expected that the decision will be effective within 24 hours.⁹⁷

Briefly before the visa was introduced, Roman Křištof, an expert on migration of people of Roma origin, was interviewed on this topic by Czech newspapers, Lidové Noviny. According to him, the main causes for Czech Roma migration to Canada were the hope for a better life and the need to escape from the great debts they had in the Czech Republic. Moreover, he claims that in compliance with many interviews with the Roma refugees that he made for his survey, they were motivated to escape by the so-called prospector's net. This term suggests that there exist people who promote the emigration to Canada among the Roma ethnicity. These people supposedly contact Romanies through a middleman and promise them there is a high possibility of being accepted to Canada as asylum seekers. Indeed, when Roma people arrive, the prospectors help them through the process. The reasons why they entice Roma overseas are above all procurements that need workforce for building something in short term. Mr. Křištof's conclusion is that although the discrimination and racism of Roma community in the Czech Republic is one of the factors for migration as well, the predominant motives for the escape to Canada are chiefly economical.⁹⁸

The remaining question is why Canada accepts the Czech Roma citizens as refugees. In conformity with the laws of EU, "each member state shall be regarded as a 'safe country of origin' by the others with regard to asylum applications made by their nationals."⁹⁹ Therefore, accepting people of Roma origin as refugees is, in fact, undermining this supposition. The benevolence of Canadian asylum system is to be equally blamed for such increase of applications. It cannot be denied that even though there are many initiatives in the Czech Republic to cut back the Roma rights violations and strengthen the socio-economic conditions for the Roma minority, the racism and

⁹⁷ Tereza Janků, Barbora Řihová and Andrea Votrubová, "Kanada znovu zavedla víza pro Čechy," trans. Michaela Strihová, Mladá Fronta Dnes, last modified July 13, 2009, accessed April 8, 2013, http://zpravy.idnes.cz/kanada-znovu-zavedla-viza-pro-cechy-d6k-domaci.aspx?c=A090713_201727_domaci_bar.

⁹⁸ Daniel Kaiser, "Emigrace Romů je byznys. Byť někdo věří, že pomáhá dobru," trans. Michaela Strihová, Lidové Noviny, accessed April 8, 2013, http://www.lidovky.cz/emigrace-romu-je-byznys-byt-nekdo-veri-ze-pomaha-dobru-pf7-/zpravy-domov.aspx?c=A090705_084621_In_domov_mtr.

⁹⁹ Carrera, Guild and Merlino, "The Canada-Czech Republic Visa Dispute," 4.

discrimination still occurs. However, imposition of the temporary visa requirement for a member of the European Union is an inadequate and unsuitable solution to this.¹⁰⁰

As the citizens of the Czech Republic could not even obtain the visa in Prague but in Vienna at the time of their re-introduction, the Czech government asked the European Commission and Council for help on this matter.

In an ad hoc report presented to the Council on 19 October 2009, the Commission set out – under the threat of proposing the introduction of visas for holders of Canadian diplomatic and services passports – two conditions for Canada to implement by the end of 2009: first, the reinstatement of visa issuing facilities in Prague; second, the establishment of clear measures aimed at lifting the [temporary resident visa] obligation.¹⁰¹

The first demand was met by the end of the year and the second one is regularly discussed between Canadian and Czech officials. Nevertheless, the requirement for visa from Czech nationals travelling to Canada remains unchanged without a specific date of its possible abolishment.¹⁰²

4.3 Bilateral Relations of the Czech Republic and Canada

As mentioned earlier, Canada provided a great help to the refugees of the Czech Republic after the putsch in 1968. This was not the only case of aid that Canada offered to the central European country. After the fall of the communist regime, the state was in need of renovation on many levels, predominantly the economic sector. Former socialist government focused mainly on the heavy industry which was not only ineffective, but also produced a high rate of pollution. Therefore, in order to help the Czech Republic in times of its recovery, Canada came up with an assistance program that was designed to quicken the improvement through different projects. This included an investment of \$22 million in total between 1990 and 2003.

¹⁰⁰ Carrera, Guild and Merlino, “The Canada-Czech Republic Visa Dispute,” 4–8.

¹⁰¹ Ibid., 9.

¹⁰² Ibid., 10.

The program for the Canadian assistance to the Czech Republic was devised by the Canadian International Development Agency. This department of Canadian government decided what would be the key focus areas for development. Firstly, it was clearly necessary to establish a functioning democratic system as fast as possible. Therefore, the projects were designed to help the reconstruction of the government institutions which were often ineffective or undemocratic. The plan how to achieve this was to pass the knowledge and structure of Canadian government institutions and implement them to the Czech ones. Secondly, since the Czechs were not familiar with running the private sector, some of the programs were focused on the training of managerial staff.

Lastly, during the first years of Canadian assistance, a great effort was put in the protection of the environment. As before the country was heavily industrialized, the air pollution in the early 1990s was an issue that required a resolution. Consequently, Canada was asked for an advice on how to preserve the environment which was a chief goal of many projects as well. Although Canada was not the largest investor in the democratic and economical innovation of the Czech Republic, the Canada's assistance program undoubtedly provided significant improvement. Moreover, the relationship between the two countries was most certainly strengthened and created good grounds for building a further partnership in the future.¹⁰³

The economic relations of Canada and the Czech Republic are on good terms. In fact, there are many bilateral agreements arranged between the countries. A suitable example would be the most recent signed agreement on the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection. As the title of the treaty suggests, it deals with the issue of investments of Canadian enterprises in the Czech Republic and vice versa. Its main goal is to create favourable conditions for investors in both states.¹⁰⁴ As for the export and import, Canada exports to the Czech Republic mainly machinery, medical devices, pharmaceutical products, sports equipment and pet food. The Czech import to Canada includes iron and steel, toys and machinery as well. During 2012, the Czech Republic

¹⁰³ "Canada and the Czech Republic: Partners in Transition," 3–7.

¹⁰⁴ "Agreement between Canada and the Czech Republic for the Promotion and Protection of Investments," Canada Treaty Information, last modified March 3, 2011, accessed April 10, 2013, <http://www.treaty-accord.gc.ca/text-texte.aspx?id=105128&lang=eng>.

has exported to Canada up to 10% more than in comparison with the previous year and, in general, exceeds the total earnings in export.¹⁰⁵

The Czech Republic and Canada; however, do not have only economic cooperation agreements. Similarly to Austria, the Czech Republic and Canada have a convention concerning the avoidance of double taxation, the so-called Canada–Czech Republic Income Tax Convention Act of 2001.¹⁰⁶ In addition, in 2003 came into force the Agreement on Social Security between Canada and the Czech Republic. This treaty regulates the conditions under which a person is qualified either for Czech or Canadian benefits.¹⁰⁷ There are many more conventions and agreements between the two countries; nevertheless, one of the most important partnerships is that on academic background.

There are two universities in the Czech Republic that have a centre of Canadian Studies, Masaryk University in Brno and Charles University in Prague. In the centre of Masaryk University, for instance, is the largest collection of Canada-related books (around 5,500) in the whole region of Central Europe. Yet, the leading centre engaged in Canadian studies is surely the Central European Association for Canadian Studies which was founded in 2003. This association is responsible for the organization of international conferences of Central European Canadianists, of which the first one was held in Brno. These international assemblies take place every three years and are accompanied by the publications of proceedings which include the best papers presented during the conference. The Central European Association of Canadian Studies coordinates many other activities within a Canadian context as well as has published several books, some of which served as a source for this thesis.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁵ “Canada – Czech Republic Relations,” Government of Canada, last modified April 8, 2013, accessed April 10, 2013, http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/czech-tcheque/bilateral_relations_bilaterales/index.aspx?lang=eng.

¹⁰⁶ “Income Tax Conventions Implementation Act, 2001,” Justice Laws Website, last modified April 4, 2013, date accessed April 11, 2013, http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/AnnualStatutes/2001_30/FullText.html.

¹⁰⁷ “Infosheet on the Agreement on Social Security between Canada and the Czech Republic,” Service Canada People Serving People, last modified March 6, 2013, accessed April 11, 2013, <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/isp/pub/ibfa/czech-i.shtml>.

¹⁰⁸ “Welcome to the Website of the Central European Association for Canadian Studies,” Central European Association for Canadian Studies, accessed April 11, 2013, <http://www.cecanstud.cz/>.

Furthermore, for the young Czech residents interested in work experience or post-secondary education in Canada, there was signed an Agreement Concerning the Facilitation of Temporary Work Stays of Youth between the Czech Republic and Canada. Naturally, this treaty also concerns the Canadian citizens who wish to do the same in the Czech Republic. In compliance with this agreement, there are many organizations which help the applicants with the process of administration and preparation for the year abroad.¹⁰⁹ Since 2006, when the agreement was signed, it made the whole procedure simpler and it also encouraged the government to advise the eligible applicants where to find the necessary information. The main reason for this partnership was to give new opportunities of valuable experience to the youth “and to improve their knowledge of the other country's languages, culture and society, and thus to promote mutual understanding between the two countries.”¹¹⁰

In conclusion, despite the reinstatement of the visa requirement that raised a fear of possible weakening of the bilateral relations between Canada and the Czech Republic. The partnership still appears to be growing and improving. In addition, there are still active functioning associations that contribute to the maintenance of good relations between the two states. The representative for the matters related to economy is the Czech Business Association of Canada which promotes Czech goods in Canada and encourages foreign investment.¹¹¹ The commissary of a community which gathers Czech compatriots and promotes the Czech culture in Canada by organizing various events is the still existing Czech and Slovak Association of Canada. This June, there will be held the 64th congress of this association in Vancouver.¹¹²

¹⁰⁹ For further information on organisations providing assistance to the applicants, discuss the following website: http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/czech-tcheque/experience_canada_experience/recognized_organizations-organisations_reconnues.aspx.

¹¹⁰ “Agreement between Canada and the Czech Republic Concerning the Facilitation of Temporary Work Stays of Youth,” Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, accessed April 11, 2013, http://www.mzv.cz/file/662167/En_Agreement.pdf.

¹¹¹ “Home,” Czech Business Association of Canada, accessed April 11, 2013, <http://www.cbaonline.ca/>.

¹¹² “CSAC Head Office,” Czech and Slovak Association of Canada, accessed April 11, 2013, <http://www.cssk.ca/>.

5. CONCLUSION

The goal of this bachelor thesis was to review the immigration of the citizens of Austria and the Czech Republic to Canada. The reasons for emigration were different throughout the times; the main focus of the first part of the paper was the Canadian immigration policy which was a significant element of influence. Subsequently, the histories of migration from each country, as well as the current bilateral agreements with Canada, were described in the following chapters. In addition, there were added some necessary subchapters, for instance, in case of the Austrians the determination of the Austrian identity. In the part covering Czech immigration, the recent re-imposition of the travelling visa requirement was discussed. All in all, the aim of the bachelor thesis was to give a complex overview of the relevant information in accordance with the researched theme.

The chapter dedicated to the immigration policy of Canada was mainly concerned with its chronological history. The beginnings are connected to the need of expansion to the western area of Canada. In order to achieve this objective, the Canadian government decided to attract immigrants to the western lands by offering them a piece of land for a modest registration fee. The early laws regulating the immigration policy were benevolent and focused more on the protection of the incomers, thus intending to attract as many settlers as possible. Despite the promotion of immigration, the large waves of immigrants did not start to arrive until the beginning of the 20th century. Before the First World War the number of immigrants was already quite high; however, because of the two world wars and the Great Depression the immigration decreased again due to the restrictions that had to be implemented in the immigration policy.

Two years after the end of the Second World War, the Canadian government led by Mackenzie King made a statement delimiting the immigration policy of Canada. The key ideas were later formulated in the Immigration Act of 1952 together with the designation of the powers among the minister of immigration and his officials. Until then, the immigration policy was rather discriminating, particularly to the Chinese nation and other “undesirable” groups such as the handicapped, potential criminals or the poor. The main intention in the 1960s was to eliminate this unfairness of the policy.

Therefore, in 1967, new regulations were introduced through a point system which determined the eligible applicants for the residence in Canada. By this time, the desired immigrants were those with appropriate job related skills that would enhance the Canadian economy.

The Immigration Act of 1978 emphasized the family reunification and set new rules to the acceptance of refugees. Since then, Canada has had an annually specified number of refugees that can be accepted. The most recently passed law concerning immigration policy is the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act of 2002. Similarly to the acts from the past, it has been amended many times. The latest regulation introducing a new point system is planned to come in effect in May of 2013; however, it may yet be postponed. The proposed changes are designed to resolve the current situation of immigrants who have difficulties with finding employment within the first months of their stay. Nonetheless, even though the government tries to improve the conditions, it is not easy to make it favourable for everyone.

The two central European neighbouring countries had quite a different history when the Czech Republic had to face years of communist regime while Austria was fortunate to have the democracy restored in 1955. As a result of this contrast, it is now convenient to briefly compare the immigration to Canada from the two states, regarding the past and the present. The earliest history is similar as both the countries were once a part of the same empire. Hence the beginning of immigration of Austrians and the Czechs during that time is ambiguous, for determining the original nationality was more complicated. Moreover, while Austrian identity is adherent to the German one, the Czech Republic shares its origin with Slovakia. And yet, the Czechs and Austrians have the same roots as well, which can be seen in the similarities in names of food or surnames of the inhabitants.

The first significant difference can be seen in the phases of immigration to Canada. In case of Austria, there were identified three waves of immigration: the initial one before the World War I, followed by the inter-war immigration and the last wave that started after the World War II and continues until now. On the other hand, the Czech immigration is divided into four phases; the first two are the same as those of

Austria. Later, when the Czechoslovakia was occupied after the Second World War by the Soviet Union, this period is defined as the third wave. The fourth phase takes place from 1989 when the democracy was re-established until today. The first two phases of both states are not only the same, but the people were also motivated by equal reasons. They were not necessarily driven away from their homeland but were seeking for better living conditions as the economic situation of central Europe was not in a good estate. During this period, compatriots from Austria as well as the Czech Republic were likewise coming to Canada from the United States where they did not succeed in settling down.

The third phase of immigration from then Czechoslovakia was, as mentioned above, directly influenced by the overthrow of the government in 1948 and the beginning of the forty years of communist dominance. The people escaping to Canada in that time were mostly refugees or displaced persons who disagreed with the regime and were afraid of being persecuted. Therefore they were forced to leave their home and flee to a safe place. An interesting fact is that before going to Canada, many of the refugees had often stayed temporarily in Austria. This way, they were given a chance to leave the country more easily as they could arrange the journey to Canada from Austria.

With the arrival of the troops of Warsaw Pact in 1968, the situation in Czechoslovakia worsened. Even more people tried to escape while it was still possible. Fortunately, during this difficult time for the Czechoslovakians, Canada made a generous gesture and decided to help when the compatriots already living there asked for support. Between 1968 and 1969 Canada accepted almost 12,000 refugees from Czechoslovakia and together with the Czechoslovak communities in Canada provided them with necessary aid they needed in the beginning. On the other hand, Austria was not as fortunate with the Canadian hospitality. After the Second World War they were treated as enemy aliens even though they were refugees; sometimes of Jewish origin as well. Although the restriction for nationals of Austrian origin did not last long, it was quite noticeable as together with the ban on incoming immigrants, the former Austrian residents already living in Canada had to register with the police.

When the Austrians were at last allowed to freely come to Canada again in 1948, the largest wave of Austrian immigration began. The main causes for leaving were the

poor economical conditions after the war, the high rate of unemployment and the occupation of Austria by armies of four countries until 1955. Consequently, the 1950s was the decade when up to 25,300 Austrians were noted to come to Canada. Nevertheless this figure is probably not entirely accurate as the Canadian officials dealing with immigrants mostly asked for the last country of residence, thus the people who stayed in Austria before coming to Canada may be included in this number as well. Later, when the economic situation of Austria improved, the Austrian government realized that they are loosing skilled workers to Canada (the immigration to Canada was even higher than to the United States). As a result of this, the government started to force the media to write negative articles about life in Canada. It was not only for that, but after the 1950s the Austrian immigration to Canada dropped significantly.

Nowadays, neither one of the states has to face many significant difficulties regarding political nor economic situation that would make its citizens leave in big numbers. The statistics show that around hundred Austrians are registered as Canadian residents every year, while from the Czech Republic the average number is two hundred. The reasons to leave are no longer provoked by fear of being persecuted or being forced to live in undesirable conditions. Now it is predominantly the need to learn a new language or to experience something different in education or work that urges the Czechs and Austrians to come to Canada. Mostly, the people tend to come back after they achieve their goal. The slight exception in this case is represented by the Czech citizens of Roma origin who came to Canada as asylum seekers in exceeding numbers. This has subsequently caused the issue of the reinstatement of the visa requirement for the Czech Republic.

The conflict of the imposition of visa for a state that is a member of the European Union has been a largely discussed topic since July of 2009. Furthermore, this is not the first time that such incident occurred. In 1997, a similar increase in numbers of asylum applicants of Czech Roma was caused by a program aired in the Czech Republic by TV Nova. It was a document that showed how the Romanies are having much better conditions in Canada and it inspired many to sell everything they owned and buy a one way ticket to the “promised land.” In both cases, when Canada lifted up the visa requirement for the Czech Republic, the numbers of asylum seekers significantly

increased in a short period of time, leading to the reintroduction of the visa. An expert on Roma immigration claims, that this increase is not affected only by individual decision of each family; however, explaining that there exist so-called prospectors that entice the Roma people to Canada.

No matter what was the cause of such high emigration of the Roma community, it does not seem that the travelling visa requirement will be cancelled soon. Even though the conditions for Roma in the Czech Republic are indeed unfavourable to them, the questions has been raised of why are they allowed to come to Canada as refugees, not as immigrants. In accordance with the laws of the EU, it is not possible for a country to be a member of the Union if it discriminates a minority in such a way that they become asylum seekers. Hence the EU attempted to help its member in times of being quite unfairly treated by an otherwise allied country. Unfortunately for the Czech residents, the aid of the Union was insufficient enough for them to be able to travel freely to Canada again. Nonetheless, despite the fears of a possible negative affect on the bilateral agreements of the Czech Republic and Canada, the relations between them seem to be unharmed.

As a proof of the remaining good relations is the recently signed agreement on the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection. Moreover, same as Austria, the Czech Republic and Canada have a convention concerning the avoidance of double taxation as well as the Agreement on Social Security. Although the relations on academic background of Austria and Canada appear to be slightly stronger than those of the latter country with the Czech Republic, they both enjoy the mutual possibility of youth exchange programs. This opportunity for young people who have the desire to obtain post-secondary education or work experience in Canada is provided on the basis of yet another agreement between the central European countries and Canada.

To conclude, the active communities of the two European states should be mentioned at last. Both countries have many clubs representing their nation of origin spaced out on the Canadian territory. Interestingly, all of the Austrian communities are represented by one that is called Austrian Canadian Council. Albeit the Czech Republic does not have one community that would gather all of the others together, its best representative is undoubtedly the Czech and Slovak Association of Canada that

originated in 1939. The two most considerable Czech and Austrian communities are not as active as they were in the past. Yet, they still organize events related to their home countries and give awards to persons who contribute to the society of Austrians and Czechs. Therefore the imprints of Austria and the Czech Republic still prevail within the Canadian nation as well.

Overall, the two central European countries share many similarities in terms of immigration to Canada and bilateral agreements. On one hand, it seems that Austria currently has better relations with Canada as its citizens are not obliged to have visa while travelling to Canada, unlike the Czech ones. On the other hand, Canada has significantly helped the Czech Republic in the past and despite the visa issue they continue to cooperate quite successfully.

RESUMÉ

Cílem této bakalářské práce je shrnout a popsat imigraci obyvatel dvou sousedících zemí střední Evropy do Kanady. V obou případech se jedná o malé státy, které byly kdysi součástí Rakouska-Uherska, a mají tudíž i společnou historii. První zemí je samotné Rakousko, ze kterého několik let po druhé světové válce odešla spojenecká okupační vojska, a v roce 1955 získalo zpět plnou suverenitu. Druhým zástupcem je Česká Republika, která naopak od roku 1948 musela čelit čtyřicetiletému komunistickému režimu. Tato práce se soustředí jak na historii imigrace do Kanady z obou zemí, tak na vzájemné dohody, které střeoevropské státy s Kanadou uzavřely. Jako první je ale zařazena kapitola, která se zabývá historií imigrační politiky Kanady, protože ta dodnes určuje podmínky pro všechny příchozí imigranty, kteří mají zájem o trvalý pobyt v Kanadě. Závěr pak obsahuje srovnání všech zjištěných informací, především o Rakouské a České imigraci do Kanady.

Jak již bylo zmíněno, první kapitola se zabývá kanadskou imigrační politikou. Prvotní potřeba vytvoření zákona upravujícího migraci do Kanady přišla v druhé polovině 19. století, kdy se kanadská vláda rozhodla, že chce posílit osídlení v západní části země. Plánem jak toho dosáhnout, bylo nalákat zde co nejvíce obyvatel. Vzhledem k tomu, že v Kanadě v té době tolik lidí nežilo, rozhodli se je nalákat ze zámorí. Původní imigrační politika tedy spočívala především v tom, že se snažila přitáhnout imigranty tak, že jim byla nabídnuta možnost starat se o určitý kus půdy za symbolický registrační poplatek. I přes veškeré snahy ze strany vlády se až do začátku 20. století nedařilo přilákat větší množství nových obyvatel. Počátek nového století však přinesl změnu a do začátku první světové války do Kanady přišlo více než 2,9 milionů imigrantů. Kvůli světovým válkám a Velké hospodářské krizi se ovšem muselo přistoupit k přitvrzení podmínek pro nově příchozí imigranty z důsledku ekonomické krize.

V roce 1947 byla Kanada za vlády Mackenzieho Kinga nucena formulovat hlavní zásady imigrační politiky. To následně vedlo k ustanovení těchto zásad do imigračního zákona z roku 1952. Až do 60. let 20. století byla imigrační politika Kanady značně diskriminující, například k imigrantům původem z Číny, kteří museli dlouhá léta platit

neustále se zvyšující roční daň na hlavu, což nemusel žádný jiný národ. Po několika výzvách ze strany politiků byl proto imigrační zákon z roku 1952 vystřídán novým zákonem v roce 1978, který mimo jiné ukotvil takzvaný bodový systém, podle kterého se u imigranta hodnotí jednotlivé kategorie a na základě počtu bodů je mu umožněn pobyt v zemi. Tento systém byl zaveden již novelami v roce 1968 a funguje v Kanadě dodnes. V průběhu let se zákony pochopitelně novelizují a upravují se v závislosti na aktuálních podmínkách. Poslední zákon regulující imigrační politiku byl přijat v roce 2002. V květnu 2013 by měly začít platit připravované změny upravující starý bodový systém.

V kapitole zabývající se imigrací obyvatel Rakouska je nejprve popsáno, kdo přesně je rakouské národnosti. Protože do roku 1918 bylo jak Rakousko, tak Česká republika součástí Rakousko-Uherského impéria, bylo v té době poměrně složité určit, z které části území tehdejšího státního zřízení imigranti pocházejí. Dále se kapitola zabývá přímo historií migrace Rakušanů do Kanady. Ta se dělí do tří fází, první začala v druhé polovině 18. století a skončila ve stejném roce, kdy došlo k rozpadu Rakouska-Uherska a vzniku první Rakouské republiky. Druhá fáze je označována jako meziválečná, tedy trvala až do roku 1945, kdy započala třetí vlna rakouské migrace pokračující dodnes. Důvody k emigraci z Rakouska do Kanady byly pochopitelně v každém období odlišné. Z počátku to byla především touha po lepších ekonomických podmínkách, protože jak již bylo zmíněno dříve, Kanadská vláda nabízela nově příchozím imigrantům půdu k obdělávání za pár dolarů.

V průběhu válek ale nastala jiná situace a spousta lidí cítilo potřebu utéct, ať už ze strachu, že budou z nějakého důvodu pronásledováni, nebo kvůli velmi špatným podmínkám panujícím v Evropě v důsledku války. Jelikož bylo ale Rakousku v roce 1938 takzvaným anšlusem připojeno k Německu, migrace do Kanady pro obyvatele země byla velmi obtížná až téměř nemožná. Vzhledem k tomu, že za války bojovala Kanada proti Němcům, potažmo Rakušanům, měli emigranti z těchto zemí zákaz vstupu na kanadské území. Toto rozhodnutí bylo kanadskou vládou přehodnoceno v roce 1948, kdy se hranice pro obyvatelstvo malé alpské země opět otevřela, a dala tak prostor k počátku největší vlny migrace Rakušanů. Během padesátých let 20. století bylo zaznamenáno přibližně 25 300 imigrantů rakouského původu, kteří se usadili v Kanadě.

Jakmile však došlo v Rakousku ke zlepšení ekonomické situace a ke snížení počtu nezaměstnaných obyvatel, rakouská vláda zaznamenala, že do Kanady odchází spousta kvalifikovaných pracovníků. Proto se rozhodli vyřešit situaci pomocí negativní reklamy, kdy byla média nucena vydávat články o tom, jak je nový život v Kanadě pro imigranty zpočátku velmi obtížný a najít si zde dobrou práci není jednoduché, ale téměř nemožné. Nejen tato kritika, ale i již přijatelné podmínky pro život byly nejspíš hlavním faktorem rapidního snížení počtu rakouských imigrantů do Kanady v následujících letech. V dnešní době je podle kanadských statistik zaznamenáváno jen kolem sta imigrantů z Rakouska za rok, a není neobvyklé, že se i několik z nich nakonec vrátí do své rodné země. Pro populaci obou států je dnes hlavním důvodem pro odchod ze země spíše zvědavost a touha po získání nových zkušeností jinde, a to hlavně buď jazykových, nebo pracovních.

Na rozdíl od Rakouska, u obyvatel českého původu jsou zaznamenány čtyři fáze imigrace do Kanady. První dvě fáze jsou stejné, nejen pokud se období týče, ale také důvody k emigraci byly velmi podobné. Jako třetí vlna imigrace je označováno období, kdy na území tehdejšího Československa panovala vláda komunistů. Spousta lidí opustila stát především kvůli strachu, že pro nesouhlas s režimem budou pronásledováni. Tento strach byl nanejvýš oprávněný a po vpádu vojsk Varšavské smlouvy v roce 1968 se situace ještě zhoršila. Naštěstí pro uprchlíky, československá komunita v Kanadě byla aktivní, a v zájmu záchrany svých krajanů její zástupci dojednali s kanadskou vládou přijetí až 12 000 uprchlíků z Československa. Po pádu komunistického režimu v roce 1989 se situace značně zlepšila a Kanada v nemalé míře poskytla Československu a později České republice pomoc při formování demokracie. Od tohoto roku rovněž trvá čtvrtá fáze imigrace českých obyvatel do Kanady. Dnešní statistiky uvádí, že do Kanady emigruje průměrně téměř 200 Čechů za rok.

Kapitola o české emigraci do Kanady rovněž zahrnuje problematiku migrace českých Romů do Kanady, která byla hlavní příčinou velmi diskutovaného zavedení víz pro občany České republiky cestujících do Kanady v červenci 2009. Důvody Romů pro únik do Kanady byly především ekonomického rázu, i když je pravda, že v České republice se zároveň netěší ani „nediskriminujícím“ podmínkám. Podle odborníka na romskou emigraci do Kanady bylo markantní zvýšení žádostí Romů o azyl v Kanadě především způsobeno nejen finanční tísni, ve které se spousta romských obyvatel

v České republice dnes nachází, ale je to i důsledek práce takzvané prospektorské sítě. Tou se rozumí skupina lidí, která láká Romy do Kanady za lepším životem a zároveň jim pomáhá se po příjezdu vypořádat s nutnými organizačními povinnostmi. Vzhledem k viditelnému nárůstu počtu žádostí o azyl z České republiky se tedy kanadská vláda rozhodla znovu zavést víza, která předtím v roce 2007 zrušila.

Toto rozhodnutí je dodnes velmi kritizováno nejen vládou České republiky, ale také ze strany Evropské unie, která rovněž nesouhlasí s takovými podmínkami uvalenými pouze na jednoho člena unie. Navíc je diskutabilní, proč mají Romové možnost zažádat v Kanadě o azyl, protože to přímo implikuje, že podmínky jejich života v České republice nejsou v souladu se zákony ani Českými ani Evropskými. Chyba je tudíž i na straně kanadských imigračních úřadů, které jsou označovány za příliš benevolentní v otázce, kdo má být považován za imigranta a kdo za žadatele o azyl. Ať už je chyba kdekoliv, zatím se nezdá, že by víza byla pro Českou republiku v nejbližší době zrušena. Přes obavy, že tato situace může narušit vzájemné vztahy obou zemí, se tak nestalo a Kanada s Českou republikou stejně jako s Rakouskem dodnes uzavírá vzájemné dohody.

V závěru práce je rovněž zahrnuto porovnání imigrace Rakušanů a Čechů do Kanady a také vzájemné dohody mezi těmito státy. Z analyzovaných zdrojů vyplývá, že obě středoevropské země, i přes obtíže na straně Čechů, mají s Kanadou dobré vztahy. Kromě dohod například o zamezení dvojího zdanění či v oblasti sociálního zabezpečení má jak Česká republika, tak Rakousko také uzavřenou velmi důležitou dohodu o usnadňování dočasných pracovních a studijních pobytů mládeže. Nejen značný počet imigrantů z obou zemí, ale i tyto smlouvy jsou důkazem o dobré spolupráci obou středoevropských států s Kanadou, která by měla přetrvávat i v budoucnu.

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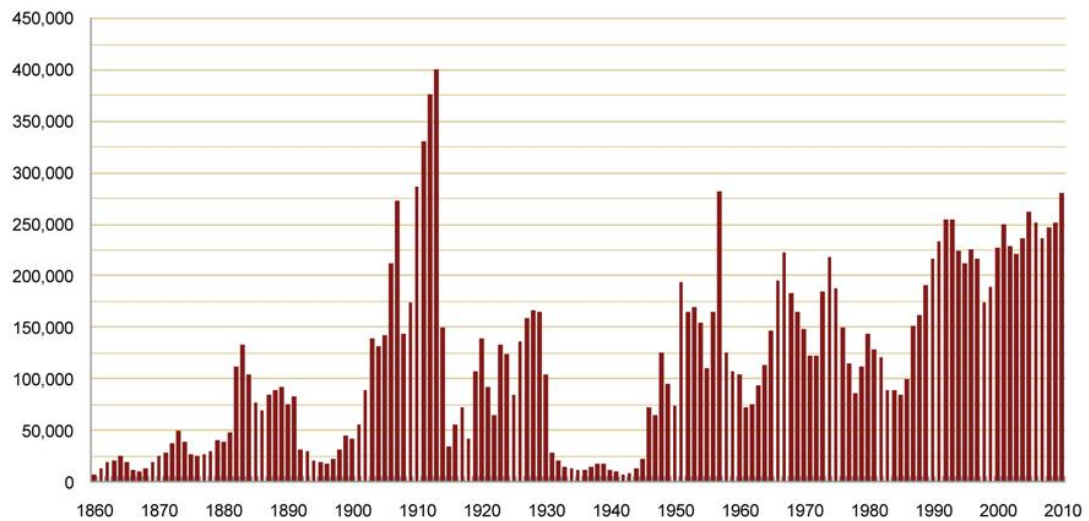
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APPENDIX 2: Refugee claims from the Czech Republic to Canada from 1993 until June of 2009.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: An overview of the numbers of immigrants from 1860 to 2010



Source: Immigration Watch Canada. "Canada – Permanent Residents, 1860 to 2010." Accessed March 15, 2013. <http://www.immigrationwatchcanada.org/>.

APPENDIX 2: Refugee claims from the Czech Republic to Canada from 1993 until June of 2009.

Year	Asylum Claims
1993	14
1994	6
1995	29
1996	190
1997	1,516
1998	53
1999	75
2000	58
2001	40
2002	20
2003	22
2004	15
2005	10
2006	2
2007	115
2008	845
2009 (January to June)	1,846

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada. "Backgrounder – The Visa Requirement for the Czech Republic: Refugee Claims." Last modified July 13, 2009. Accessed April 8, 2013.
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/departement/media/backgrounders/2009/2009-07-13a-txt.asp#longdesc-1>.

ANNOTATION

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Annotation in English:

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to summarize the immigration from two Central European countries to Canada – Austria and the Czech Republic. First chapter deals with the Canadian immigration policy that directly influences the conditions for emigrants interested in starting a new life in Canada. The following two parts give an overview of the immigration of the two surveyed states, first Austria and later the Czech Republic. Each one of the two chapters also states the bilateral relations of the countries with Canada. The conclusion then compares the migration of both central European nations and focuses on the different factors of influence provoking the immigration to Canada.

Anotace česky:

Cílem této bakalářské práce je popsat imigraci obyvatel dvou středoevropských zemí, Rakouska a České Republiky, do Kanady. První kapitola se zabývá kanadskou imigrační politikou, ze které vyplývají podmínky pro imigranty, kteří se rozhodnou začít nový život v Kanadě. Následující dvě části nabízí přehled imigrace ze dvou zkoumaných států, nejdříve z Rakouska, poté z České Republiky. V každé kapitole jsou zároveň popsány bilaterální dohody, které mají obě země uzavřené s Kanadou. Závěr je porovnáním migrace z obou středoevropských států, kde je hlavní důraz kladen na faktory, které ovlivnily podnět pro imigraci do Kanady.