



# October 28, 1918

The day of the establishment of the independent Czechoslovak state

Czechoslovak independence was declared on Wenceslas Square on October 28, 1918, beginning a new era of two nations which had previously been a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



The majority of Czech society did not regard the Austro-Hungarian Empire as their own. However, the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 postponed national questions within the multi-national empire.

The only real „war against a central power“ was carried out by Czech exiles, led by T. G. Masaryk and a small circle of supporters.

During 1916 T. G. Masaryk, E. Beneš and M. R. Štefánik (Slovak astronomer and general of the French army) established what was later called the Czechoslovak National Council. The council became the main force in the anti-Austrian resistance.

Domestic politicians appeared on the scene with the Three Kings' Declaration at the start of January 1918. This document was a coordinated call for independence both at home and abroad.

This was followed by the Pittsburgh Agreement, signed on May 31, 1918. The latter envisioned a plan for a unified Czecho-Slovak state in which Slovakia would have its own assembly. In early October 1918, Germany and Austria proposed peace negotiations. The only issue was the supplying of the Austrian military with food exported from Bohemia and Moravia. On October 18, while in the United States, Masaryk issued The Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence.

