



Stanislav Brouček
Institute of Ethnology AS CR. Born in 1947 in Polička.

First he was concerned with the history of Czech ethnology: *České národopisné hnutí na konci 19. století* [The Czech Ethnographic Movement at the End of the 19th Century] (1979). He was the head of the team: *Základní pojmy etnické teorie* [The Essential Notions of Ethnic Theory] (1991). In cooperation with M. Matsudaira (Tokyo) he carried out the Japanese-Czech project *The Culture-Sociological Research of the Change Process Owing to the Social Reforms* (Tokyo 1993). He occupied himself with the history of Czech emigration: *Krajané a domov* [Compatriots and Homeland] (1985), *Cestami demokracie* [The Ways of Democracy] (2001), *Africký deník Heleny Štastné-Bübelové* [The African Journal of Helena Štastná-Bübelová] (2001), *Kandidáti další existence* [The Candidates for Future Existence] (2004), *K druhému břehu. Češi v prostředí francouzské společnosti 1862-1918* [To the Other Shores. The Czechs in the French Society in the Period of 1862–1918] (2007) or *Domáci postoje k zahraničním Čechům v novodobých dějinách* [Domestic Attitudes to the Czechs Abroad in Modern History] (2009, with T. Grulich) etc. He studied the immigration into the C. R.: *Aliens or One's Own People* (with N.Valášková and Z.Uherek 1997). He edited many anthologies: *Češi za hranicemi na přelomu 20. a 21. století* [The Czechs Abroad at the Turn of the 20th and 21st century] (2000 with s K.Hrubý), *Emigrace a exil jako způsob života* [Emigration and Exile as a Way of Life] (2001 with K.Hrubý a A.Měšťan), *Exil sám o sobě* [Exile in Itself] (2003), *Ecology and Folklore* (with V.Krawczyk-Wasilewska 1998) or *Nová emigrace z České republiky po roce 1989 a návratová politika* [The New Emigration from the Czech Republic after 1989 and Politics of Return] (with T. Grulich) etc. As to the Vietnamese ethnic group he published for example: *Český pohled na Vietnamce. Mediální obraz Vietnamu, Vietnamců a vietnamství* [The Czech View of the Vietnamese. The Image of Vietnam, the Vietnamese and Vietnamese Ethnicity as Presented by the Mass Media] (2003) or *Aktuální problémy adaptace vietnamského etnika v ČR. První část* [The Current Problems of Adaption of the Vietnamese Ethnic Group in the C. R. Part One] (2003) and others including many journal articles.

THE VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE VIETNAMESE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



STANISLAV BROUČEK
PRAHA 2016

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The text of this book is divided into five parts. The first part outlines the fundamental horizons of this topic and the author's approach to it. The second part deals with the transformation of the technical and technological aid given by the former Czechoslovakia to the war-afflicted Vietnam into the government-controlled relocation of apprentices, trainees and workers on a definite-term basis (1958–1989). The arrival of new Vietnamese relocatees turned into economic migration after 1990. The third part of the book characterizes settlement of the Vietnamese ethnic group in the local environment of the C. R. after 1990 and tries to define attributes inherent in formation of this ethnic group's specific way of life. The fourth part of the book discusses the economic prosperity of certain areas along the Czech-German border where the Vietnamese carried on their business. The fifth, final part records the process of recognition of the Vietnamese as a national minority and its transformation into the principal part of the central European Vietnamese diaspora.

A distinctive feature of the presence of the Vietnamese in the C. R. is the prevailing customer principle. In relation to the society individuals act mainly as customers who buy all kinds of merchandise and services. The customer principle does not apply only to merchandise and services but may serve to any immediate necessity. This principle have resulted in a situation in which the future of members of the Vietnamese ethnic group in the C. R. is being bought gradually and this ethnic group transformed into an entity that has a tendency to become "state within a state". There is sufficient economic potential for it:

- the Vietnamese have financial resources necessary for their business;
- they have material possessions;
- they play a significant role in the economic sphere of the local environment;
- recently their economic power has extended both to multinational chain stores and bilateral Czech-Vietnamese trade;
- the Vietnamese arrange a migratory bridge between Vietnam and the C. R.;
- their economic power enables them to build an effective diasporic body in central Europe and cooperate with their home country.

Despite all attempts at integration of the Vietnamese population in the C. R. the process of ghettoization continues. Even though this process is not subject to typical geographic delimitation, it is evident there is some – mainly psychological – distance between the minority and the majority society owing to the minority's feeling of otherness as well as to its economic self-reliance. It applies especially to the first generation of Vietnamese sellers. Presumably, the second generation will not contribute to the overall separation of the Vietnamese community in the near future.