1914 28 June
Assassination in Sarajevo and the end of an epoch

1914 28 July
Declaration of the First World War, T. G. Masaryk’s activities abroad

1917 2 July
Battle of Zborov, Czechoslovak Legions

1918 28 October
Origin of an independent Czechoslovakia

In 1918, the exiled Czechoslovak National Council in Paris and the domestic National Czechoslovak Committee prepared for a national revolution and the declaration of an independent state. Exiles established a provisional Czech-Slovak government in autumn 1918 with Masaryk as chairman, as well as with Beneš and Štefánik. A day after Austria-Hungary accepted US peace conditions on 27 October 1918, the ‘men of October’ (Rašín, Švehla, Soukup, Stříbrný) declared Czechoslovakia an independent state.

1918 30 October
Martin Declaration

1918 14 November
T. G. Masaryk (1850–1937) elected President of the Czechoslovak Republic

The Czechoslovak politician, scientist (sociology), pedagogue and journalist became president at the age of 68 and was elected four times. He enjoyed high respect and authority both at home and abroad, commanding strong moral authority. He also fulfilled and asserted his ideas in a practical manner. ‘Truth is victory’ was Masaryk’s life-long saying, which continues to appear on the president’s standard of the Czech Republic.

1919 10 September
Confirmation of Czechoslovak borders by the Peace Treaty of Saint-Germain
1929 25 October
World Economic Crisis and its consequences for Czechoslovakia
1938 23 September
Declaration of mobilisation, Sudeten crisis and its causes, negotiations with the SdP

1938 30 September
The Munich Agreement and borderland annexation

1938 30 November
Election of Emil Hácha as President of the Second Republic

Czechoslovakia lost 30% of its territory and 33% of its inhabitants after the Munich Agreement. Two fifths of industry were lost, transportation was complicated and 450,000 Czechs were expatriated from their borderland homes. The country officially became known as the Czech-Slovak Republic – commonly called the ‘Second Republic’. The liberal-democratic system fell apart. President Beneš emigrated and Emil Hácha was elected president on 30 November 1938. Antisemitism and nationalism grew.

1938 25 December
Death of Karel Čapek and the symbolic end of the 1st Republic

1939 15 March
Occupation of the Republic and establishment of the Böhmen und Mähren Protectorate
1940 21 July
Recognition of the provisional government by the United Kingdom

1941 27 September
Appointment of acting Reich protector R. Heydrich

1942 27 May
Assassination of Reinhard Heydrich and subsequent terror

1945 8 May
Liberation of Czechoslovakia and the end of the Second World War in Europe

1945 2 August
The Potsdam Conference, transfer of Germans and economic consequences

1946 26 May
Last democratic election, government of the National Front

1948 25 February
End of democracy, communists take power and the build-up of socialism
1950 27 June
Execution of Milada Horáková, communist repressions in the 1950s

1953 1 June
Currency reform and expressions of discontent
**1967** 27–29 June
Congress of Writers, beginning of the Prague Spring and the renewal process

**1968** 21 August
Occupation of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact troops

Leonid I. Brezhnev - the Soviet communist leader - sought to stop the democratic process, as he feared Czechoslovakia leaving the communist bloc. After his request was refused and using collaborators' with use of a 'letter of invitation' from certain, he took military action. On the night of 20-21 August 1968, five Warsaw Pact member state troops entered Czechoslovakia to quash the reforms. Government members were arrested, taken to Moscow and forced to declare an end of the democratic renewal process.

**1969** 17 April
Accession of G. Husák; normalisation and real socialism
1984 10 December
J. Seifert wins the Nobel Prize in Literature

1989 17 November
The Velvet Revolution, end of totalitarianism, return of democracy and freedom

1989 29 December
Communist dissident and democratic president Václav Havel
1993 1 January
Division of Czechoslovakia, establishment of an independent Czech Republic

A post-Velvet Revolution free election was announced and economic and political reforms commenced after the creation of a democratic pluralistic system and market economy. The name Czech and Slovak Federative Republic (CSFR) was announced. Tensions in Czech-Slovak relations after the 1992 election led to prime ministers Klaus and Mečiar agreeing to divide the country into the Czech Republic (CR) and the Slovak Republic (SR: 1 January 1993). The new country had to overcome problems such as inflation, unemployment and corruption.