

Summary

Four Czech statesmen, four interviews, four unique accounts of history. This book of interviews with Václav Klaus, Petr Pithart, Pavel Rychetský and Miloš Zeman marks the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and the fall of communism in Czechoslovakia. In November 1989, Czechoslovakia and its people were full of hopes – hopes of a better life, of freedom, and limitless opportunities. Though the transition of power was a relatively smooth process not many people expected the tumultuous events which were soon to follow. Profound economic reform, the disintegration of Czechoslovakia, rise of the nouveau-riche in the early 1990s changed the character of Czech politics and society for years to come. V. Klaus, P. Pithart, P. Rychetský, M. Zeman give their unique viewpoints on key turning points of recent Czech history, such as the collapse of communism and the transition to a democratic system, privatisation of state companies, the Czech-German declaration, the European Union and NATO, the erosion of the traditional party system, the legal system, the legacy of Václav Havel and many other important events. Above all, the four interviews contained in this book are a telling reminder that history is by no means something which is black and white but rather something that has many different shades of grey.