

**THE  
CZECHOSLOVAK  
STATE**

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The Czechoslovak State by Charles Pergler

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**CHARLES PERGLER**

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BY

CHARLES PERGLER

*Commissioner of the Czechoslovak Republic  
in the United States*



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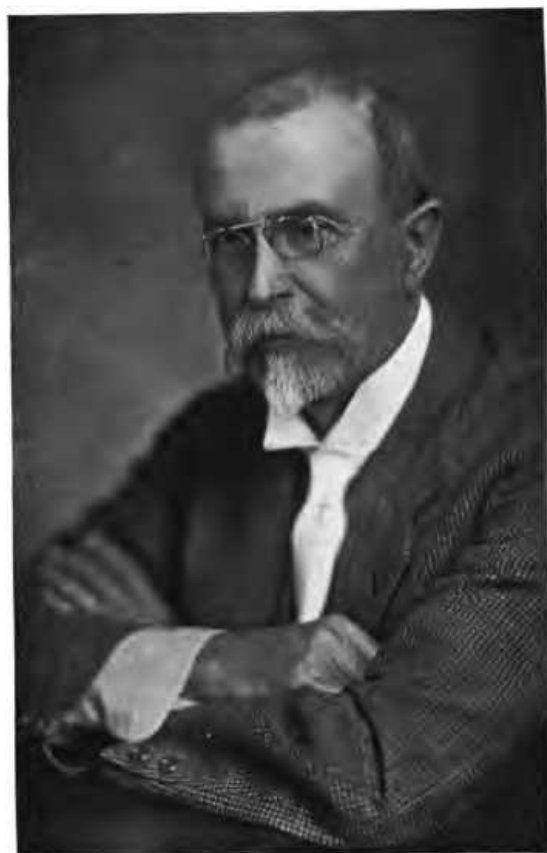
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MAIN

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK STATE

### I

**D**URING the first three years of the World War the heavy hand of Austro-Hungarian despotism, reinforced by the mailed fist of Prussia, permitted nothing in the Czechoslovak lands that even remotely resembled a free expression of opinion. But as soon as the grip of the Central Powers began to weaken, the nation was able again to give expression to its real attitude. It was then that Dr. Jan Herben contributed to the famous Czech daily, the *Národní Lísty* of Prague, an article declaring that international law cannot prevent the birth of a new state, and that the time of proclaiming its maturity and capacity to manage its affairs is a nation's own prerogative. But, Dr. Herben says, though the claims of a state to existence arise from its very birth, its existence cannot prevent a certain amount of disarrangement in the relations of the pre-existing states. The new state must be inscribed on the international register. International law must decide whether the new state is to gain admission into the society of old states, whether its culture entitles it to become a law-

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ful member, and whether economically and otherwise it can command the respect a sovereign state is entitled to. The corporate stock of Norway in 1905 commanded full respect: in 1913 that of Albania was very low. International recognition is dependent on a sort of examination. The group of old states makes inquiries as to whether the new-born child has the capacity of becoming a member on equal terms, and especially whether it does not bring with it the germs of future disturbance. What would be the result of such an examination, should the Czechoslovak Republic be subjected to one?

Many of the questions asked by Dr. Herben have been answered, and they have been answered in the forms prescribed by international law. All the great Allied powers, and the United States, have recognized the right of the Czechoslovak nation to independence and sovereign statehood. There is in existence a recognized Czechoslovak Government. The United States and her associates in the war are committed to the policy of reestablishing the ancient Czech state, adjusted to modern conditions, and in harmony with the principles of nationality. Before so committing themselves, these governments naturally ascer-