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Orbis Geographicus
PREFACE

The former Czechoslovakia was divided in 1993 into two independent states – the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. After a long period of common development and cooperation with Slovak geographers, a new history of Czech geography started to be written. Compared to the period before, Czech Geography developed in the new democratic society of the Czech Republic and was open to contemporary, global research trends and international cooperation.

The Czech National Geographic Committee, representing Czech geographers in the International Geographical Union, in a memorandum to Czech geographers, committed themselves in 2000 to strengthen the position of Czech geography at the international level. It was decided to prepare an overview of Czech geography for the international community and to describe its intellectual state at the beginning of the 21st century. The result of this activity is the recent book prepared for the occasion of the 24th International Geographical Congress in Glasgow, 2004.

This volume not only provides information about the history of Czech geography but also presents recent research results from different fields of physical geography, human geography, cartography and geoinformatics. It is designed to reflect the recent state of the discipline and show the direction of Czech geography between 1993 and 2003 – where we are and where we should go. It is hoped that the international contacts of Czech geographers will grow and strengthen and that we will increase our participation in international projects and broaden our international cooperation.

The book required an enormous effort and time investment by many colleagues in its preparation. Therefore, from the point of view of the Czech National Geographic Committee it is a pleasure to thank:

- all the authors who contributed their scientific expertise;
- Dušan Drobhlan, Jan Kalvoda, Vít Vokňalek, the editors of this book, for their effort and work in the preparation of this publication;
- Vaclav Přibyl, George Demko, Carsten Jürgens, reviewers of the volume for their comments and advice and Havila Unseen, Inggrid Nelson, Nick Stuart, Ben Forest, English language editors, for their intensive assistance with linguistic aspects of this book.

Finally and importantly we express our gratitude to all geographical departments for their financial support of this publication.

June 2004

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