

Vaclav Havel Open Letters Selected Prose 1965

1990

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spanning twenty five years this historic collection of writings shows vaclav havel s evolution from a modestly known playwright who had the courage to advise and criticize czechoslovakia s leaders to a newly elected president whose first address to his fellow citizens begins i assume you did not propose me for this office so that i too would lie to you some of the pieces in open letters such as dear dr husak and the essay the power of the powerless are by now almost legendary for their influence on a generation of eastern european dissidents others such as some of havel s prison correspondence and his private letter to alexander dubcek appear in english for the first time all of them bear the unmistakable imprint of havel s intellectual rigor moral conviction and unassuming eloquence while standing as important additions to the world s literature of conscience from the trade paperback edition

this monograph traces the history of the dissident as a transnational phenomenon exploring soviet dissidents in communist central europe from the mid 1960s until 1989 it argues that our understanding of the transnational activist would not be what it is today without the input of central european oppositionists and ties the term to the global emergence and evolution of human rights the book examines how we define dissidents and explores the association of political resistance to authoritarian regimes as well as the impact of domestic and international recognition of the dissident figure turning to literature to analyse the meaning and impact of the

dissident label the book also incorporates interviews and primary accounts from former activists combining a unique theoretical approach with new empirical material this book will appeal to students and scholars of contemporary history politics and culture in central europe

this groundbreaking new source of international scope defines the essay as nonfictional prose texts of between one and 50 pages in length the more than 500 entries by 275 contributors include entries on nationalities various categories of essays such as generic such as sermons aphorisms individual major works notable writers and periodicals that created a market for essays and particularly famous or significant essays the preface details the historical development of the essay and the alphabetically arranged entries usually include biographical sketch nationality era selected writings list additional readings and anthologies

a collection of critical essays on a czech playwright and president showing him from various perspectives contributions range from political analyses and historical assessments to linguistic interpretations tributes and personal memories themes include connections between his writing and his political career his political thought analysis of specific plays havel in the minds of his countrymen and havel on the role of the president annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

each volume in this series provides an introduction tracing the subject author s critical reputation trends in interpretation developments in textual and biographical scholarship and reprints of selected essays and reviews beginning with the author s contemporaries and continuing through to current scholarship many volumes also feature new essays by leading scholars and critics specially commissioned for the series

concise discussions of the lives and principal works of important living writers of fiction drama and poetry who write in languages other than english written by subject experts

political action in vaclav havel s thought the responsibility of resistance by delia popescu examines resistance to oppression and individual responsibility in political action all in the context of vaclav havel s political philosophy the famous anti communist dissident acclaimed playwright former president of the czech republic and eminent political thinker argues that there is a certain tendency in modern humanity towards the creation or at least toleration of a political system that is invasive and controlling not unlike tocqueville and arendt havel claims that modern liberal democracy contains potential tendencies toward a new form of despotism that capitalizes on modern alienation and social atomization political action in vaclav havel s thought suggests that havel s theory of individual opposition can be used to secure political freedom under the conditions of modernity popescu demonstrates that havel s idea of attaining true political participation and freedom requires a strong connection between an individually constructed ethics and the realm of politics on this basis she reveals that a thick notion of morality can be usefully integrated into an account of both private and public accountability vaclav havel s essays plays speeches and letters can therefore be integrated into a coherent political theory which contributes significantly to some of the central debates in modern political thought delia popescu concludes that havel s theory of individual opposition to totalitarianism may also serve as the foundation for a conception of responsible participation in modern liberal democracies

discusses one of the major currents leading to the fall of communism falk examines the intellectual dissident movements in poland czechoslovakia and hungary from the late 1960s through to 1989 in spite of its historic significance no other comprehensive survey has appeared on the subject in addition to the huge list of written sources from samizdat works to recent essays falks sources include interviews with many personalities of those events as well as videos and films including oscar winners

essays on some of the most prominent eastern european writers from the twentieth century from the czech republic estonia hungary latvia lithuania poland romania and slovakia discusses the contributions of these authors who played a significant role in the growth development and preservation of their respective literatures this rich and diverse literary history of eastern europe mirrors the depth and complexity of its social and political history

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