

SUMMARIES

SOCIAL CRITICISM IN CZECH LITERATURE OF 1970s AND 1980s CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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Although the situation for the development of a literature sensitive to contemporary social problems looked unpromising at the beginning of the 1970s, in fact a literature of some interest has been produced. It criticizes, more or less at the behest of the Party, consumerism, the new class that consumerism has produced, and the pursuits linked with affluence (alcoholism, glue-sniffing, prostitution, petty and organized crime — and industrial pollution). Probably more important than all that is the fact that, though neither the role of the Party nor the Soviet Union can be criticized, writers are beginning to criticize old-style Party activists, political careerism, petty activities on the part of the secret police, the army, kindergartens, the State's greed for foreign currency, and so forth. Something of the growth of Christianity in Czechoslovakia is also reflected in new literature. The period since "normalization" has produced writers of promise, notably Jana Červenková, Josef Frajs, Petr Hájek, Bedřich Hlinka and Ludvík Němec.