

# LITERARY INTERWAR CZECHOSLOVAKIA

## The Literary Climate of Czechoslovakia on the Eve of War: Karel Čapek's ideology and its reception



### Czechoslovakia (1918 – 1938)

- First time independent
- Democratic
- Highly polarized politics
  - Left – socialists and communists
  - Centre – supporting status quo and democracy
  - Right – Catholics, nationalists, fascists
- President: **Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk** (the Father)
  - Chief representative of "the Castle" and Centre

### Karel Čapek (1890 – 1938)

- Biggest and most famous Czech writer
- Prolific journalist – *The People's Newspaper*
- Representative of the Centre
- Rejecting both leftist and rightist ideologies
- His political opinions overtly present in his literary works
- Close acquaintance of the president
- Highly criticized by leftist and rightist writers

### Methods:

Background research about Czechoslovakia + Čapek; Primary sources in Czech (Newspaper articles); Visiting Prague (conducting interviews)