



## Soul of Europe

Prague, Czech Republic, June 29, 2022

By Juraj Lajda

**A**round 15 people participated in a public lecture titled Soul of Europe which took place in the Peace embassy in Prague on Wednesday 29th June 2022. The speaker was Hon. Daniel Herman, Czech minister of culture in 2014-2017.

In his introduction Hon. Herman explained the meaning of the word „Europe“. According to the Greek mythology Europe was a beautiful princess. The highest god in the Greek mythology Zeus fell in love with her. He kidnapped her and brought her to the island of Crete. Our continent was then named after her.

The spiritual background of Europe comes from the antiquity, Greek philosophy, Judaism and Christianity. In the year 800 AD the emperor Charlemagne was appointed by the pope and gave a clear signal to build up Europe on the Christian foundations. Afterwards Christianity was widespread very quickly to other European countries. In 845 AD 14 Czech lords were baptized and received Christianity. Based on this the statehood was built up rapidly.

Christianity developed schools, universities, charity and contributed to the improvement of the human life. The heart of Europe and Christianity is: Love brings unification.

During the 17th century deep foundations of Europe in politics, economy and ideology were being established. However, in the end of the 18th century the French revolution derailed the natural course of European development. Later on Napoleon destructed the European political and social system at that time.

Later, the WWI shattered the European values. The Bolshevik revolution in 1917 destroyed the legal order of a state.

The national states did not solve the problem of nationalism. Later we had the bolshevik nationalism and German national socialism.

After the WWII there was a big effort to restore European values but due to the results of the WWII Europe became divided by a cold war. In the communist countries there were resistance movements in East Germany in 1953, in Hungary in 1956 and in Czechoslovakia 1968 but all of them were crushed.

After the fall of communism, in 1989, a new hope for Europe emerged. We need the vertical dimension, and we need to come back to the roots of Europe and renew the soul and heart of Europe again, concluded Hon. Herman his speech.

Video: <https://youtu.be/ByhvoJEq4M>

Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/GiHLQ1wCpMMXP6et9>