

Indirect Translations and Non-Translation: The (Fateful) Adventures of Czech Literature in 20th-century Portugal, a pioneering study of the destiny of Czech and Slovak literature in 20th-century Portugal, is a gripping read for anyone seeking to look into intercultural exchanges in Europe beyond the so-called dominant or central cultures. Concentrating on relations between two medium-sized lingua- and socio-cultures via translation, this book discusses and thoroughly investigates indirect translations and the resulting phenomenon of indirect reception, the role of paratexts in evading censorship, surprising non-translation, and by extension, the impact of political ideology on the translation of literature. In drawing on the work of Jiří Levý and Anton Popovič, two outstanding Czechoslovak translation theorists, this book opens up new avenues of research, both theoretically and methodologically. As a whole, the author paints a much broader picture than might be expected. Scholars in areas as diverse as translation studies, comparative literature, reception studies, Czech literature and Portuguese culture will find inspiration in this book. By researching translation in two would-be totalitarian regimes, this monograph ultimately contributes to a better understanding of the international book exchanges in the 20th century between two non-dominant, or semi-peripheral, European cultures.

“In the age of globalization, relations between non-dominant cultures offer diversity and hope. This account of those forgotten dynamics is perceptive, in-depth, and creatively theorized. Dealing with a difficult period of would-be totalitarian regimes, it tells a tale of indirect translations, censorship, surprising non-censorship, and messages that somehow got through.”

—Anthony Pym, President of the European Society for Translation Studies Intercultural Studies Group

“A must in order to understand the ways texts and cultures are exported to foreign language contexts. By focusing on Czech texts translated in 20th century Portugal, Špírk walks us through indirect translations, censorship, paratexts, ideologies... all solidly grounded in the theoretical and methodological work of Jiří Levý and Anton Popovič.”

—Rosa Rabadán, Full Professor in Translation Studies, University of León, Spain

“The study of European intercultural contacts through translation has regularly privileged central or dominant cultures. Historical contacts between peripheries have hardly been investigated in depth. This is one of the reasons why Jaroslav Špírk’s book, focusing on the translation of Czech literature into Portuguese in the 20th century, must be regarded as a pioneering work that will certainly set up a model for future research.”

—João Ferreira Duarte, Full Professor in Translation Studies, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Jaroslav Špírk teaches translation and interpreting at the Institute of Translation Studies at Charles University in Prague. In his MA thesis, he explored the contribution of Anton Popovič to Translation Studies. His paper on the topic appeared in *Target 21:1* (2009). For his PhD thesis, he investigated Portuguese translations of Czech literature.

Cover image: *The Burning of Jan Hus at the Stake*, 1485, from *Speizer Chronik* by Diebold Schilling the Elder

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