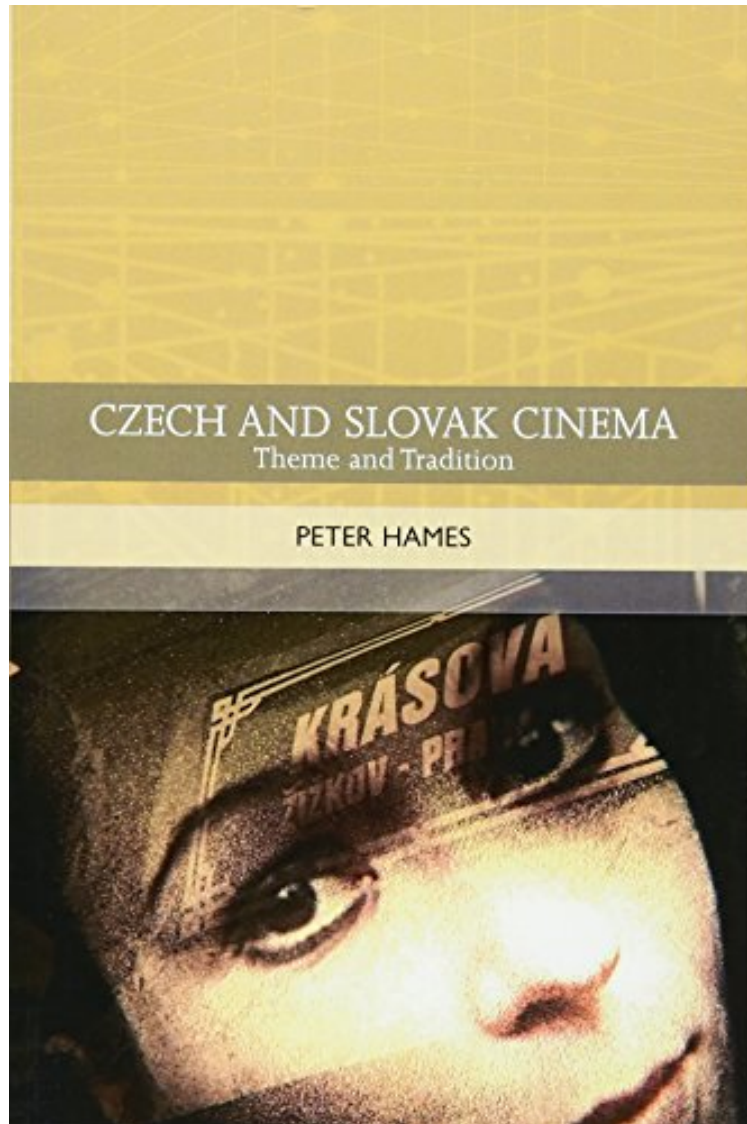


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## Czech and Slovak Cinema: Theme and Tradition (Traditions in World Cinema)

*Peter Hames*

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**Peter Hames : Czech and Slovak Cinema: Theme and Tradition (Traditions in World Cinema)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Czech and Slovak Cinema: Theme and Tradition (Traditions in World Cinema):

1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Traditionally tame? By Dr Ren Codoni Peter Hames-Czech and Slovak cinema: Theme and Tradition (2009) This is the first study in English to link Czech and Slovak films of the pre-

and post-war periods with developments in contemporary cinema. It examines the political and cultural factors - rule by the Habsburg Empire, independence in 1918, Nazi occupation and Soviet domination, and the eighteen years since the 'Velvet Revolution' - that have shaped typical themes and approaches to film making. The main focus is on the different movements and genres that have extended across all historical periods, including comedy, realism, and lyricism. There is a special chapter on Holocaust films as well as extended chapters on the historical and political film. The strong tradition in animated film is reconsidered, alongside the continuing impact of the avant-garde and Surrealism. The book examines the work of a wide range of directors, including: the comedies of Martin Fric in the 1930s and 1940s, the Czech 'New Wave' directors of the 1960s such as Milos Forman, Vera Chytilova, and Jiri Menzel, the animated film from Jiri Trnka and Karel Zeman to Jan Svankmajer, and award-winning contemporary film makers such as Jan Sverak and Petr Zelenka. Features \* An overview of Czech and Slovak history and the development of the film industries \* A consideration of the relatively unknown area of pre-war cinema \* A comprehensive examination of the main themes, tendencies, and traditions in Czech and Slovak cinema \* A close analysis of feature films from different historical periods and genres \* The first extended English language consideration of the post-Communist period.

This book is the first study in English to examine some of the key themes and traditions of Czech and Slovak cinema, linking inter-war and post-war cinemas together with developments in the post-Communist period. It examines links between theme, genre, and visual style, and looks at the ways in which a range of styles and traditions has extended across different historical periods and political regimes. Czech and Slovak Cinema provides a unique study of areas of Central European film history that have not previously been examined in English.

Czech and Slovak Cinema is an invaluable introduction for the novice as well as an extremely useful reference book for advanced research in the area. Hames offers not only a well-balanced overview of important themes, styles, and personalities in Czech and Slovak film but does so in a spirit of good-humored critique that never mistakes hagiography for history or description for analysis. (David Sorfa Slavic) About the Author Peter Hames is Honorary Research Associate in Film and Media Studies at the Staffordshire University