

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ix

Abbreviations xi

Introduction. Postwar Czechoslovakia: The Master Key to Europe? 3

1. Resurrecting Czechoslovakia from Its Munich Grave 17
2. General Eisenhower Declines to Liberate Prague 32
3. Spring 1945: The Americans Return to the Schönborn Palace 55
4. Ambassador Steinhardt's Delayed Arrival 67
5. A Chronicle of Wasted Opportunities 81
6. Steinhardt Encounters Reality: Nationalization, Expulsions, and U.S. Military Withdrawal 95
7. America's Warning Signs: From the Štěchovice Raid to the May 1946 Elections 112
8. Great Expectations and Lost Illusions: U.S. Intelligence in Postwar Prague 142
9. Passing the Point of No Return: Prague Withdraws from the Marshall Plan 162
10. The Communists Exchange Popularity for Absolute Power 183
11. The Schönborn Palace under Siege: Americans as "Spies and Saboteurs" 203

Notes 233

Sources 271

Index 273