



# Lives of People with Disabilities

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Karel Pancocha

## 16th century - BRNO



An asylum was founded in Brno in 1582. First non-church institution.

People with disabilities and mental illnesses were exhibited in cages as curiosities during the town markets.

## 18th century – VIENNA



The famous “Narrenturm“ or madhouse tower in Vienna, the capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire was constructed in 1784.

## 19<sup>th</sup> century - Prague



Saint Catherine Asylum in Prague founded in 1822 for 260 residents.



## 20<sup>th</sup> century

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1909 – first congress of remedial (special) school teachers  
12 000 students identified to have special needs.  
18% of all school children

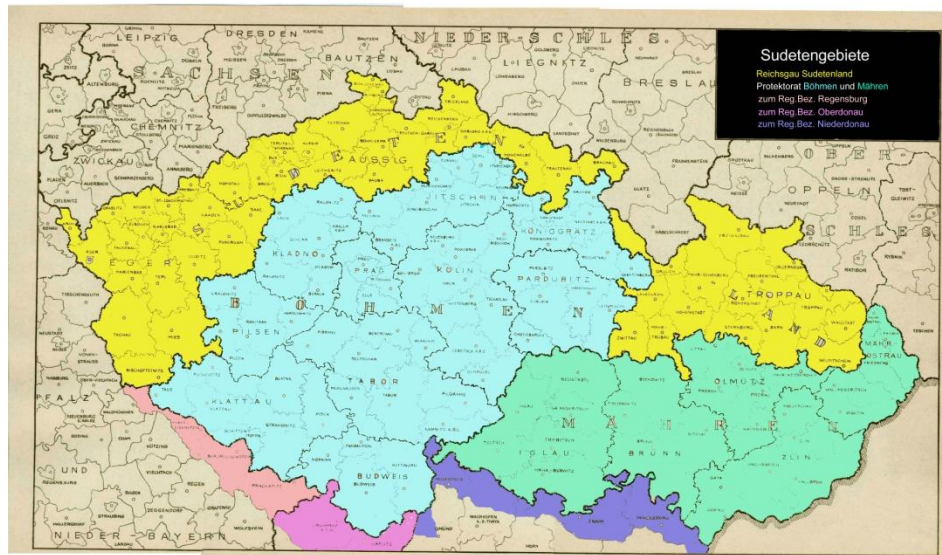
1913 – Jedlicka Institute for children and adults with physical disabilities (education, medical care, and social care)

1918 – Czechoslovakia becomes independent state

1919 – Kocianka Institute in Brno (education and work opportunities for people with disabilities)

20's and 30's – development of remedial (special) schools

# Nazi occupation 1938 – 1945



- Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia
- Schools and institution for people with disabilities lack finance, often relocated or closed down

# Communist regime 1948 - 1989



The myth of the worker,  
health, happiness,  
full employment,  
and manual work



## Communist era 1948 – 1989

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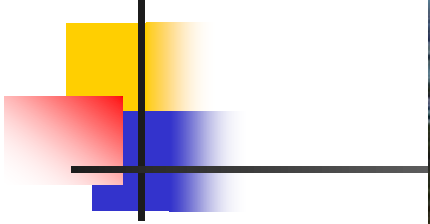
Children with mild/moderate disabilities – self containing schools

Children with moderate/severe – institutionalized, not educated,  
medical care only

Adults with disabilities - institutionalized

\*parents officially encouraged by physicians to give their children  
with disabilities to institutions







## 1990 - present

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- 1992 – new constitution written, Article 33 – free, appropriate education for all
- 1991 – Special Education Centers established  
assessment, counseling, integration
- 1992 – integration for children with special needs except children with intellectual disabilities
- 1998 – classes for children with severe disabilities
- 2002 – integration for children with intellectual disabilities approved



## 1990 - present

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2004 – School Act – LRE, preferably integration

2005 – All special school renamed to Primary schools

2005 – Social Services Act – eligible people receive financial support to purchase social services (home care, housing, rehabilitation, etc.)



# Enduring problems

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- **Special schools**

  - 32 000 children is special schools**

  - 38 000 is special classrooms**

- **Adults with disabilities in large institutions**

  - **High unemployment**

- **Image of people with disabilities in the majority society**