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The history of the castle began in when its first walled building, the Church of the Virgin Mary , was built. Wenceslas in the first half of the 10th century. The first convent in Bohemia was founded in the castle, next to the church of St. A Romanesque palace was erected here during the 12th century. Medieval castle[edit] King Ottokar II of Bohemia improved fortifications and rebuilt the royal palace for the purposes of representation and housing. In the 14th century, under the reign of Charles IV the royal palace was rebuilt in Gothic style and the castle fortifications were strengthened. In place of rotunda and basilica of St. Vitus began building of a vast Gothic church, that were completed almost six centuries later. During the Hussite Wars and the following decades, the castle was not inhabited. New defence towers were also built on the north side of the castle. A large fire in destroyed large parts of the castle. Under the Habsburgs , some new buildings in Renaissance style were added. Ferdinand I built the Belvedere as a summer palace for his wife Anne. Rudolph II used Prague Castle as his main residence. He founded the northern wing of the palace, with the Spanish Hall , where his precious art collections were exhibited. During the subsequent wars, the Castle was damaged and dilapidated. The last major rebuilding of the castle was carried out by Empress Maria Theresa in the second half of the 18th century. Following his abdication in , and the succession of his nephew, Franz Joseph , to the throne, the former emperor, Ferdinand I , made Prague Castle his home. Presidential residence[edit] In , the castle became the seat of the president of the new Czechoslovak Republic , T. In this period the St Vitus Cathedral was finished on September 28, On March 15, , shortly after the Nazi Germany forced Czech President Emil Hacha who suffered a heart attack during the negotiations to hand his nation over to the Germans, Adolf Hitler spent a night in the Prague Castle, "proudly surveying his new possession. According to a popular rumor, he is said to have placed the Bohemian crown on his head; old legends say a usurper who places the crown on his head is doomed to die within a year. Architectural styles of Prague Castle[edit] Saint Vitus Cathedral Main nave of the cathedral The castle buildings represent virtually every architectural style of the last millennium. George , a monastery and several palaces, gardens and defense towers. Most of the castle areas are open to tourists. The castle houses several museums, including the National Gallery collection of Bohemian baroque and mannerism art, exhibition dedicated to Czech history, Toy Museum and the picture gallery of Prague Castle, based on the collection of Rudolph II.

Prague Castle (Czech: Pražský hrad; [ˈpraʃskiː ˈɦrat]) is a castle complex in Prague, Czech Republic, dating from the 9th century. It is the official office of the President of the Czech Republic. The castle was a seat of power for kings of Bohemia, Holy Roman emperors, and presidents of Czechoslovakia.

To soak up the Advent atmosphere. To enjoy the Prague Castle and city viewsâ€¦ Object history National cultural monument, the symbol of more than millennial development of the Czech state. Since its foundation in the last quarter of the 9th century it has been developing uninterrupted throughout the past eleven centuries. Originally it used to be the residence of princes and kings of Bohemia, since it is the seat of the president. It spreads on the area of 45 hectares. It was the seat of the Bohemian princes, kings, and emperors, and after the republic was established in , it has also been the seat of the presidents. The first princely palace was probably made of wood. The first stone building and the oldest Christian sanctuary was the Virgin Mary Church. The second church within the Castle premises was the St. George Basilica established by prince Vratislav I. In , when the episcopate was established in Prague, Prague Castle was not only the seat of the head of the state, but also the seat of the Prague bishop, the highest representative of the church. At the same time, the first Bohemian monastery was founded by the St. In the 10th century, the Castle took up approximately 6 hectares. The appearance of Prague Castle was very markedly affected by the Gothic era, namely by Charles IV - , who succeeded in persuading the pope to promote the Prague episcopate to archiepiscopate, together with his father John of Bohemia John the Blind - , and he laid the foundation stone to the building of the St. During the reign of Charles IV, the Castle for the first time became an imperial residence. He covered the roofs of the spires by gold-plated metal sheets, which gave rise to the saying Gold Prague. In , Bohemian rulers moved their residence away from Prague Castle for more than years. Royal court was located in what is today the Municipal House, and only returned to Prague Castle in with Vladislav from the Jagiellon family. Although the ruler moved to Buda in , he arranged for rebuilding of Prague Castle in late-Gothic style under the command of Benedikt Ried. He was the builder of the magnificent Vladislav Hall, the greatest profane vaulted premises in the contemporary Europe, with which the first marks of Renaissance arrived at Prague. He carried out generous constructional modifications, including the building of new fortifications, defence towers and extending the royal palace. In this era, Gothic was receding and new building style Renaissance started to leak in. Extensive building activity was brought about by the fire in , which greatly damaged the objects within the Castle and around it. Both the residential premises and the church objects were re-built within the framework of the restoration. The stables were built in the North-West. During the reign of emperor Rudolf II - , the Renaissance and Mannerist reconstruction of the Castle was at its peak, and the Castle became for the second time the centre of European culture and science. Moreover, further stables were built for his unique Spanish horses. The Castle suffered bad damage when it was seized and plundered by the Saxon army in , and then by the Swedes in . The reason for such massive building action was in war damages caused by extensive bombing of the Castle in the war conflicts in the beginning of her reign. The Chapel of the Holy Cross on the second castle courtyard and other buildings, namely the Institute for Noble Women, were also built in the Theresian reconstruction era. After , the Association for the completion of St. Vitus Temple was founded, and it was first repaired, and then actually completed in , under the care of architect Josef Mocker. After , Prague Castle was opened to public in many locations. The mosaic of the Last Judgement was restored in cooperation with the Getty Institute professionals. Since , Prague Castle has been furnished with floodlighting, activated every day after dusk until midnight, or until 1 a. Floodlighting similar to the current one was installed at the end of the 60s, yet it was only activated on festive occasions, such as national holidays or important days of the republic. Over the past years, reconstruction has started in many castle objects, and much attention was paid to archaeological research, which has been in progress since and has brought about many findings about the Castle history. Research and restoration of the individual premises and objects after has been guided by the idea of revival via the greatest possible opening for public.

Chapter 3 : Praha - Wikimedia Commons

The ancient city of Prague can boast some of the most magnificent palaces in all Europe. Built between the Middle Ages and the nineteenth century, and spanning diverse architectural styles - from Gothic to Rococo, from Baroque to Neoclassical - these palaces are beautifully photographed and their history explored in this important new book.

Physical and human geography The landscape From its original small riverside settlements, Prague has spread over its hills, up river valleys, and along riverside terraces. The Prague metropolitan area covers square miles square kilometres. Surrounding this area is the outer city development zone, and beyond this is yet another zone of development containing new industrial areas, parks and recreation areas, and sports facilities. The people Prague has a homogeneous population. There is a small Slovak community, but the overwhelming majority of residents are Czechs. The city has a number of demographic peculiarities stemming mainly from the effects of World War II; there are more women than men, and a sizable proportion of the female population is past the age of fertility. The natural rate of population increase is very small. A tendency toward small families is a reflection of both difficulties in housing and increased participation by both parents in the workforce. Migration into the city has continued. The economy Industry and employment Though Prague is renowned for its cultural life and monuments, it has also played an important role in the economic life of what is now the Czech Republic since the early and intensive development in the 19th century of such industries as those producing textiles and machinery. Industry is the largest employer, followed by commerce, construction, education, culture, administration, and transport and communications. Nearly half the labour force is female; the proportion of women is almost one-half in manufacturing, but it is considerably higher in education and culture, in trade, and in the health field. In manufacturing, the production of machinery occupies the majority of workers, followed, in about equal numbers, by the production of food, electronics, and chemicals. Transportation Much of the inner-city transportation is handled by bus, tram, and subway metro systems, which are inexpensive and subsidized. Despite the efforts to meet the demands of the growing population with an adequate public transportation system, the number of passenger cars and commercial vehicles has increased, resulting in plans for a major urban motorway system to include 10 radial arteries connecting Prague with the national road network. A new port has been built at the confluence of the Vltava and Berounka rivers. The passenger boats that ply the Vltava during the summer are a popular tourist attraction. Administration and social conditions Government Prague is the seat of government of the entire Czech Republic. The city is also the administrative centre for the Central Bohemian Region, of which the conurbation occupies about one-third. Prague is divided into districts, each with its own district national committee, while the settlements included in Prague since the late s have retained their own committees. Public services The standard municipal services—the supply of natural gas, electricity, and water and the treatment and disposal of sewage and refuse—were consolidated under state control after World War II and have been considerably modernized and expanded as part of overall urban planning. The high percentage of employed women has caused municipal authorities to turn attention toward the provision of nurseries for the children of working mothers. Other facilities include swimming pools, often run in conjunction with sports organizations. On the river the city provides mooring positions for pleasure boats. Like cities in other eastern European countries, Prague has difficulties with the supply and maintenance of housing. Much of the housing in the inner city consists of small apartments in need of renovation and modernization, while the rate of construction of apartments in the newer zones lags behind the need. In response to the problem, new housing developments have been built in the peripheral areas. During the Communist era, all retail establishments—food and department stores and self-service establishments—were publicly owned and were part of the municipal system. Education There are several institutions of higher education in Prague, but by far the most famous is Charles University, founded in and the oldest in central Europe. The Academy of Arts and the Academy of Music with a conservatory founded in are also important. The activity of the Czech Academy of Sciences founded in as the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences is supplemented by many specialized institutions; the academy sponsors a number of international congresses. Higher education in the

city benefits from a tradition that can count among its scholars and teachers the great 17th-century astronomers Tycho Brahe and Johannes Kepler and the noted modern physicist Albert Einstein , who taught in Prague in 1921. These include hospitals, specialized medical clinics, and outpatient clinics. The most noted facilities are those that specialize in plastic surgery , orthopedics, and urology. Cultural life Prague has a renowned and active musical life, which reaches a high point each year in the internationally known spring music festival. Theatrical traditions are also strong, with more than 20 well-attended theatres in the city. There are also many museums and galleries, and a Palace of Culture was completed in 1965. Perhaps the greatest treasures of the city, however, are the 2, officially recognized architectural and artistic monuments, ranging in period from the Romanesque through the Gothic to the Baroque, Rococo, Classical, and Neoclassical. The interiors of the buildings, which often house major art collections, have been restored since 1945. The most notable Romanesque monument is probably the 10th-century Church of St. To the west is its more massive successor, the basically Gothic St. Agnes Convent, built in 1265 and notable for its collection of 14th-century paintings. The film studios at Barrandov, on the city outskirts, have produced a number of high-quality motion pictures, and there is a museum of modern sculpture at Zbraslav. The region is replete with Paleolithic relics, and Neolithic farmers inhabited the region from about 4000 to 2000 bce. From the 4th to the 6th century ce, Slavs appeared on the Vltava banks, followed by the Avars. The first settlement at what is now Prague has been traced to the second half of the 9th century. The dynasty included St. Medieval growth The economic expansion of the community was reflected in the topography of the city. By the Old Town had been given borough status and was defended by a system of walls and fortifications. His son, Charles IV , Bohemian king and Holy Roman emperor, had his capital at Prague from 1346 to 1378 and took considerable personal interest in the development of the city. In 1348 he founded Charles University , the first in central Europe, which was later to attract scholars and students from throughout the Continent. Other buildings included the Carolinum the central hall of the university , the town hall destroyed in 1914, and several churches and monasteries in the New Town. The Jewish ghetto was also developed, and the bishopric was raised to an archbishopric in 1300. Foreign merchants, notably Germans and Italians, became economically and politically powerful in uneasy alliance with the kings. The social order, however, became less stable because of the emergent guilds of craftsmen, themselves often torn by internal conflicts. The town paupers added a further volatile element. The sermons of Jan Hus , a scholar at the university, begun in 1409 at the now-restored Bethlehem Chapel and carrying forward the criticisms of the church developed by the English reformer John Wycliffe , endeared him to the common people but brought him into conflict with Rome; he was burned at the stake in the town of Constance Konstanz, Germany in 1415. The merchants and the mostly German, Spanish, and Italian nobility who were active in and around Prague in this period had an enormous effect on both architecture and cultural life. Outstanding architects created magnificent palaces and gardens, and churches in the Prague version of the Baroque style sprang up throughout the city. The onset of the Industrial Revolution had major effects in Prague. The population exceeded 100,000 by 1850, and expansion continued after the city received its first railway eight years later. The rise of a working class and of strong nationalistic sentiments had a profound effect on the city; students, artisans, and workers took to the barricades against the ruling Austrians when revolution flared briefly in 1848. Within 20 years Czechs had won a majority on the City Council, and Czech cultural life was experiencing a renaissance centred on Prague. The Neoclassical building of the National Museum and the National Theatre are only two examples of the building that took place in this period. In 1890 Prague became the capital of the newly independent Czechoslovak republic. By 1918 the population had reached 500,000. The city suffered a setback following the surrender of large parts of Bohemia and Moravia to Germany under the Munich Agreement of 1938. The citizens rose in revolt on May 5, 1945, and held the city until the Red Army arrived four days later. After World War II economic reconstruction began, careful planning was necessary to restore and preserve the historic monuments of the city centre. From the 1950s there was an increasing emphasis on the development of new satellite communities. The city continued to grow, although most of its population growth was attributable to annexation. An officially sanctioned march in the city, commemorating the death of a student at the hands of Nazis in 1939, resulted in police violence and public disorder. Indignation at the current regime kindled further unrest, and in the second half of November 1989 students, young intellectuals , and later older people, totaling some half a

million, demonstrated in the streets of the capital. Subsequent pressure led to the resignation of the entire Communist Party leadership and the formation of a coalition government headed by noncommunists. When Czechoslovakia itself was dissolved into its constituent republics on January 1, 1993, Prague maintained its prominent international status as capital of the Czech Republic. Throughout the 1990s Prague underwent a cultural, economic, and political transformation. The stock market opened for the first time since World War II, the city was modernized, and it became a major tourist destination. [Learn More](#) in these related Britannica articles:

Chapter 4 : Lobkowitz Palace | House of Lobkowitz

The palace first housed the archbishop in the mid 16th century and is still in use today and lived in by the Archbishop of Prague. Even Pope John Paul II stayed there in his visit to the country.

It is one of the best lookout places in Prague. The Castle Square is the large area in front of the Prague Castle entrance gate. There are several important palaces in various architectural styles there. The square maintained its arrangement from the middle ages. There is a Marian Column in the middle of the Castle Square. It was made by F. Brokoff in and it allegedly also expresses intercession of Castle District citizens for a son and heir of Emperor Charles VI. You can also see a statue of the first Czechoslovakian president T. Masaryk at the Castle Square. The Sternberg Palace No. Old European art is exhibited there. It is one of the largest buildings in the Castle District. Originally an aristocratic residence built in , it is being modified for the National Gallery in Prague at the present time. The Empire Salm Palace No. A gateway between the Lesser Town and the Castle District used to stand there in the past. Another staircase, leading from the square to the Lesser Town, starts at the lookout ramp. It was built in Renaissance style in the 16th century for the imperial vice-regent Borita of Martinic. It was probably intended as a glorification of the vice-regent. John of Nepomuk reportedly used to live. The Tuscany Palace No. It was built in Baroque manner by J. Mathey between and Statues by Jan Brokoff decorate it. Tuscan dukes possessed the palace for two centuries since

Chapter 5 : Category:Palaces in Prague - Wikimedia Commons

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Chapter 6 : Lobkowitz Palace (Prague) - All You Need to Know BEFORE You Go (with Photos) - TripAdvisor

the book is beautifully presented and the photographs are done very well. the only book that i have gotten lately that could surpass this is on rosenborg in copenhagen, but it's like comparing apples and oranges. here you have taken an entire city and it's history and presented it to the reader with magnificent panache. rosenborg is just one.

Chapter 7 : Prague Castle (Praha sk hrad) - blog.quintoapp.com

Best Part of the Prague Castle Experience Is Lobkowitz Palace! This was a delightful experience. It contains art and other objects rich in the history of the Czech Republic.

Chapter 8 : Category:Palaces in Prague - Wikipedia

The Old Royal Palace is one of the oldest parts of Prague Castle, dating from It was originally used only by Czech princesses, but from the 13th to the 16th centuries it was the king's own palace. At its heart is the grand Vladislav Hall and the Bohemian Chancellery, scene of the famous Defenestration of Prague in

Chapter 9 : Prague Castle - Prague Experience

Prague Castle was most likely founded in around by Prince Bořivoj of the Premyslid Dynasty (Přemyslovci). According to the Guinness Book of World Records, Prague Castle is the largest coherent castle complex in the world, with an area of almost 70, m².