

In Prague, 13.5.2018

**Subject:** Open letter to Russian authors

Dear Russian authors,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Hynek Mařák and I am a debuting writer. As a citizen, I honor the values of a pluralistic, civilized world with a tendency toward factual argumentation and tolerance of other opinions. I consider myself to be a follower of democracy. Today, democracy is considered by many to be a political order that is going through a historical crisis. I do not agree with this opinion and my tolerance to statements on the value crisis of the Western civilization that I belong to has certain boundaries. Therefore I have decided as a citizen-writer to enter the public debate with my contribution – an open letter that I send to you.

Tolerance in my view does not mean weakness. It does, however, require consistency and the courage to protest against unacceptable opinions. Too great an effort toward balance at any cost leads to absurdities, in which nonsense is often presented to the public as a scientific opinion that cannot be interpreted in any other way than a conscious lie. This nonsense is presented by the media as an acceptable option built upon historically recognized facts. I have experienced this recently. Specifically, I am thinking of the TV show 90' on CT24, when the moderators invited a deceitful Stalinist to a discussion on Stalin. He claimed that the death rate in the Soviet Gulags was no higher than in the rest of the country and completely neglected the fact of illegal imprisonment. One of the four guests was also an economist and political scientist who was presented as a representative of the Russian elite, Michael Chazin, who cooperates with the Russian Center of Science and Culture in Prague. During the discussion, he portrayed Stalin several times in a manner that is inconsistent with the historical opinion of the majority of the scientific community and downplayed his direct influence on the deaths of millions of people. Chazin compared hunger in Soviet Russia to famine in the same period in the United States. I do not know what historical sources he was drawing from, but for me, Stalin remains a mass murderer who headed a state that endorsed communist ideology. I believe that Mr Chazin's disgusting arrogance towards the victims of Stalin's terror is a warning signal and an insult to all the victims of communism and he deserves a response in the sense of being corrected concerning facts that are rooted in reality.

<http://rsvk.cz/cs/blog/2018/03/03/znamy-rusky-ekonom-michail-chazin-vystoupil-v-rsvk-v-praze/>

I admit that my own views on the topics discussed converge with the opinions of his television opponent Alexei Kelin and I am calling Michael Chazin's activity a subversion or an effort to obscure the true state of affairs and relativise historical facts by deliberately providing false information. According to Michael Chazin, liberal ideology in the current world has three competitors. These are nationalism, religious fundamentalism, and communism, and we are now witness to their rebirth. I do not fully identify with his view – I place communism on the

same level as Nazism / Fascism, and I do not wish for the reincarnation of either. While the ideology of Nazism can be seen to have been defeated by the Nuremberg trials, there has been no catharsis in Communist ideology. So what is my contribution to this discussion? With reference to previous diverse evaluations of historical events or the characters of the past century, I offer my novel as an original perspective on recent history. In my story, which begins roughly in October 1917 with the Bolshevik Revolution, I deliberately combined fiction with the reality of the past century while reaching an end in the third volume that culminates in the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989 and the coming out from long decades of lost freedom.

The main topic of my trilogy is a Faustian concept of a story taking place in the environment of the former Soviet Union and is partially inspired by the legacy of classic Russian literature. I have labeled the whole project as a work of multimedia and, briefly speaking, it is made up of the following sections:

1. Introducing the prototype version of my dynamic e-book
2. Announcement of the literary competition to all Russian writers – in the position of author, I am announcing a literary competition whose main topic is the re-creation of the figure of Alyosha Karamazov, who is set into the plot of building communism behind the Iron Curtain.
3. The completion of the Zaggabirozzi trilogy as follows:

**Part I: Zaggabirozzi – Land of the Anitchrist** (already long in print as an e-book – I am now searching for finances for translations into English, Polish, and Russian)

**Part II: Zaggabirozzi - Chaos** (not finished)

**Part III: Zaggabirozzi – Apocalypse** (not finished)

Bonus: Jesus Smart Superstar Rock Opera

As an author, I am using this act to express my opinion about today's political situation and am building on the introductory theme of the letter – to initiate a literary dialogue in the form of a competition in the perspective of recent history. It is not my goal to bend and distort this history according to current needs. On the contrary, the objective is a substantive dialogue in the form of a novel on the theme of the revolutionary 20<sup>th</sup> century. In this, my goal corresponds to the motto of the Svět knihy (Book World) Festival and my belief that a critical view of the past will provide us with a complete understanding of today.

Within the order of the current world, I understand Russia uniquely as a driving force of world powers. My personal view of world literature is profiled in a similar manner: without Bulgakov and Dostoevsky, to me it would not seem to exist at all. With the intent to express this honor to the Russian authors who have inspired me, I appeal to all Russian writers for a literary contest. Let's go back to the gloomy days of World War II and I'll draw you an Alyosha that will bring tears to your eyes. And I'll draw you Russians that you'll all be proud of. This intention will allow me to show the true motive that has given the Russian nation the strength to win. For this purpose, I have designed a scheme for the birth of a three-fold Alyosha for the planned second volume. I will support Alyosha's fate in the historically decisive moments for Russia via the idea of national unification and I will pay a tribute to Russia in the form of literature. This is an intellectual challenge to all Russians: Where is the one among you who will defeat me with a novel? I am announcing a competition. Show me – I'm calling! Where are you, the next

Pasternak, Bulgakov, Tolstoy, Solzhenitsyn, Chams? My jousting ground is literature and the written word. This is a gauntlet thrown in the form of a publicly announced contest – the first part of the trilogy called Zaggabirozzi – Land of the Antichrist. Who will make a better Alyosha from that era?

Allow me to begin my competition by bringing you a story from a country that has no exact borders or name. The name Land of the Antichrist serves as a universal and dynamic term that is not related to any specific territory, state, or nation. It merely represents a free name that localizes the bloody implementation of the experiment called communism.

What is the primary motive of my letter? My own literary ambition is to recreate the character of Alyosha Karamazov, to place this character in a novel, and by making this reference, pay tribute to F. M. Dostoevsky, his work, and his legacy of thought, which I consider to be alive and relevant in modern times. Dear writers, I have a long path ahead of me before completing my trilogy, the concept of which I have briefly outlined to you here. The outcome of my story culminates in the victory of good over evil and the victory of freedom and law over the criminal regime that arose from communist ideology.

From this point of view, at the time of our communist experience, we grew up under heresy as faith in Christ was punishable by law. My intention is to show love, or faith in Christ, as a major driving force. I firmly believe that I am building upon the message made by F. M. Dostoevsky in Alyosha, the character of his novel. In the spirit of the aim of the Svět knihy Festival to react to the revolutionary 20<sup>th</sup> century, I reveal to you my suggestion: let us look together at the events of the past century in Russia, the Soviet Union, and the states behind the Iron Curtain through the eyes of Alyosha Karamazov and, with his own humility, let us seek truth, mutual respect, and forgiveness.

Best regards,  
Hynek Mařák

The attachment contains the original copy of the first volume in the Czech language and links to my work in Czech, English, and Russian

Translated to English: Mr. Skyland Vaclav Kobylak

**Links in Czech:**

<http://www.databook.cz/marak-hynek>

<http://www.databook.cz/zaggabirozzi-zeme-antikrista-3550>

**Links in English:**

<http://www.databook.cz/data/6/f/1520002615.trilogy-synopsis.pdf>

<http://www.databook.cz/data/6/f/1520002573.multimedia-novel-essay.pdf>

**Links in Russian:**

<http://www.databook.cz/data/6/f/1520002707.a-.pdf>