



Jiří Weil
Lamentation
for 77,297 Victims

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Jiří Weil

Translated from the Czech by David Lightfoot

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Charles University
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www.karolinum.cz
ebooks@karolinum.cz

This is a highly dense index page with a large number of entries. The text is organized into columns and rows, with many entries starting with red-colored words. The entries appear to be a mix of names, titles, and possibly dates or locations, though the text is too small to read clearly. The overall layout is that of a traditional printed index.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jiří Weil (1900–1959) was a Jewish Czech writer, translator, and essayist.

Born into an upper-middle class family in the small Central Bohemian village of Praskolesy, Jiří Weil moved to Prague to study Slavic philology and comparative literature at Charles University; in 1928 he earned his doctorate. A committed leftist at the time, he translated for the press department of the Soviet trade representation in Prague when he was still a student.

In 1933 the Czechoslovak Communist Party sent Weil to Moscow to work as a translator for the Comintern. His harrowing experiences in the Soviet Union inspired him to write *From Moscow to the Border* (1937) upon his return; fiercely critical of Stalinism, the novel resulted in his expulsion from the Communist Party.

Having narrowly escaped Stalin's purges, Weil's life was again in jeopardy when Nazi Germany invaded Czechoslovakia the following year. During the occupation, Weil was assigned to work in Prague's Jewish Museum, where confiscated Jewish property was processed. To avoid being transported to the concentration camps, Weil faked his own suicide.

After the war, Weil would return to Prague's Jewish Museum to work as its senior librarian. Although Weil had mentioned Judaism only once in his writings before World War II, it now became the focus of his writing. His most famous novel, 1949's *Life with a Star*, was criticized both by the ruling Communists and by members of the Jewish community. This novel, as well as Weil's anti-Stalinist stances, led him to be expelled out of the Czechoslovak Writers' Union in 1951. *Life with a Star* is now considered a classic, championed by writers like Philip Roth.

Weil's oeuvre is notable for its range of styles, from the documentary fiction of *Memories of Julius Fučík* to the experimental prose poem *Lamentation for 77, 297 Victims*. A common thread in his work, however, is a brave stance against the horrors of totalitarianism.

