

The Trump Family's Relationship to the Czech Republic

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Bachelor's Thesis
2021



Tomas Bata University in Zlín
Faculty of Humanities

Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně

Fakulta humanitních studií

Ústav moderních jazyků a literatur

Akademický rok: 2020/2021

ZADÁNÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE (projektu, uměleckého díla, uměleckého výkonu)

Jméno a příjmení: **Aneta Rylková**
Osobní číslo: **H170187**
Studijní program: **B7310 Filologie**
Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk pro manažerskou praxi**
Forma studia: **Prezenční**
Téma práce: **Trumpova rodina a její vztah k České republice**

Zásady pro vypracování

Shromáždění materiálů k tématu
Studium odborné literatury
Formulace cílů práce
Analýza shromážděných materiálů
Vyvození a formulace závěrů práce

Forma zpracování bakalářské práce: **Tištěná/elektronická**
Jazyk zpracování: **Angličtina**

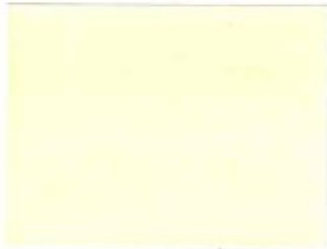


Seznam doporučené literatury:

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D'Antonio, Michael. *Never Enough: Donald Trump and the Pursuit of Success*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2015.
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Trump, Donald, and Tony Schwartz. *Trump: The Art of the Deal*. New York: Random House, 1987.
Trump, Ivana. *Raising Trump*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2017.

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: **Mgr. Oldřich Kopeček**
Ústav moderních jazyků a literatur

Datum zadání bakalářské práce: **9. listopadu 2020**

Termín odevzdání bakalářské práce: **10. května 2021**

		
Mgr. Libor Marek, Ph.D. děkan		doc. Mgr. Roman Trušník, Ph.D. ředitel ústavu

Ve Zlíně dne 5. března 2021

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ABSTRAKT

Tato bakalářská práce zkoumá vztahy a souvislosti rodiny Donalda Trumpa s Českou republikou. První část práce se zaměřuje na rodinu Donalda Trumpa a rodinu Ivany Trumpové zvlášť a odhaluje rozdíly mezi Amerikou a tehdejší Českosloveskou republikou. V další části se pak věnuje rodině Trumpových a jejich dětem, které spojuje právě Ivana a její rodiče pocházející z Československé republiky. Poslední část práce se zabývá rodinným podnikáním, ve kterém pracovali nebo stále pracují všichni členové rodiny a dále politickým vztahům rodiny Trumpových ve spojitosti s Českou republikou.

Klíčová slova: Československá republika, komunismus, Amerika, Trump

ABSTRACT

This bachelor's thesis examines the relationships and links of Donald Trump's family with the Czech Republic. The first part of the thesis focuses separately on Donald Trump's family and Ivana Trump's family and reveals the differences between America and the then Czechoslovak Republic. The next part is devoted to Trump's family and their children, who are united by Ivana and her parents from the Czechoslovak Republic. The last part of the thesis handles the family business in which all family members worked or still work, and the Trump family's political relations connected to the Czech Republic.

Keywords: the Czechoslovak Republic, communism, America, Trump

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my gratitude to Mrg. Oldřich Kopeček for supervising my bachelor's thesis. I would not have been able to finish this thesis without his valuable advice and recommendations. I would also like to thank my family and friends for their support.

I hereby declare that the print version of my bachelor's thesis and the electronic version of my thesis deposited in the IS/STAG system are identical.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	9
1 TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS.....	10
1.1 DONALD TRUMP	10
1.1.1 Donald's lifeway	13
1.2 IVANA TRUMP.....	16
1.2.1 Czech Communist Party's secret police.....	20
1.3 BUILDING AN EMPIRE.....	21
1.4 IVANA AS U.S. CITIZEN	25
2 THEIR THREE CHILDREN.....	26
2.1 GROWING UP AS TRUMP	27
2.1.1 Bond with their Czech grandparents	28
2.2 FAMILY'S RELATIONSHIPS AFTER THE DIVORCE.....	30
2.2.1 Grandmother Marie	32
3 TRUMP FAMILY	34
3.1 FAMILY BUSINESS	34
3.1.1 Trump Organization	35
3.1.2 Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric as heirs of the Trump Organization.....	38
3.2 POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH THE CZECH REPUBLIC.....	40
3.2.1 Trump family's connection with Czechoslovakia's intelligence service.....	41
3.2.2 Trump's ties with KGB	42
3.2.3 Czechoslovakia's visit in Trump Tower	42
3.2.4 Ivana's political relations	43
3.2.5 Donald's connection with Miloš Zeman	44
3.2.6 Trump and Babiš meeting in the White House	45
CONCLUSION	46
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	48
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	52

INTRODUCTION

It is impossible not to know who Donald Trump or Ivana Trump is. Until recently, Donald Trump has been holding the post of President of the United States, and Ivana has been known as his former wife, who was raised in the communist Czechoslovak Republic and later became a part of American society. Also, their three children from their marriage are nowadays significant and appreciated figures in the business field.

For many years, even decades, Donald and Ivana have been under scrutiny. Many books were written, trying to uncover every aspect of Donald's life and the way from his early beginnings in Queens with his father, Fred Trump, to his successes on a global scale and his presidency. Ivana has also been an object of many kinds of research, trying to reveal her way from the state with the totalitarian regime to America and marrying Trump.

However, between Donald Trump and Ivana Trump is much more relations that should be further developed. Especially those which relates to their family roots. For this reason, this thesis aims to find a connection with the Trump family's ties to the Czech Republic and particularly to find possible roots of Donald Trump's former relations. Therefore, it is necessary, to begin with a closer view of differences in life in America and the then Czechoslovakia. Also, it is essential to delve into Ivana's childhood and look closer to how the communist state could influence her later life and possibly, also Donald's.

Consequently, the thesis focuses on Trump's three children who were closely linked with their grandparents in Czechoslovakia. In order to reveal that connection, it is important to know the background of their early years and focus on the relationships between Ivana's parents and the rest of Trump's family.

Finally, the thesis aims to the family business to discover possible relations which might influence Donald's deals and connected him with the interest of communists in Czechoslovakia. Also, it is necessary to know how deeply his three children were involved in the business because nowadays they are managing the family company. The last part of the thesis is also devoted to political connection with the Czech Republic, which reveals details that reach as far as Ivana's childhood. Because of her marriage with Donald Trump, these details are also rooted in Donald's life and develops further ties between Trump's relations to the Czech Republic.

1 TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS

Nowadays, the name Donald Trump can provoke a range scale of emotions and opinions. Despite being famously known for his achievements in the real estate business and as a celebrity, he got into people's subconsciousness as soon as his name became a symbol of America when he was elected as 45th president of the United States in 2016. Although he was born and lives in America, his family relates to the Czech Republic in many ways.

The reason for that is his former wife, Ivana Trump, who comes from the Czech Republic. Although she is a businesswoman who devoted her career to fashion, writing books, and even worked for Trump within his family business, she is widely known for being a woman who became the first wife of a global celebrity and the former president Donald Trump. Apart from that, Ivana is also a mother of his three eldest children Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric.¹

They both lived in different conditions, and both had different opportunities during their adolescence. Life in America and the Czech Republic was utterly different, but in the end, they both found a common desire to achieve something and arrange the life both dreamed of before.

1.1 Donald Trump

On June 14, 1946, Donald Trump was born in post-war America as a fourth child of Fred and Mary Trump. The era after World War II. was characterized as a baby boom because America's population rose by almost seventy-six million. For this reason, Donald was part of the most significant demographic cohort which appeared in American history.²

Life in post-war America was rapidly changing. Throughout the World War II. American factories were aimed to produce munitions and other necessities for the war. Therefore, before the war was finally over, there was a need to be prepared to reconvert the country's military production to civilian production, especially when millions of men were returning home from the war. The prediction of economists that America would suffer from another crisis that would cause mass unemployment and inflation was wrong. Instead of that,

¹ Dan Bilefsky and Hana de Goeij, "In Czech Republic, Some Hope a Trump Could Bring Star Power," *New York Times*, November 15, 2016, accessed January 5, 2020, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/16/world/europe/ivana-trump-ambassador-czech-republic.html?partner=bloomberg>.

² Gwenda Blair, *The Trumps: Three Generations That Built an Empire* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000), 223-225.

veterans could easily find a job, and factories converted to meet the needs of consumers instead of focusing on military production. The state also tried to help in the post-war period. It introduced Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans to ensure that veterans could buy a home and to cover the demand for housing, increasing in that time. Throughout the war years, Americans lived under restricted wartime policies that meant a shortage of common goods such as sugar, butter, milk, and many others because the quantity was limited. This situation changed after the war ended. People wanted to spend their saved-up money on goods which were finally available, including cars or furniture. The demand for consumer goods was growing since new homes were built and people needed appliances for furnishing their homes. Therefore, this era was characterized by new and innovative products such as washers, dryers, and many others. America, driven by all these circumstances, was starting to be prosperous. Therefore, by the end of the 1960s, it was ranked among other states as the world's wealthiest and most powerful nation.³

Before Donald was born, the Trump family was already wealthy since his father, Fred, already established himself as one of the most prominent businessmen and builders in the city. Throughout the war, when the Great Depression was at its peak in New York, he started to build his reputation with a project in the Jamaica Estates in Queens, where he built homes of either English Tudor or Georgia Colonial styles. Moreover, he was able to build them in several months. After the economy recovered from the Great Depression, Fred began to buy more properties and constructed even more homes in Queens. Later, he started to expand in the area of Brooklyn, where his sales of homes were counted in thousands.⁴

By the time he started to buy other properties in Brooklyn in an area of East Flatbush, he had commenced using Federal Housing Administration. The purpose of this was to stimulate the new era after the Great Depression and make it easier not only for buyers of homes but also for developers, builders, or construction workers to reduce costs that needed to be affordable for everyone.⁵

Moreover, when the FHA started to support constructing homes for veterans, Fred Trump began developing another big project, the Beach Heaven, to help cover the demand

³ Sarah Pruitt, "The Post World War II Boom: How America Got Into Gear," *History*, A&E Television Networks, May 14, 2020, accessed April 3, 2021, <https://www.history.com/news/post-world-war-ii-boom-economy>.

⁴ Michael Kranish and Marc Fisher, *Trump Revealed: An American Journey of Ambition, Ego, Money, and Power* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2016), 28-29.

⁵ Michael D'Antonio, *Never Enough: Donald Trump and the Pursuit of Success* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2015), 28-29, 32.

for housing them. Building thousands of new homes under the auspices of government FHA programs was his way of making a fortune.⁶

Throughout Donald's early childhood, the family lived in Jamaica Estates in a two-story Tudor house built about twenty years earlier by Fred himself. However, there was little space for parents and their four children, so Fred started to build their new house, big enough for him and his wife Mary, Donald and his siblings Maryanne, Fred Jr., and Elizabeth. Their new home was much larger than their previous one. It was situated on a boulevard called Midland Parkway, and it was finished when Mary was expecting their fifth child, Robert. Their new house was big enough to call it a mansion. It was a twenty-three-room and nine bathrooms house with a dominating red brick colonial-style structure, complemented with a portico-style entrance porch and a large garage. The house was so big that the Trump's maid named Emma and their chauffeur named George, who drove the family two Cadillac limousines, had their own rooms. While Fred was working about fourteen hours a day, driving around construction sites, and returning business-related phone calls, their mother, Mary, was also overwhelmed by work. Apart from taking care of five children with the help of their maid Emma, she was volunteering at Jamaica Hospital for the rest of the time.⁷

The wealth of the Trump's family was apparent for everyone, especially for their neighbours in Midland Parkway, where lawyers, doctors, and business executives were living. Trumps owned many things that almost nobody else in that time possessed or could afford, such as a personal chauffeur, two Cadillac limousines, a cook, a maid, an intercom system, or colour television.⁸ Fred Trump was rich and famous in New York by that time, and he made sure his success was visible. Except for material things suggesting his wealth, he also kept promoting his work with many billboards which advertised his buildings and were placed around Queens and Brooklyn neighbourhood. As a result of his fame, it was evident also in the lives of his children. All of Fred's children went to the private school in Kew Forest, and although they did not fully realize how privileged their family was at that time, their father's success distanced them in kind from other children.⁹

Despite the wealth, private schools, and family vacations either in Florida or the Catskills, Fred and Mary did not want to spoil their children. Both tried to run the household with the stress on children's discipline and indulgence. The parents required the children to

⁶ D'Antonio, *Never Enough*, 28-29, 32.

⁷ Blair, *The Trumps*, 225-227.

⁸ Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 32.

⁹ Blair, *The Trumps*, 231-232.

earn their own money to make sure they knew its value. During their school breaks, they were collecting empty bottles and returning them for a deposit. Fred taught his children about the importance of having ambitions, compliance with discipline, and hard work. He trained them for a life where competition is almost necessary to force people to even better and hard work. Consequently, his children could observe all these traits from their father since they accompanied him on construction sites or in an office if they wanted to spend time with him. He also tried to make them believe that they could and should achieve everything they want if they would work hard enough for it.¹⁰

However, each child made their way different in terms of what they had learned throughout childhood and inherited from parents. Maryanne went to study law and then started to work in the U.S. Attorney's Office on the federal prosecutor's post. Later, she was promoted and started to work as a federal judge. Elizabeth chose to work at Chase Manhattan Bank since she was not as ambitious as her siblings were. Fred Jr., the oldest of children, was supposed to work in a family business as a successor of Fred. He became Fred's assistant for a while, but later, it was apparent that he was not suited for this business and resigned from the family business to become a pilot. Furthermore, Robert helped to run a family business together with Donald.¹¹

1.1.1 Donald's lifeway

There is no doubt that the most significant influence leading to Donald ambitions and visions had his father, Fred, who taught him the basic things which helped Donald later. Because Donald was the one from his siblings who was like his father in terms of personal characteristics. He was ambitious and competitive and ready to use the things his father taught him from childhood. In the end, Donald was the one who took over the established family business and followed in his father's footsteps.

From childhood, Fred supported Donald in his interest in the business. Little Donald was going to construction sites with his father, where he could observe how his father handled employees, emphasized attention to every detail, and tried to cut costs as much as possible. The work was Fred's way of relating to his children, and Donald's relationship with his children about a decades later was much the same.¹²

¹⁰ D'Antonio, *Never Enough*, 39; Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 36-37.

¹¹ Donald Trump and Tony Schwartz, *Trump: The Art of the Deal* (New York: Random House, 1987), 69-70.

¹² Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 36.

Donald's first school, which he attended was the private one named Kew-Forest School, but Donald did not attend it long. Because of his rebellious character and breaking the rules given at school, Fred decided to transfer him to the New York Military Academy, a place attended by children of wealthy people to teach them discipline. At the academy, then thirteen-year-old Donald struggled with the authority of war veteran and former NYMA student Theodore Dobias, a baseball and football coach. Nevertheless, by the time Donald started to play baseball with him as a coach, he commenced to see Dobias as a man with authority and respected him. Donald soon became one of Dobias's favourite cadets. He differed from others because he was determined to be the best and first in every possible situation. Above all, at NYMA, Donald got the first touch of fame after his name appeared in the local newspaper because of his excellent play in baseball. This experience influenced him, and consequently, he was proud every time his name appeared in the press many years later.¹³

After graduation from NYMA in 1964, Donald already knew that he wanted to join his father in the real estate business. In that summer after high school, he commenced working by his father's side on a project called Swifton Village, an enormous apartment complex. In the fall, Donald began to attend Fordham University. The main reason for that was the fact that the school was close to home. Consequently, Donald could return from school every day to Queens, and he also had more time in which he could work with his father, spending time on the weekends at father's office or visiting properties and construction sites with him.¹⁴

The project Swifton Village was Donald's first big deal in which he was involved by his father's side. From the beginning, the job was not easy since the apartments were occupied by tenants who did not want to pay rents or could not afford it. First of all, Donald and his father had to handle those who did not pay. Only as they managed to pay or leave the apartments, they could start fixing the place. This meant investing extra money on buying shutters for windows, having the walls repainted, and finally ensuring that the whole apartment complex would be well maintained and without further complications. The thing that helped them achieve 100 per cent occupancy of the buildings in less than a year was that they invested money into advertising in newspapers, which was not a usual thing in real estate at that time. Nevertheless, after they hired a project manager to manage and oversee

¹³ D'Antonio, *Never Enough*, 41-46.

¹⁴ D'Antonio, *Never Enough*, 48; Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 45.

the complex, Donald's job was already done, and he began to spend less time there, reducing his visits to the property. Even though this project of apartment complexes led Donald and his father to sell it with a profit to one investment firm, it was considered as Donald's beginning in the world of real estate.¹⁵

Despite being involved in his father's business, he still had a duty to finish his degree and graduate from university. Although he was attending Fordham University, Donald changed his decision. After two years, he decided to transfer to the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance to get his degree. Donald took the school very seriously, and it gave him a feeling of prestige. Finally, after he graduated from Wharton, his father Fred offered him to join their family business, the Trump Organization, as a full-time job in the office in Brooklyn, situated near the Coney Island boardwalk, where would later stand one of the most significant Fred's achievements, the Trump Village.¹⁶

While going to Wharton, Donald worked on weekends or during his school breaks at Trump Village, the only Fred's project bearing his family name. This project was among the biggest apartment complexes built in Brooklyn at that time, consisting of thirty-eight hundred apartments near the beachfront on Coney Island.¹⁷

However, Fred had a problem with constructing such a large-scale project. He was not expertise in building something so big like that, and consequently, he lacked also finances. Therefore, Fred approached a construction company that eventually managed the work on this project as a general contractor. To put it another way, even though Fred was still the head, he was responsible for overseeing the project, and a construction company did the job. However, this deal was important for Donald since the Trump Village was an insight into the real estate business that provided him with a close view of how the real estate really worked and gave him a valuable lesson, which would be necessary for his later achievements. Also, he could observe how his father Fred handled government officials, politicians, contractors, and many other important people involved in the projects since he was visiting worksites with him. Later, when Donald acquired the necessary experience within the business, he became responsible for making sure that new apartments were ready before tenants moved in and responded to their complaints. Finally, the Trump Village was a

¹⁵ Trump and Schwartz, *Trump*, 81-90.

¹⁶ Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 47-51.

¹⁷ D'Antonio, *Never Enough*, 51; Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 51.

successful project which was finished not only ahead of schedule but also at a lower cost than it was initially estimated to be.¹⁸

In 1971, a few years after Donald graduated from Wharton School of finance and working full-time for his father at the Trump Organization, he commenced his new role as a president of Trump Management. When his father promoted him within their family business, Donald turned to be twenty-five-year-old, and his father, Fred, adapted to a new role as a chairman. At that time, Donald was responsible for overseeing complexes with fourteen thousand apartments in Queens and Brooklyn and those in the Trump Village.¹⁹

Moreover, this time was the turning point in Donald's life because from now on, he would try to establish himself and his name on his own way in Manhattan, which was his dreamed location for business since he graduated from Wharton in 1968 and everything began when he rent his new apartment in Manhattan.²⁰

1.2 Ivana Trump

Ivana Zelníčková, which was her maiden name, was born on February 20, 1949, in Zlín, the city which was then called Gottwaldov. She grew up as an only child in a government compound house. Those types of houses were distinctive and typical in Zlín and are still nowadays. Her father, Miloš Zelníček, worked as an engineer and her mother Marie Zelníčková, who worked as a telephone operator.²¹

After World War II, Zlín was renamed as Gottwaldov. Communists desired a new city's name to honour the first Communist President of Czechoslovakia, Klement Gottwald. The city's location was in the middle of the then Czechoslovakia, having a key position for the Soviet Union. It was a factory town with the most well-known, international Baťa shoe company. The Baťa factory was founded in 1984 by Tomáš Baťa, an entrepreneur, who became famous after he introduced an easier way of manufacturing to Europe through mechanized production using the conveyor belt, which he used in his factory. Moreover, Baťa's philosophy and principles, together with the Soviet teachings, shaped Ivana's generation, and the lives of working-class people, bringing new changes for inhabitants of Zlín.²²

¹⁸ D'Antonio, *Never Enough*, 51-52.

¹⁹ Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 52.

²⁰ Trump and Schwartz, *Trump*, 93-94.

²¹ Ivana Trump, *Raising Trump* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2017), 19-22, Simon & Schuster ebook.

²² Nina Burleigh, *The Trump Women: Part of the Deal* (New York: Gallery Books, 2020), chap. 5, <https://www.scribd.com/read/390436579/The-Trump-Women-Part-of-the-Deal#>.

After World War II commenced the transformation of political and social issues. At that time, people did not feel secure considering different ideas about the future when the war just ended. The war caused material damages. The factories could not cover the demand since the machinery equipment was damaged, and also the transport and condition of roadways sustained extensive damages. Moreover, natural sources were depleted, and their shortage caused problems in recovering from the post-war period. Post-war Czechoslovakia was also affected by The Benes Decrees. The then-president Edvard Beneš signed them in 1945. Consequently, it resulted in the nationalization of banks, insurance companies, mines, and other state's enterprises, including industrial plants or power stations in which worked more than 500 people. The purpose of the nationalization was to bring a sense of justice while people languished with the lack of necessities of life. Another change was related to the mass movement of the population. Firstly, the residents of Czech nationality who were forced to leave due to the Munich Agreement were coming back to borderlands, and the settlement started to grow there. Secondly, the Benes Decrees ordered residents of German nationality to leave the then Czechoslovakia.²³

Above all, the significant changes began when the Communist Party won the election in 1946. As a result, the Communist Party tried to accelerate changes within society while securing its monopoly status in the state. It caused other problems, which influenced people's lives since the Communist Party started to control culture and information spheres. This meant that all kinds of things that an outside world could influence, such as radio, books or textbooks, films, and eventually the press were under state control to prevent undesirable information or knowledge that the Communist Party did not want to spread among citizens.²⁴

Despite the state control over everything, communists tried to simultaneously support cultural events, especially in big cities where film and theatre performances were taking place. A youth spent their free time working on brigades which were supposed to encourage the collectivity of society. After work, they all went to various sport and cultural events together. For people, it was an era of overcoming fear and poverty, which prevailed after the war. Therefore, there was a sense of optimism in society, mainly due to the promises of the Communist Party, which gave people hope for a better life and social security. For these reasons, people believed them since everyone desired to overcome the fear, which was still

²³ Konstantina Hlaváčková, *Móda za železnou oponou: společnost, oděvy a lidé v Československu 1948-1989* (Praha: Grada, 2016), 12-13.

²⁴ Hlaváčková, *Móda za železnou oponou*, 12-13.

apparent in society after the war. More importantly, they wanted to secure their families not to live in poverty.²⁵

The era of communism was very strict, and Ivana lived under its conditions throughout her childhood. Like others in her generation raised in communist Czechoslovakia, Ivana knew what life behind the Iron Curtain, how it was called then, entailed. It was a place where Western ideas, information, or possible knowledge about foreign culture, primarily American, were banned by communists and kept secret from citizens. Under communism, everything needed to be censored and then approved by the Communist Party. It included books, music or information written in a newspaper, just like everything else people had access to at that time. When communism dominated Czechoslovakia, there were no differences, such as wealthy or poor people, because everyone, regardless of their profession or qualification, lived at the same level and under the same conditions in the middle class. The reason for that was that when the nationalization began, nobody could start their own business or open their new store.²⁶

Throughout the years under communism, there were only a few options to enhance the family's social status and had at least some advantages. One of those options was to become a member of the Communist Party, which gave its loyal party members privileges such as offering them better-paid jobs, more comfortable housing, and eventually access to better schools for their children. The other option, assuming that no one in a family was a member of the Communist Party, was to excel in sport or become a promising ballerina or musician. This way could give people an opportunity to travel to other countries because of a competition or performance.²⁷

Since Ivana's father, Miloš, refused to become a member of the Communist Party, the family had not the same privileges that those who were members. Therefore, her father tried hard to improve Ivana's skills in sport from the time she was six-year-old to ensure her at least some privileges and possibly, an opportunity to leave Czechoslovakia. The first sport in which Ivana was encouraged by her father was swimming. Nevertheless, once she tried skiing at the age of five, she tried hard to win races and participate in competitions. For the next five years, Ivana and her parents kept a busy and properly planned schedule where only school and training were important. However, when she was thirteen-year-old, coaches recommended that she should choose between swimming and skiing. Eventually, Ivana

²⁵ Hlaváčková, *Móda za železnou oponou*, 12-13.

²⁶ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 19-25.

²⁷ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 20-31.

decided to continue with skiing instead of swimming, partly because of the fact that she knew that skiing could bring her to Italy, Austria and other Western countries. Consequently, she became a national junior ski team member and went on ski camps and competitions to Italy or Austria. Although being watched by her coaches and trainers everywhere, Ivana had an opportunity to experience the utterly different culture behind the Iron Curtain. Moreover, she revealed how life in Western countries was different in comparison to Czechoslovakia.²⁸

By the time she was seventeen-year-old, she had moved to Prague to attend Charles University while still going to ski camps and competitions in Austria. The Czechoslovak Republic was changing since a politician, Alexander Dubček, became the first secretary of governing Communist Party. Therefore, he cancelled restrictions that were affecting many spheres of society. Consequently, the republic was finally full of new culture and ideas, which were banned for years before. After Ivana got her degree, she continued studying to get a master's degree. However, the situation in Czechoslovakia started to change again in 1968. Thousands of Soviet tanks arrived in Prague, and soldiers invaded the whole city to reestablish the control of newly established freedom due to the cancellation of restrictions by Dubček. Throughout this event, many people were executed or murdered during protests, and the situation in Czechoslovakia started to be worse.²⁹

While studying at Charles University, Ivana had a boyfriend named George Syrovatka, who was a ski racer as she was. When the situation in the country started to be unbearable, they wanted to escape together to another country with a more unrestricted regime. Nevertheless, George's parents planned to move to Canada, allowing him to leave sooner than expected. Shortly before George left with his parents, he and Ivana planned her escape from the country, which should be done legally since she still wanted to visit her parents in Czechoslovakia. The plan was to marry their Austrian friend, Alfred Winklmayr, who knew that their marriage would not be honest. However, he wanted to help Ivana get her Austrian passport, due to which she could leave that totalitarian regime. Therefore, Ivana and Alfred married in 1971. She got her passport, and the two stayed in the marriage for two years to cover up their fraudulent marriage and convince the government. However, Ivana had another reason at that time why to dissolve the marriage with Alfred.³⁰

Once Ivana already got her Austrian passport, she planned to leave for Canada, but then she met with Jiří Štáidl, a songwriter who wrote lyrics for Karel Gott and a founder of a

²⁸ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 20-38.

²⁹ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 41-48.

³⁰ Burleigh, *The Trump Women*, chap. 5,6; Trump, *Raising Trump*, 49-51.

musical theatre, the Apollo. However, their relationship did not last long since Jiří died in a car accident. Ivana was destroyed, and this tragic event became a turning point in her life. She returned to Prague to finish school and get a degree and decided to leave for Canada, where George was living with his parents.³¹

Once Ivana arrived in Canada, she stayed with her father's sister and her husband in Toronto. Everything there was by any measure different from in Europe, and she needed to be accustomed to her new life, found a job, and could buy plane tickets for her parents. Ivana started to study English, and soon after, she found a job and started her career in modelling in Toronto. After a year and a half, she moved to George, who lived in Montreal with his parents. Even though they had not seen each other for a few years, they started to live together and continued in their relationship. The two spent weekends in a skiing resort or vacationing with their friends in a rented chalet. While Ivana was not busy with skiing or modelling, she helped George in his own sports shop and improved her English in other classes. Soon after, both had a full-time job and enough money to buy their own apartment. Moreover, Ivana's modelling agent suggested that she could take a job at the Vali showroom, situated in Montreal, where she had far more opportunities. Then her agent came with an offer to promote Summer Olympics on a fashion show in New York, together with other models who worked with Ivana. At first, Ivana refused the offer since her father arrived in Montreal to be with her. However, the show was already booked, and they could not replace her with anyone else because it was too late for any further changes. Consequently, Ivana joined other models and set out for New York, unaware that this opportunity would change her life again.³²

1.2.1 Czech Communist Party's secret police

In communist Czechoslovakia, there was a unit called the Státní bezpečnost or known as StB. Its purpose was to reveal any possible activities that would be considered dangerous and prevent influences and information from the West, which could endanger the state. Ivana's connection to Communist Party's secret police commenced when she joined a ski team and travelled from Czechoslovakia to Italy and Austria. Therefore, every time she returned, she had to go to the police station, where she had to tell officers details about life in Western countries throughout a two-hour interview. Even after Ivana started to live in America, the StB would constantly watch her, especially throughout the 1970s and 1980s

³¹ Burleigh, *The Trump Women*, chap. 6.

³² Trump, *Raising Trump*, 51-60.

when she married Donald Trump and regularly visited her parents in Zlín. It was probable that she was considered suspicious because she came from communist Czechoslovakia. Furthermore, while she was living in Manhattan, she met with many influential people, partly due to Donald connections.³³

Once she married Donald Trump in 1977, the StB started to watch Donald closely while collecting information about the U.S. government. One former StB official explained that they targeted Donald Trump since he was a well-known businessman in New York at that time. Since Donald's real estate empire was growing, he had many connections with influential people in New York City society, including those in politics.³⁴

1.3 Building an empire

After years of working for his father, Donald was determined to continue in business without him and start his own path in Manhattan. He had different visions and dreams and wanted something more than his father could ever do by building apartment complexes in Queens and Brooklyn. Donald saw the opportunity in Manhattan. According to him, Manhattan had everything he was looking for and saw it as a move to even greater wealth. The first step to his new life began in 1971 when he found his first apartment in Manhattan on East Seventy-Fifth Street.³⁵

However, he continued to work for his father and every morning commuted to Brooklyn into their office on Avenue Z, the headquarters of their family company. Nevertheless, after he got home in the evening, he started to build his new identity in Manhattan's nightclubs, especially the Le Club full of influential people operating in real estate business, banking system or politics.³⁶

The Le Club was only for members, and it was not easy to get a membership which was also limited. Moreover, someone like Donald Trump, who had not yet any reputation in Manhattan, which was indispensable to become a member, was rejected by the club's management. The club was an exclusive venue for gathering the most successful and wealthy people. Nevertheless, it was essential for Trump to get there since it was a way to make connections he needed and wanted to meet with those who had top positions in New York

³³ Burleigh, *The Trump Women*, chap. 8.

³⁴ "Czechoslovakia's Spy Agency Targeted Donald Trump in 1980s through Wife Ivana's Father, Archives Files Reveal," *Telegraph.Co.Uk*, 2018, accessed January 5, 2020, <https://search-proquest-com.proxy.k.utb.cz/docview/2126706795/citation/C37593B137F34662PQ/1?accountid=15518>.

³⁵ Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 57-59.

³⁶ Blair, *The Trumps*, 250.

City as dealmakers and politicians. Once his membership was accepted by the club, he commenced going there almost every night and worked on new connections. And then one night, Donald met with Roy Cohn, part of the New York's elite of the most influential people, working for the U.S. Attorney's Office. As a lawyer, he represented a wide range of clients, including club's owners or crime bosses.³⁷

When the two met, Donald and his father's company, the Trump Organization, was accused of housing discrimination, claiming that they refused to rent their apartments to some tenants since their decisions were based on race. After their discussion at the Le Club, the Trumps hired Roy Cohn to help them with this case.³⁸

The relationship with Cohn commenced in the Le Club and, throughout the years, became one of those most essential in Donald's life. Soon after, Cohn started to work for Trump's family. He was always present at Donald's decisions, problems, and any possible situation when his opinion or advice was requested. Apart from being a family lawyer, Cohn was also a kind of adviser serving as Donald's personal publicist and, more importantly, an intermediary to New York City's influential figures. Furthermore, Donald's vision, which was the main reason to move to Manhattan, started to become real, and soon he would become successful on his own.³⁹

In addition, the Le Club gave him an insight into how deals and business were done in the New York scene, and he had an opportunity to get to know people with whom he would later cooperate on his deals. He eventually also met those wealthy people who would become buyers of his luxury apartments in Trump Tower or Trump Plaza.⁴⁰

In 1976, Donald and Ivana met in New York in a bar called Maxwell's Plum, a place where celebrities and pop stars gathered. Ivana's reason for being at that time in New York was a fashion show, which took place to promote the summer Olympics. She went to Maxwell's Plum with other models to enjoy the city's atmosphere, and Donald saw Ivana with her modelling friends waiting for a table. He approached them with a polite offer to help them get a table. Donald arranged for a table, and Ivana, with her friends, had dinner with him. Donald left before the end of their meal and paid a bill for all of them, awaiting the models in front of the bar. He drove them to their hotel, and the following day, Ivana and Donald met again for dinner before she left for Montreal. From that point, their relationship

³⁷ Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 60-62.

³⁸ D'Antonio, *Never Enough*, 79-80.

³⁹ Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 64-69.

⁴⁰ Trump and Schwartz, *Trump*, 97.

started to move quickly ahead. They spent Christmas together in Aspen, and on New Year's Eve, Donald proposed marriage. Nevertheless, before their wedding, there was one thing left to do. Roy Cohn insisted on Donald to write a prenuptial agreement that would protect his family money in the event of divorce. Although Ivana was not aware of the existence of prenuptial contracts, it was a common practice among the wealthiest Americans, managing family firms or having much money. After a few meetings with Cohn, Donald, and lawyers, they agreed on conditions and both sign this agreement.⁴¹

On April 9, 1976, Donald and Ivana got married at Marble Collegiate Church, where more than two hundred guests gathered for their ceremony. Ivana invited some of her friends from Montreal and her parents. However, only her father, Miloš, was present at the wedding because they had not enough money to afford also the plane ticket for her mother, Marie. Importantly, it was the first time when her father and her future husband had an opportunity to meet.⁴²

Years before Donald met with Ivana, he started to work on his big project. He tried to purchase the Penn Central Railroad, an abandoned railyard consisting of more pieces of property. The problem was that he had never built anything in Manhattan, and therefore he had no reputation among other builders.⁴³ Therefore he decided to establish himself as part of competent builders in the city by means of rebuilding the Commodore Hotel, situated on one of the pieces of Penn Central properties. However, he needed financing and also a hotel operator who had enough experience in managing hotels, and Hyatt was one of the renowned national hotel chains, which did not possess any hotel in New York.⁴⁴

The new rebuilt Commodore Hotel was renamed The Grand Hyatt and opened in 1980. The deal between Donald and Hyatt management was that Hyatt took responsibility for managing the hotel, and Donald's part was to manage the hotel's reconstruction. Even after his part was done, he still owned 50 per cent interest in the hotel.⁴⁵

Above all, this deal was Donald's first job to demonstrate his vision and secure his reputation as one of the future most prominent builders and real estate giants. Also, when rebuilding this hotel, Ivana was starting to work by Donald's side.⁴⁶

⁴¹ D'Antonio, *Never Enough*, 120-122.

⁴² D'Antonio, *Never Enough*, 123; Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 81.

⁴³ Trump and Schwartz, *Trump*, 102-105.

⁴⁴ Blair, *The Trumps*, 277-279.

⁴⁵ Trump and Schwartz, *Trump*, 138.

⁴⁶ Blair, *The Trumps*, 304.

Before Commodore was even finished, Donald had another project in his mind. He wanted to construct a structure that would distinguish him from other builders in New York and, finally, make him famous. However, more importantly, he aimed to construct a building that would finally separate him from successes his father had made. His vision was a building on which he would put his name Trump and make even more money for selling the apartments to wealthy and famous people. Finally, the Trump Tower, which fulfilled his requirements on an enormous and famous building, became his most significant success in Manhattan bearing his name. In the future, he would build Trump Plaza and many other buildings, which bore his family name Trump.⁴⁷

Not long after their marriage, Ivana became a family business member, entering her new role as Donald's executive staff. Donald gave her responsibility for the Commodore site, which she had to oversee while the new hotel was under construction. Not long after, Donald promoted her as a Vice President responsible for the interior design of all his major projects, including the old Commodore, later known as the Grand Hyatt, and the Trump Tower, the Plaza Hotel and casinos in Atlantic City, which Donald purchased years later.⁴⁸

Throughout the years of working for Donald, Ivana's best-known accomplishment was in his project, the Trump Tower, where she was entirely responsible for its interior. Ivana tried her best to do the job as best as possible, including a visit to Italy to pick up marble for the atrium, which became an emblem of the Trump Tower. She took her job very seriously, going daily to the worksite to give instructions, negotiate with contractors, and request her specifications. Later, in 1985, Donald wanted to expand his business portfolio of buildings with a casino hotel and bought the old Hilton Hotel, which was renamed after its reconstruction on Trump Castle, managed by Ivana. In addition to managing the hotel, she was also responsible for overseeing the hotel's reconstruction, controlling every detail of the job. As Vice President of Interior Design for the Trump Organization, she also worked on its design, choosing its furnishing and facilities. In 1988, Donald enriched its portfolio with another hotel named the Plaza Hotel, giving Ivana responsibility for managing its renovation. From that time, Ivana held the post of President of the Plaza Hotel. Consequently, throughout the years of working by Donald's side, she established herself as a serious businesswoman who was appreciated by awards during her post as CEO of Trump Castle and a businesswoman who could manage and control the work of thousand employees.⁴⁹

⁴⁷ Blair, *The Trumps*, 307-308, 326-327.

⁴⁸ Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 82-83.

⁴⁹ Burleigh, *The Trump Women*, chap. 7.

Donald and Ivana appeared to be a matching couple. They had the same competitiveness, which was evolving from their childhood and a passion for challenges from which they wanted to leave as winners. For Donald was the biggest competitor his father, Fred, whom he wanted to overcome in terms of success. This was the main reason to start on his own somewhere else than in Brooklyn and Queens and surmount Fred's achievement in the real estate business. Furthermore, when he started building his empire and reputation as a real estate developer and businessman, Ivana was there to help him.⁵⁰

1.4 Ivana as U.S. citizen

When Ivana was born in 1949 in the then Gottwaldov, nobody could imagine that she would become a model in Montreal in the next thirty years, then the first wife of Donald Trump and would be ranked among the wealthiest women in the United States.⁵¹

Then, on May 25, 1988, Ivana stood in a courtroom with 141 other American-to-be citizens. At the ceremony, Donald Trump was also present, and Ivana officially became U.S. citizen after ten years living in America.⁵²

⁵⁰ Blair, *The Trumps*, 360.

⁵¹ Katrin Klingan and Kerstin Gust, *A Utopia of Modernity: Zlín: Revisiting Bat'a's Functional City* (Berlin: Jovis, 2009), 35.

⁵² Lewiston-Auburn, "Ivana Trump becomes U.S. citizen," *Lewiston Journal* 125 (May 1988): 10D, accessed February 7, 2021, <https://news.google.com/newspapers?id=LiEgAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=YmYFAAAAI-BAJ&pg=5053%2C3823442>.

2 THEIR THREE CHILDREN

Throughout their marriage, Donald and Ivana raised three children. The oldest one, Donald Jr., also called Don by his family, was born a year after Ivana and Donald's engagement on December 3, 1977. The second child, a girl named Ivanka, was born in 1981, and the youngest one was a boy named Eric, who was born in 1984.⁵³

While being pregnant with Donald Jr., Donald and Ivana moved into an apartment in the Olympic Tower. Their lives as future parents were busy since both worked full-time on the Commodore and started to construct the Trump Tower. By the time Eric was born, an enormous and most famous Donald's project, the Trump Tower, was finished, and they moved as a family with three children into a penthouse situated on top three floors.⁵⁴

Being a working mother was not a necessity for her. However, she got that drive and a sense of pushing her limits from her childhood and being involved in the business and constantly working was how she could fully express herself. As a result, she tried to combine her career and taking care of her family. She was bringing her children to work with her and to the office at Trump Castle. Despite the fact, she was working even with children by her side, Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric were enjoying the great time full of new experiences. On Saturdays, they walked with Ivana around the hotel and casino, used services such as pool or buffets that were otherwise intended only for hotel guests, and sometimes joined their parents on events held in the hotel and casino.⁵⁵

While children were at work with her, she tried to make them understand how vital ambitions, mutual respect, and integrity are. Simultaneously, children could notice patterns of behaviour from observing how she thoroughly managed the business in her office or talked with respect with her employees.⁵⁶

On the other hand, some people who were close to the family helped her a lot with raising her children and played an important role because Ivana and Donald were not with them all day since they came home from work, mostly in the evening. Ivana was able to prosecute work and family life with the help of her parents, nannies Bridget and Dorothy, and a houseman David, who participated in raising her three children. They babysat them regularly, and children developed a special bond with all of them.⁵⁷

⁵³ Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 81.

⁵⁴ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 102-122.

⁵⁵ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 243-252.

⁵⁶ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 244-247.

⁵⁷ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 244.

Concerning Donald as a parent, his father's role resembled Fred's decades earlier. He loved his children, but he did not devote his time playing with them, especially throughout their childhood. He was much more like his father used to be, which meant spending time with children while he was working. Donald has always been busy. Once he made one deal or even before he finalized it, he started to look for another one, which he took as an opportunity to make even more considerable accomplishments. Therefore, he regularly saw his children in his office at the Trump Tower, where they could play with toys and come anytime, they want to. In another way, Donald's relationship with his children was related to his devotion to business deals. Like his father, Fred, Donald also allowed his children to go on worksites with him. Although they spent a considerable amount of time with him, particularly when they all were old enough to understand how the business operated, children devoted even more time to his business after they officially joined the Trump Organization.⁵⁸

2.1 Growing up as Trump

At first, Ivana considered herself mainly as a wife and mother of her three children. However, after a while, she changed her decision. It was primarily because of meetings with her Manhattan friends, who were not only wealthy wives and mothers but also working women. As a result, she wanted to be a businesswoman alongside her hard-working husband, Donald.⁵⁹

To manage Donald and Ivana's work and family life, they hired their first Swiss nanny when Donald Jr. was an infant. Then they found through an agency an Irish nanny named Bridget Carroll, who began to work for the Trump family when Ivanka was starting to do her first steps. Nevertheless, Bridget could not work for the whole week, so they asked the agency again for another nanny who would help Bridget with responsibilities and take turns throughout the week with her. The agency recommended another Irish nanny named Dorothy Curry. Since they moved into Trump Tower, Bridget and Dorothy stayed on the children's floor whenever they were on duty.⁶⁰

Bridget and Dorothy were important people throughout the whole children's childhood. They have always been taken as a part of the family, particularly because both spent much time with children since their parents were working. Moreover, all three children formed a special relationship with their nannies, which lasted until they have grown up. It was

⁵⁸ Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 82, 168-169.

⁵⁹ Burleigh, *The Trump Women*, chap. 6.

⁶⁰ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 119-124.

primarily given to the fact that even though Ivana had completed detailed schedules of children's activities throughout the whole day, there were nannies to manage it, even in the case of school matters.⁶¹

However, a considerable part in the upbringing of children had Ivana's parents to whom Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric have been very close.

2.1.1 Bond with their Czech grandparents

Even though Ivana's mother and father lived in Czechoslovakia, they tried to spend as much time as possible with their three grandchildren, who used to call them Babi and Dedo.⁶² They helped Ivana when Donald Jr., Ivanka and little Eric were growing up and often they were with the whole family on holidays. Moreover, they taught them customs that were somewhat different in then Czechoslovakia from those children knew from living in New York in a privileged and famous family. However, the most important was that the bond with maternal grandparents has lasted for their whole lives.

When Babi and Dedo arrived in New York, they stayed in Trump Tower in one of two guest bedrooms which Ivana reserved for them whenever they came for a visit to spend a couple of months with the family and their grandchildren. They also accompanied them on regular winter weekends in Palm Beach and winter breaks which the family usually spent in Aspen.⁶³

Babi and Dedo also spent time with children in their family mansion in Greenwich. Dedo took Eric and Donald Jr. to Long Island Sound, where they had a little tent and spent hours sitting and talking. While they were on holiday in Mar-a-Lago, Dedo and the boys used to go fishing on the beach and angled tunas and sharks. Even when Donald Jr. and Eric have grown men, they went on hunting or fishing trips together. Nevertheless, their passion passed from grandfather was not understood either by Ivana or Donald.⁶⁴

Although all three children were used to spend much time with Babi and Dedo, Donald Jr. has a special relationship for which he is grateful until now. In his childhood, he spent every summer in Czechoslovakia with his grandparents. Babi and Dedo spoke with him in their native language, and Donald Jr., who stayed with them for a couple of weeks, became accustomed to speaking in Czech language that once he returned to New York, he still spoke

⁶¹ Blair, *The Trumps*, 359.

⁶² Trump, *Raising Trump*, 23.

⁶³ Emily Jane Fox, *Born Trump: Inside America's First Family* (New York: HarperCollins, 2018), chap. 4, <https://www.scribd.com/read/382082749/Born-Trump-Inside-America-s-First-Family#>.

⁶⁴ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 175-176.

with an accent. He spent most of these summers with Dedo, who taught him how to hunt, fish, climb rocks, and other things, but the most important thing Donald Jr. learned from Dedo was to appreciate nature and feel freedom since he spent hours alone in the surrounding woods.⁶⁵

That summers in then-communist Czechoslovakia, Don also spent with other boys playing outside who did know nothing about Don's wealthy family or his life in America surrounded by mansions in Greenwich or Palm Beach and by buildings which bore his family name. These differences between his friends and him reminded Don about the importance of relationships rather than material possessions.⁶⁶

Thanks to Dedo, Donald Jr. discovered his passion for hunting which became his lifelong hobby since the summers with his grandfather. On the other hand, hunting was also his way of escaping from reality and the life of one of Trump's children. Moreover, throughout the years, he developed many friendships due to his passion for hunting, mainly because nobody mattered about each other background since the most important thing was the community of hunters itself.⁶⁷

Also, before his parents' divorce and especially throughout it, Don Jr. found in his maternal grandfather, Miloš, his father figure. It appeared that only his grandfather could understand him and his life as a wealthy child living in New York City. His grandfather clearly understood both the advantages and disadvantages of living the whole life in the spotlight, which was inevitable in the Trump family. Thanks to him, Don had a chance to get to know different life since he spent many weeks in his grandparents' home in Czechoslovakia.⁶⁸ Furthermore, by going there, he appreciated his life in America and the possibilities he and his siblings had.⁶⁹

Their Czech grandparents influenced their lives in many ways and helped children to become adults who are guided by the right values. Babi and Dedo wanted them to see differences in life in America and Czechoslovakia and make them understand that relationships and time with a family were the two most important things in life, which was a valuable lesson, and all of them are trying to hand it down to their own children.⁷⁰

⁶⁵ Fox, *Born Trump*, chap. 4.

⁶⁶ Fox, *Born Trump*, chap. 9.

⁶⁷ Laura M. Holson, "Donald Trump Jr. Is His Own Kind of Trump," *New York Times*, March 18, 2017, accessed December 5, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/18/style/donald-trump-jr-business-politics-hunting-twitter-vanessa-haydon.html?partner=bloomberg>.

⁶⁸ Holson, "Donald Trump Jr."

⁶⁹ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 321.

⁷⁰ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 320-322.

Moreover, grandfather Miloš was such an important figure in Donald Jr.'s life that after he married and had his own children, he and his wife gave their third child the middle name Miloš, after his Dedo.⁷¹

2.2 Family's relationships after the divorce

The day when the marriage between Donald and Ivana practically ended was on December 30, 1989. The family were in Aspen, as usual, during the children's winter break. The accident which happened there was that Marla Maples, a long-term lover of Donald, confronted Ivana, and her family throughout their lunch at Bonnie restaurant.⁷²

From that point, it was a hard time not only for children but also Ivana because the press knew about what happened in Aspen. By then, Donald Jr. was twelve-year-old, Ivanka eight-year-old and Eric six-year-old. The media began spreading gossips, watching the family's every move and headlines about their parents appeared on the front pages of every possible newspaper or magazine for several months.⁷³

It also affected all three children since reporters and paparazzi asked them their opinions on many headlines and followed them to take photos. In school, Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric had a hard time too. Even though they were at that time little children, their classmates asked them questions about their parents and reminded them of stories about parents on the front pages throughout the whole school day. Consequently, as Ivana wanted to keep her children away from all that media coverage, she decided to pack all necessary things and flew to a place where they would have calm and spend some time only within the family. That kind of place was their mansion in Palm Beach. Once her staff arranged all the things, the family, also including Babi, Dedo and their nannies Bridget and Dorothy, got in a limousine and flew with Donald's plane into Mar-a-Lago. They stayed there for three months in which the media still wrote about the split regularly. Children spent time doing homework assignments, which were sent to them every day, playing tennis or swimming and fishing with their grandparents. In May, they were back in New York because children had to return to finish their school year. Then Babi and Dedo flew back to Czechoslovakia. However, Ivana and the children visited her parents for a couple of weeks a months later because, throughout the

⁷¹ Fox, *Born Trump*, chap. 9.

⁷² Trump, *Raising Trump*, 284-285.

⁷³ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 285-288.

whole situation concerning their parent's divorce, Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric leaned to their grandparents as they sought refuge from their family situation.⁷⁴

Nevertheless, Ivana had to explain to her children what was happening and assure them that there would not be such significant changes in their lives. Although, every child reacted differently. Don was the oldest, and he wanted to know the whole background of his parent's situation, which was the reason why Ivana told him the truth. He tried to protect her once the headlines concerning her as a bad mother appeared and was angry and disappointed by his father and stopped to speak with him. Ivanka was little, and even though she understood that her parents would not be together, she did not give up her hope that they would be together once again. On the contrary, unlike Don, Ivanka began to be closer to Donald. She began to come to his office more often and spent more time there, playing with her toys, especially after Donald moved out from their apartment. Eric was at that time too young to understand what all about their situation was, but he began to be more introverted in school.⁷⁵

Throughout these challenging times, Ivana's parents were helpful, trying to hold the family together. Nevertheless, after they returned from Palm Beach, it was a time to return to their everyday life since a new school year was about to start. Donald Jr. moved to Pennsylvania to start his new school year at a new school, the Hill School. For him, it meant a new start somewhere else than in New York. It was also a way to escape from his father, stories about his parents' split, his well-known last name, and his life. Ivana continued to work, and Ivanka and Eric returned into their routine in New York as usual.⁷⁶

The family started to slowly overcome the last months' events, but another tragic event interfered in their lives. In October, Ivana's father, Miloš, died of a heart attack. After Ivana's mother called her about what happened, she immediately started to handle with necessary things to fly to her mother in the Czech Republic as soon as possible. She arranged a car for Don Jr. who was in the Hill School, and while she waited for Ivanka and Eric to return from school, Ivana called Donald to tell him about the tragic news. Donald was disappointed by this news, and he made sure that his plane was ready for Ivana and children to get to her mother immediately. Ivana and her children were devastated and could not believe that a man who meant a lot to all died. The next day, they flew to Zlín to the funeral, which was

⁷⁴ Fox, *Born Trump*, chap. 4.

⁷⁵ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 291-301.

⁷⁶ Fox, *Born Trump*, chap. 4.

already arranged. Once they landed, the plane turned back to New York for Donald and her mother, Mary.⁷⁷

Even though Ivana and Donald's relationship was over and both were handling things around the divorce, Donald arrived at his father-in-law's funeral in Zlín to pay his respect to a man with whom he had been very close since they met for the first time on the wedding. It was his first visit to Ivana's hometown, and many people at the funeral remember him there.⁷⁸ Also, Ivana was delighted that Donald arrived together with his mother at the funeral. It meant a lot for her since Mary and Miloš had a good relationship throughout the years when their families occasionally visited each other.⁷⁹

Throughout the one year, Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric had gone through their parents' split and subsequent media attention accompanying their public divorce, Don Jr's start on boarding school and the loss of their grandfather. Until today, Eric and Don consider their grandfather, Miloš, as a man who influenced and enriched their lives the most.⁸⁰

2.2.1 Grandmother Marie

Over the years, after her daughter's divorce and the death of her husband, Miloš, grandmother Marie Zelníčková continued to spend much time with Ivana and her grandchildren. She lives alternatively in Zlín and America, and even when Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric are adults, she is still present in their lives.⁸¹

She has tried to be present at every life event in their lives, including their weddings or graduations and many others. Moreover, despite her age, she still wants to spend as much time as possible in America with their families and beloved granddaughters and grandsons.

As the family called her, Babi spent at least five months every year in America. When she is in New York, she spends time with her grandchildren and their families, and she also stays in Ivana's house in Florida. Even though Marie stays in America for almost half of the year, she has never considered the idea of moving there. Every child has in their apartment or house a bedroom for her whenever she wants to stay with them and their families. Ivanka even offered her grandmother her apartment on Park Avenue, which would be available for

⁷⁷ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 315-318.

⁷⁸ Milan Libiger and Tomáš Železník, "Trumpa přivedl do Zlína tchánův pohřeb, děti sem jezdily na prázdniny," *Idnes*, November 11, 2016, accessed December 4, 2020, https://www.idnes.cz/zlin/zpravy/donald-trump-byl-ve-zline-synove-vzpominaji-na-prazdniny-u-prarodicu.A161110_2285077_zlin-zpravy_ras.

⁷⁹ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 317-318.

⁸⁰ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 319.

⁸¹ Jan Čada, "Tchyně Donalda Trumpa: máme se s Donem rádi," *Zlin*, March 9, 2016, accessed March 4, 2020, <https://zlin.cz/zpravy/522660n-tchyne-donalda-trumpa-mame-se-s-donem-radi/>.

her every time she will be in New York since Ivanka moved with her family to a bigger place. Also, she regularly goes to the Seven Springs mansion in Bedford, which Donald purchased years earlier.⁸²

Because she has been going to America for several years, it was inevitable to learn English. Over the years, she attended some courses and became fluent in English, but her accent is still recognizable. Also, Ivana and her grandchildren speak fast, and she sometimes fails to translate everything. Nevertheless, Don Jr. can speak Czech, which is why he and Babi talk together in Czech instead of English, not to forget what his grandparents taught him when he was a child.⁸³

Despite Ivana and Donald's divorce in the early 1990s, all of them are now one big family that regularly sees each other. Ivana and Donald were mainly associated with their three children, but they are still in touch and visit each other with their families occasionally. Also, Donald is with his Czech mother-in-law, so close that they meet whenever she is in America. They have known each other for several decades, and they always had a good relationship. Considering Donald's candidacy, Marie supported him when he decided to run for the president of the United States.⁸⁴

The good mutual relationship between Donald and his mother-in-law was evident when he offered her the invitation to The Oval Office in the White House in 2018. An invitation to The Oval Office is an honour that does not receive everyone, sometimes not even the highest representatives of states. The invitation came when Marie was in Washington with her granddaughter, Ivanka, who told her that Donald would like to meet her in the White House. When Ivanka and Babi arrived there, Ivanka took her to show her the whole White House with lounges of American presidents, and then they came to The Oval Office, where Donald was waiting for them. Ivanka and Donald showed her the office and spent some time discussing the past times and news. Before Marie left, Donald had another surprise for her. She gave her a ticket to the presidential special, the famous Air Force One, which took her back from Washington to New York.⁸⁵

⁸² Marie Šidlová, "Matka Ivany Trumpové vypráví o životě v Americe, rodině i závisti," *Denik*, February 20, 2009, accessed February 12, 2021, https://slovacky.denik.cz/zpravy_region/ivana-trump-marie-zelnickova-zlin-rozhovor.html.

⁸³ Šidlová, "Matka Ivany Trumpové."

⁸⁴ Čada, "Tchyně Donalda Trumpa."

Jana Gogová and Slávka Červená, "Marii Zelníčkovou (92) ze Zlína přijal v Oválné pracovně Trump: Pocta, na kterou marně čeká i Zeman!," *Blesk*, October 17, 2018, accessed March 1, 2021, <https://www.blesk.cz/clanek/celebrity-svetove-celebrity/571027/marii-zelnickovou-92-ze-zlina-prijal-v-ovalne-pracovne-trump-pocta-na-kerou-marne-ceka-i-zeman.html>.

⁸⁵ Gogová and Červená, "Oválná pracovna."

3 TRUMP FAMILY

The family of Donald Trump is unique, considering the relationships within the family itself. Despite the differences between Ivana's side of the family and Donald's side, from the very beginning, the Trumps and Zelníčkoví had been tied together, and their relationships intermingled within every sphere of business or family life.

3.1 Family business

As academics suggested in their researches, there is a visible shift in which the global model, characterizing the economy nowadays, substituted the old industrial model in this century. The entrepreneurial and family enterprises are considered as major sources of wealth and employment. Consequently, in the United States, the nation's businesses are represented by family firms, which control 60 to 70 per cent of the whole businesses in the country.⁸⁶

It is not always easy to be involved in the family business since many problems can occur. Firstly, personal differences might be sources of interpersonal conflicts because every member is influenced by personal characteristics, including motivations, needs or values. Secondly, the vast majority of family businesses face a conflict between family and their family business, which means that the boundaries between these two different areas are not adequately separated from each other. In that case, it is inevitable to prevent an extension of patterns, which prevail within the family at home, to become patterns that will affect the family business.⁸⁷

Another common problem of a family business is when young family members are supposed to continue in the family company without any previous experience in the field in which the family business operates.⁸⁸ A similar case occurred when Donald added Ivana, which had no previous experience in the real estate business, into his staff not long after their marriage, and named her Vice President of Interior Design.⁸⁹

Even for larger companies, it is hard to maintain the company over several years and stay profitable. Consequently, statistics suggest that only 3 out of 10 families that operate in their own business can manage their firm for so long that the firm will pass to the second generation. Also, only 1 out of 10 family firms continue with the third generation. It is given

⁸⁶ Manfred F.R. Kets de Vries, Randel S. Carlock and Elizabeth Florent-Treacy, *Family Business on the Couch: A Psychological Perspective* (Chichester: John Wiley & Sons, 2007), xiii.

⁸⁷ Kets de Vries, Carlock and Florent-Treacy, *Family Business on the Couch*, xiv-xvi.

⁸⁸ Kets de Vries, Carlock and Florent-Treacy, *Family Business on the Couch*, xiv.

⁸⁹ Blair, *The Trumps*, 302-303.

to the fact that the average life span is considered to be at the most 24 years, which represents a period in which the founder is operating within the family business himself.⁹⁰

Nevertheless, these problems and assumptions appear to be inappropriate in connection to Trump's family. Donald Trump assumed responsibility for their family business around the 1970s when his father promoted him as a president of the company, and Donald became the second generation that expanded their family business on a much bigger scale. As soon as Donald became President of the United States, he had to resign from his position in the Trump Organization. Otherwise, he would be accused of conflicts of interest. Therefore, he entrusted his family business to his children, Donald Jr., and Eric, who manage the organization instead of him. Both were already long-time executives in the Trump Organization and knew how to run the family business since they were around for many years. Even though transferring a family business is not always easy, concerning the problems which can arise within the family members, it was supposed that Donald Jr. and Eric would be the third generation who would possess the same passion for their business as their father did and would follow his footsteps.⁹¹

3.1.1 Trump Organization

The roots of the Trump Organization lie in a period when Donald's grandfather Frederick died and young Fred, Donald's father, had to take care of the family. Although Frederick left their family home in Queens, several estates and possession that contained savings and stocks worth some thousands of dollars, throughout the inflation caused by the end of the war, almost all the family savings disappeared. Therefore, while Fred was going to school to obtain a degree that his mother insisted on, he also attended courses for builders, partly because he had always been interested in building. It was his dream profession from early childhood, and Fred desired to be a builder in the future. As soon as he got a degree, he commenced working full-time in construction for a local builder and later, he found a job as a carpenter. However, he wanted to improve himself constantly. That is why he began to attend other courses occupying engineering, estimating, and other subjects related to construction to have the basis of knowledge needed for building. He was successful, and not even two years after he graduated from school, he had been able to construct his first house,

⁹⁰ Kets de Vries, Carlock and Florent-Treacy, *Family Business on the Couch*, xvi-xvii.

⁹¹ Jeff Ostrowski, "Son: Trump Empire to Stay 'Business as Usual' for Trump Empire; Some Experts Say Kids are More than Capable of Guiding Organization," *Palm Beach Post*, January 23, 2017, accessed December 5, 2020, <https://www.proquest.com/docview/1860815331/abstract/1EF57FFD04394C9EPQ/1?accountid=15518>.

and after a while, his homes began to appear all over Queens. The problem was that within the limits of the law, he was not yet considered an adult, and it was the reason for incorporating his business by his mother, which was given the name E. Trump & Son. This was basically the absolute start of the family business, later renamed the Trump Organization, which was passed from one generation to another.⁹²

Fred Trump continued to do business and started to be a well-known builder in Queens. By the 1970s, he had already constructed about ten thousand apartment units situated mainly in New York. Soon after, he ranked among builders who began to use government housing programs, known as FHA, that was to support the construction of veterans' homes. In addition, Fred understood the power of connections, especially those with politicians.⁹³

Fred constructed his homes with the help of government FHA programs and with the help of Brooklyn democrats, which were in connection to significant officials in New York City. Between them was a New York Mayor, Abraham D. Beame or New York Governor, Hugh L. Carey, who had a prominent position throughout Donald's beginnings on his own projects in Manhattan. Presumably, because of these well-established connections from his father, Donald eventually won the favour of municipal and state officials years later, if it was necessary to accelerate his projects or approved them, and the Trump Organization started to grow even more.⁹⁴

However, his political connections caused him inconveniences too. Ever since Fred began to make millions of dollars by constructing apartment units or houses, partly with the help of government housing programs, he started to face questions about how he was doing his business. In 1954, Fred was summoned before Congress since he was investigating because of a potential profiting of government-insured loan while constructing apartment complexes in Beach Haven. Finally, he was not accused of these allegations. However, in the following years, he faced many other allegations of windfall profits. Around the time when Donald began to work for his father, their company was investigated for racial discriminations. The allegations were serious, and eventually, they were entrusted to the Justice Department in Washington. Not long after, the Justice Department filed suit against

⁹² Blair, *The Trumps*, 118-122.

⁹³ Burleigh, *The Trump Women*, chap. 4.

⁹⁴ Marilyn Bender, "The Empire and Ego of Donald Trump," *New York Times*, August 7, 1983, accessed December 4, 2020, <https://www.proquest.com/docview/424759172/abstract/4D23BC3AD0DA4FD5PQ/1?accountid=15518>.

Fred and Donald's company. It was precisely at that time when Donald was about to begin the business in Manhattan.⁹⁵

When Donald began to work in the management of the family business, the organization was a place for operating business in the field of real estate and hotel's management and development. The organization had 45 permanent employees with three executive vice presidents, including Donald's brother, Robert, who was in Atlantic City to manage the casino and hotel project, and Donald's wife Ivana, who was responsible for interior design.⁹⁶

Throughout the marriage with Ivana, Donald accomplished many significant successes in Manhattan. She worked with him on many of them, including Grand Hyatt Hotel, Trump Tower, Trump Castle or the Plaza Hotel, and the portfolio of the Trump Organization began to multiply.⁹⁷

After their divorce, Donald Trump continued expanding company's real estate portfolio, which became connected with the most prestigious New York City's addresses. Not many years later, his eldest son Donald Jr. joined the family business and began to work on Trump Place, a project of redeveloping one of the enormous land pieces situated in New York.⁹⁸

Then Ivanka came to work alongside her father and older brother. Her job was to travel to third-world nations to make deals with foreign business partners for the Trump Organization. She travelled to many countries, from Panama to the Arab Gulf States, working on deals that would expand the Trump name on new projects. Also, Trump Soho was her first project in which she was involved as an executive of their family company. Apart from that, she was busy making her own personal brand of clothing, shoes, accessories, and writing a book.⁹⁹

From the time Eric joined the family business, he successfully expanded the growth of company's portfolio, including the growth of Trump Golf properties, from three to nineteen listed in the portfolio today. Eric himself took direct responsibility for overseeing projects' constructions and daily management of Trump Golf properties. Apart from that, his job description involved every aspect of managing and operating their company's real estate holdings.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁵ Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 53-57.

⁹⁶ Bender, "The Empire."

⁹⁷ Trump, *Raising Trump*, 10.

⁹⁸ "Donald J. Trump: Founder, The Trump Organization," Trump, accessed February 5, 2021, <https://www.trump.com/leadership/donald-j-trump-biography>.

⁹⁹ Burleigh, *The Trump Women*, chap. 21.

¹⁰⁰ "Eric Trump: Executive Vice President: The Trump Organization," Trump, accessed February 5, 2021, <https://www.trump.com/leadership/eric-trump-biography>.

Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric worked alongside each other in their glass-doored offices on the twenty-fifth floor of Trump Tower.¹⁰¹ They worked perfectly as a team from the day they started, and all of them agreed that their gratitude belongs to their parents. Even though Donald and Ivana worked all day when both returned home, they were enthused by their work throughout the day and showed children pictures of how their projects were progressing. Also, they were going to construction sites with Donald and Ivana, watching how the buildings were being constructed from the very earliest phrases to the end. They were growing up in the environment of real estate, and their parents gave them an insight into how all of it worked.¹⁰²

Consequently, Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric could observe the passion for building and managing the real estate from their parents. This is why they have been so closely and personally involved in every aspect of their job in the Trump Organization.¹⁰³

3.1.2 Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric as heirs of the Trump Organization

From their childhood, Donald's three eldest children knew that they would be heirs of his empire and continue in the family business which their grandfather started decades ago. However, the way into family organization started at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, which their father also attended a years earlier. For this reason, the school is considered to be an inheritance and an emblem of Trump's family.¹⁰⁴

As Donald's father did, Donald offered his children a full-time job at the Trump Organization after graduating. However, Donald Jr. and Ivanka chose a different way for their first year after graduation.¹⁰⁵

Donald Jr. desired to spend one year living in Aspen, not long away from the hotel, where he and his siblings spent every year throughout the winter holidays. Even though his choice was supported neither by Ivana nor Donald, he refused his father's offer to work in the Trump Organization and commenced his way to Aspen. The reason for his decision was that Donald Jr. knew what the job in the family business involves, and he wanted to be sure of his decision before he would officially enter the business. Nevertheless, after almost a

¹⁰¹ Fox, *Born Trump*, chap. 5.

¹⁰² Michael Adams and Stacy Shoemaker Rauen, "The Trump Organization," *Hospitality Design* 36, no. 3 (May 2014): 147-148, 150, accessed February 7, 2021, <https://www.proquest.com/docview/1526001025/abstract/F749D00CC71A4EF4PQ/3?accountid=15518>.

¹⁰³ Adams and Rauen, "The Trump Organization."

¹⁰⁴ Kranish and Fisher, *Trump Revealed*, 47-50.

¹⁰⁵ Fox, *Born Trump*, chap. 6, 9.

year in Aspen, he decided to get back to New York and entered the family business as an heir of the Trump Organization.¹⁰⁶

Finally, in 2001, he joined the Trump Organization. Today, his post at the Trump Organization is Executive Vice President of Development and Acquisitions. He is directly responsible for overseeing company's portfolio of all properties. Also, he is involved in all aspects engaging the organization's development which means that he manages all the necessary steps up to the actual implementation of the projects. Donald Jr. is also involved in efforts to expand the Trump properties on a global scale, increasing the customers' value on the next level by means of improving standards of design and luxury.¹⁰⁷

Ivanka decided to start her career somewhere else than in her father's company to know the field of the business in which she would operate before joining the Trump Organization as an executive alongside her older brother. During her senior year at Wharton, she got an offer for a job from a Vogue editor, but she refused. The reason for that was that she already agreed to work for Forest City Realty Trust, which was also a family company operating in real estate in New York. However, after a year of working there, she officially joined the Trump Organization in 2005 as Executive Vice President.¹⁰⁸

Eric, the youngest one, did not follow the footsteps of his father and siblings and violated Trump's family tradition. Instead of going to Wharton, he chose to attend Georgetown, from which Ivanka transferred to the University of Pennsylvania. Unlike his siblings, who wanted a year for themselves and their own lives, Eric did not follow them. Once he graduated from Georgetown, he immediately joined his siblings and his father in the Trump Organization.¹⁰⁹

Eric officially commenced working in the family business in 2007. Today, he is Executive Vice President of the company. Along with the managing of Trump Golf properties, he actively searches for new business opportunities. Also, he is considered an outstanding speaker within the business sector, delivering speeches at many real estate or business conferences.¹¹⁰

In 2016, their roles within the Trump Organization changed. When Donald commenced his campaign, Donald Jr. and Eric began to manage his real estate empire. Since then, Ivanka, Eric and Donald Jr. also became responsible for their father's campaign, working as

¹⁰⁶ Fox, *Born Trump*, chap. 9.

¹⁰⁷ "Donald Trump Jr.: Executive Vice President: The Trump Organization," Trump, accessed February 5, 2021, <https://www.trump.com/leadership/donald-trump-jr-biography>.

¹⁰⁸ Fox, *Born Trump*, chap. 6.

¹⁰⁹ Fox, *Born Trump*, chap. 10.

¹¹⁰ Trump, "Eric Trump."

campaign surrogates, discussing their opinions, and gathering the meetings to solve critical decisions. Because their offices were only one floor below Donald's office in Trump Tower, all of them went to visit their father not only to discuss the business but also the campaign issues.¹¹¹

Even though that Ivanka was also an executive in their family company, she was not assigned to managing it as her brothers did. Instead, Ivanka became fully involved in her father's campaign, together with her husband, Jared Kushner. They were responsible for Donald's transition team, cooperating with a campaign manager and completing disclosure forms and clearance documents.¹¹² Furthermore, after Donald was elected, her government job was as an adviser to the president. Since then, she commenced working with her husband in the West Wing in the White House. In her new role, she focused on many issues concerning mainly women's opportunities in the fields of maternal leave or their careers.¹¹³

3.2 Political relations with the Czech Republic

For many years, there are efforts to deepen the mutual relationship between the United States and the Czech Republic. It is known that President Miloš Zeman has been trying to support Donald Trump and the relations of both nations. Eventually, Prime Minister Andrej Babiš was honoured by the invitation to the White House, while Trump was holding the post of the President of the United States. However, Trump's connection with the Czech Republic is not concerned only with recent political efforts throughout his presidency from 2017 to 2021. His ties with the Czech Republic commenced decades earlier when a totalitarian regime ruled former Czechoslovakia.¹¹⁴

¹¹¹ "Campaign Influence on Donald Trump's Children Grows," *Dow Jones Institutional News*, June 21, 2016, accessed February 3, 2021,

<https://www.proquest.com/docview/2013298449/citation/789A3D4048EE47B7PQ/1?accountid=15518>.

¹¹² Fox, *Born Trump*, chap. 2.

¹¹³ Damian Whitworth, "After Daddy, what Next for the Trump Kids?" *The Australian*, January 14, 2021, accessed February 18, 2021,

<https://www.proquest.com/docview/2477832160/fulltext/57D4718BD8944A82PQ/1?accountid=15518>; Fox, *Born Trump*, chap. 1.

¹¹⁴ "White House Confirms Trump-Babis March Meeting," *CTK English-Language News Service*, February 21, 2019, accessed March 6, 2021,

<https://www.proquest.com/docview/2184103701/fulltext/825BD4A149A8497EPQ/1?accountid=15518>; Jiri Valenta and Leni Friedman Valenta, "Trump Should Aid Czech President Zeman in Fighting the 'Munich Attitude,'" *Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies*, 2017, accessed March 10, 2021, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep16850>.

3.2.1 Trump family's connection with Czechoslovakia's intelligence service

It is claimed that Donald's ties with Czechoslovakia's intelligence service were given mainly because of his former wife, Ivana, who originates from communist Czechoslovakia. As it was mentioned earlier, Ivana was watched by StB from her childhood and especially throughout her adolescence because of her trips to Western countries.¹¹⁵

Thus, several years later, when she left Czechoslovakia for America, the StB's interest in Ivana increased, and after few years, it increased even more when she married Donald Trump in 1977. From that point, the StB commenced acquiring information about Donald too. Their marriage attracted considerable attention of StB, and the news about their wedding was reported by an agent known as Mirek in Zlín.¹¹⁶

In 1978 StB's authorities in Gottwaldov founded a file with the name Ivana, endeavouring to know more information about her. A year later, the file was given to the StB's first directorate, which had to collect further information about the married couple. They were interested in information about their life, plans or their connections in New York. The main source of information was Ivana's father, Miloš Zelníček. It was claimed that he provided the StB's file with pieces of information about her daughter's life in America, including connections and Trump's ties within political spheres. However, Zelníček was not the only one who provided information about the couple. The StB had another four informants in Zlín, including a man known as Luboš, who was a relative to Ivana's father.¹¹⁷

Around the 1980s, Donald Trump's accomplishment made him famous, which attracted the media, and his fame began to increase.¹¹⁸ Therefore, the StB's efforts to collect more information about him intensified. At that time, Donald planned to expand his business and began to be politically involved in campaigns of American presidents, including Jimmy Carter or Ronald Reagan. Later, Donald himself started to consider the candidacy.¹¹⁹ For this reason, Trump became a person of StB's primary interest. Since Trump already had

¹¹⁵ Burleigh, *The Trump Women*, chap. 8.

¹¹⁶ Ondřej Kundra, "Donald Trump v hledáčku StB: Co všechno věděla česká tajná policie na současného prezidenta USA," *Respekt*, October 27, 2018, accessed May 1, 2021, <https://www.respekt.cz/tydenik/2018/44/donald-trump-v-hledacku-stb>.

¹¹⁷ Kundra, "Donald Trump v hledáčku StB."

¹¹⁸ Dan P. McAdams, "The Appeal of the Primal Leader: Human Evolution and Donald J. Trump," *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture* 1, no. 2 (2017): 1-13, accessed May 1, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.26613/esic.1.2.45>.

¹¹⁹ Kundra, "Donald Trump v hledáčku StB."

connections with prominent politicians and major officials in New York, informants were encouraged to deepen their activities to provide more information.¹²⁰

Also, the order to provide StB with more information about Trump and his wife was supported by Vlastimil Daněk, a boss of the district administration of StB. He was directly responsible for giving the information about Ivana and Donald to the StB's first directorate with a request to continue with further investigating of Trumps.¹²¹

3.2.2 Trump's ties with KGB

It is believed that the KGB might be interested in Trump too. He was a wealthy businessman, married to a wife from communist Czechoslovakia, and KGB tried to access American people in business.¹²²

Another reason for this assumption is that Daněk present files about Ivana and Donald to StB's first directorate, which closely cooperated with KGB. The KGB and Stb had an official deal which was signed in 1972 and later in 1986.¹²³

Nevertheless, it is still unknown to what extent the KGB and the StB cooperated or shared information about the findings of informants' investigations on Trump or his family.¹²⁴

3.2.3 Czechoslovakia's visit in Trump Tower

In 1989, three men from communist Czechoslovakia met with Donald Trump in Trump Tower. The three visitors were František Čuba, the chairman of a collective farm in Slušovice and his deputy Miroslav Kovařík together with Pavel Čmolík.¹²⁵

The purpose of their visit was to discuss business deals with Trump and the possibility of cooperation in the future. The bosses of a collective farm aimed to classify their firm into more significant business spheres with the help of prominent capitalist firms. Since Trump was a wealthy businessman in America, he appeared to be an appropriate person for their efforts. Trump was interested in operating their collective farm in Slušovice and was curious

¹²⁰ Luke Harding, "'A very different world'- inside the Czech spying operation on Trump," *Guardian*, October 29, 2018, accessed May 1, 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/oct/29/czechoslovakia-spied-on-trump-to-exploit-ties-to-highest-echelons-of-us-power>.

¹²¹ Kundra, "Donald Trump v hledáčku StB."

¹²² Burleigh, *The Trump Women*, chap. 8.

¹²³ Kundra, "Donald Trump v hledáčku StB."

¹²⁴ Harding, "Czech spying operation on Trump."

¹²⁵ Harding, "Czech spying operation on Trump."

about their future intentions relating to new business opportunities and development. Eventually, they invited him to Slušovice.¹²⁶

The StB's informant Jaroslav Jansa, who was among the four primary informants for reporting any possible information about Ivana and Donald, was the one who reported about the meeting of Čuba, Kovařík and Čmolík with Trump in 1989.¹²⁷

Trump's visit to Slušovice took place in 1990 when the Soviet bloc ceased to exist. However, the main purpose of his visit was the funeral of his father-in-law in Zlín. As Čuba said, he offered his plane, which the collective farm owned, to transport Donald and his family from Prague airport to Zlín. Despite this tragic occasion, Trump accepted the invitation to Slušovice, and Čuba had finally an opportunity to show him the collective farm.¹²⁸

3.2.4 Ivana's political relations

Although Ivana Trump had never talked about dreaming of getting involved in politics in any way, after Donald's victory in the November 2016 election, she considered the idea of being an ambassador to the Czech Republic appointed by Donald Trump himself. The reason based on the assumption that she could have been suited for this position was that Ivana is known worldwide, not only in America and, importantly, the Czech Republic is her native country. Provided that Donald had appointed her, she could have replaced Andrew Schapiro, the then U.S. ambassador to the Czech Republic since 2014.¹²⁹

If that were the case, Ivana would not be the only person with a well-known name who worked as U.S. ambassador for the Czech Republic. Mrs Shirley Temple Black, a former child movie star, became an ambassador in 1989, during the former Czechoslovak Republic. She was appointed on this official post by then President George Bush. However, unlike Ivana, Mrs Black had previous experience in the field of politics because she also worked as a former U.S. ambassador to Ghana.¹³⁰

The idea of Ivana holding the post of an ambassador was welcomed by the then prime minister Bohuslav Sobotka and also President Miloš Zeman. Mr Sobotka said that it could

¹²⁶ Kundra, "Donald Trump v hledáčku StB."

¹²⁷ Kundra, "Donald Trump v hledáčku StB."

¹²⁸ Harding, "Czech Spying Operation on Trump."

¹²⁹ "Ivana Trump Reportedly Shied Away from Helping Czech Dissidents," *Transitions Online*, January 23, 2017, accessed November 18, 2020, <https://search-proquest-com.proxy.k.utb.cz/docview/1872745438?accountid=15518>; Jasper Scherer, "Ivana Trump to Ex-Husband Donald: Make me Ambassador to the Czech Republic," *Washington Post*, November 14, 2016, accessed November 13, 2020, <https://search-proquest-com.proxy.k.utb.cz/docview/1838934412?accountid=15518>.

¹³⁰ Bilefsky and Goeij, "In Czech Republic."

have helped consolidate mutual relations between the Czech Republic and the United States and establish further contacts by means of Ivana's connection to President Donald Trump. The same opinion had Jiří Ovčáček, who is Mr Zeman's official spokesman, who said that appointing Ivana as an ambassador could have improved the relations of both countries.¹³¹

Furthermore, President Miloš Zeman himself was enthused by the possibility of Ivana Trump as an ambassador because he is a supporter of Donald Trump. According to him, the United States could not choose anyone else who would be more suitable for this position. Moreover, Mr Zeman mentioned that the thing that he appreciates the most is Donald Trump's ability to speak directly without considering political correctness.¹³²

Eventually, Ivana refused the possibility of ambassadorship. The reason for her refusal of taking such a prominent diplomatic post was that she was happy with her life and had no intention to change it in any way.¹³³

3.2.5 Donald's connection with Miloš Zeman

As far as Donald Trump and Miloš Zeman are concerned, the two had a telephone call in December 2016 in which they talked about their meeting, which was planned for April 2017. Even though the meeting has not taken place so far, they have the same opinions on specific issues concerning Israel and opposition to Europe's appeasement in relation to Munich's attitude. In addition, it is thought that the National Security Council in the United States did not allow for the possibility of potential benefits by means of cooperation between Trump and Zeman in applying to connections with America, Israel, and the Czech Republic. However, Zeman has not been invited to visit Donald Trump in the White House, and Trump also has not suggested meeting with Zeman in Prague Castle. It was claimed that if the meeting were taken place, they could have found a common way to fight against mass Muslim immigration and possibly cooperate and improve the political relationship between the Czech Republic and the United States.¹³⁴

¹³¹ Bilefsky and Goeij, "In Czech Republic."

¹³² "Czech Leader Meets Ivana Trump," *Transitions Online*, June 22, 2017, accessed November 13, 2020, <https://search-proquest-com.proxy.k.utb.cz/docview/1915272587?accountid=15518>; "Ivana Trump Reportedly Shied Away from Helping Czech Dissidents."

¹³³ Emily Heil, "Ivana Trump turned down ambassadorship offer from her ex: 'I have a perfect life': The president's first wife is far too busy being fabulous to take a diplomatic post," *Washington Post*, October 5, 2017, accessed March 9, 2021, <https://www.proquest.com/docview/1947351215?accountid=15518>.

¹³⁴ Valenta and Friedman Valenta, "Trump Should Aid Czech President."

3.2.6 Trump and Babiš meeting in the White House

Although Trump and Zeman did not meet to discuss the relation of the two nations, the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic arrived in 2019 in Washington to meet with Donald Trump in the White House. The White House confirmed the meeting in an official statement placed on its website. The statement claimed that the office of the President of the United States arranged a meeting with Babiš and Trump and was awaiting his visit on March 7, 2019. Andrej Babiš and his wife Monika Babišová were welcomed on their first official visit to the White House by President Donald Trump and his wife and First Lady Melania Trump. In addition, the visit was arranged on the day of the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, which caused the fall of communism in the then Czechoslovakia. Also, this day was significant for another occasion, and that was the 20th anniversary of the day when the Czech Republic entered NATO. The purpose of their meeting was to discuss the question about how the Czech Republic and the United States should improve their relations in order to accomplish common goals. Another subject of the discussion was the necessity to operate together with global challenges common to both nations and consequently to commence solving issues related to mutual concerns.¹³⁵

¹³⁵ “White House.”

CONCLUSION

The thesis was focused on examining the Trump family's relationship to the Czech Republic. The Trump's family have been a topic for further delving for many years. However, many books or documents handling with this topic have been oriented primarily to his family history, business deals, or his identity as a celebrity.

Therefore, there was a need to look closer at ties that connect Donald Trump to Ivana Trump. By means of revealing differences in America and Czechoslovakia, I have found that Ivana's roots in Czechoslovakia considerably influenced Donald's ties to communists since Ivana was from her childhood pursued by communists' intelligence service, the StB. Then, it was shown how the Trump's family business expanded and the role of Ivana within the family business. It aimed to reveal the position of the family business in New York, which was considerably connected with politicians. Later, it was a reason for StB to be interested in Trump as soon as he became a prominent businessman.

The second part of the thesis demonstrated the relationship with Ivana's parents to her children. I have discovered that even though Marie Zelníčková and her husband, Miloš, were living in the then communist Czechoslovakia, they visited their daughter and the Trumps often in America, and Ivana's children also spent much time in her home town in Zlín. The good mutual relationship between the Trump and Zelníček family was apparent even after Ivana and Donald's divorce, showing that Marie and Donald were still in touch regularly.

The final part is devoted to the Trump Organization, especially its roots and Donald's children, who are the heirs of the family business, proving that the organization under their management became even more extensive by means of focusing business deals not only on America but worldwide. Then, it was proved how the Trump's family relates to the Czech Republic in connection with political issues. I have shown that the Trump's ties with the Czech Republic are not only concerned with recent political events, concerning Miloš Zeman, the President of the Czech Republic and Andrej Babiš, the Prime Minister. This part also reveals the Trump's connection to the communist Czechoslovak Republic through the Zelníček family. It delved deeply into the beginning when Donald began to be an object of StB's attention, trying to collect information about Trump's intentions and life in America. I have found that Zelníček, Ivana's father, provided information about her daughter and her husband to StB, telling them details about their life, particularly from his trips to America.

The Trump family's relationship to the Czech Republic is a topic that has not been much explored. Therefore, there was an opportunity to reveal the background of Trump's

family to the Czech Republic since Ivana Trump is his former wife and mother of his three children. Although the Trumps are known for business accomplishments and have celebrity status in America, I believe that their family should be viewed from a different angle, trying to reveal what is behind the marriage of a woman from a totalitarian state and a wealthy man of American society.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FHA	Federal Housing Administration
NYMA	New York Military Academy
StB	Státní bezpečnost
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
KGB	Committee for State Security