



# The Republic of Whores

*Josef Škvorecký*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

# The Republic of Whores

*Josef Škvorecký*

## **The Republic of Whores** Josef Škvorecký

Josef Skvorecky, internationally acclaimed for his rich prose and expansive vision, spins a beguiling comical tale of army life under foreign occupation. The Republic of Whores takes place on an army base in rural Czechoslovakia, where the draftees of the Seventh Tank Battalion reluctantly prepare for the inevitable war with America. This is life in the Czechoslovak Stalinist People's Democratic Army at its most insane, bawdy, and raw. It's a romp through the idiocies that prevailed under Soviet occupation and bred fear and nonsense. For all the rules and regulations of oppression, though, the human spirit triumphs here. With endearing ideological indifference, the young men fake tank maneuvers, study Russian texts with horror novels tucked inside, and mock patriotic songs with their own lyrics. Tank Commander Danny Smiricky, the hero of many Skvorecky novels, is at his most subversive and charming. While Danny tries to cope with his boisterous, not-too-bright, homesick troop, he dreams of love and of getting out of the army by fair means or foul. Behind Skvorecky's characteristic ironic humor and sensual detail is the menacing shadow of thoughtless political dogma, personified in Major Borvicka (the Pygmy Devil). The Major would sell his soul (and his fellow soldiers) for Soviet accolades. Meanwhile, the troops will do whatever possible to undermine their rigid, Soviet-loving officers, while taking instructions on everything from compulsory reading tests to history, sex, and love. The drama comes to a head at the Cultural Farewell Party where the soldiers show exactly what they think of "political correctness" and their doctrine-drunk Major.

## **The Republic of Whores Details**

Date : Published January 1st 1996 by Ecco Press (first published 1969)

ISBN : 9780880014281

Author : Josef Škvorecký

Format : Paperback 100 pages

Genre : European Literature, Czech Literature, Fiction, War

 [Download The Republic of Whores ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Republic of Whores ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Republic of Whores Josef Škvorecký**

---

## From Reader Review The Republic of Whores for online ebook

### Lucy Siskova says

Uznávám, že hlavním cílem tohoto humoritického románu je pobavit nikoli pohoršit ?tená?e sprostými až vulgárními výrazy. Nerada bych "Tankový prapor" zatracovala, ale ani se nemohu p?íznat k nadšenc?m tvorby autora Škvoreckého.

Souhlasím s vtípným vypráv?ním o vojácích, ale už ne tolik se slovními obraty. Kniha zaujme a troufám si říci, že vystihuje dokonale situaci a stav v?cí té doby.

---

### Vladimír Žák says

Soldiers in early communist ages with humour.

---

### Patrick says

This is Skvorecky's fictionalized account of his term as a conscript in the Czechoslovak Army in the early 1950s, when the Communist Party worshiped the still-living Stalin. So on top of the absurdities of military life - which these stories share with many other army novels - are piled the absurdities of Communism, under which truth is banned, and the working class members of the army become Enemies of the Working Class when they fail to perform to the absurd standards set before them. This book lacks the underlying sadness and attention to character detail of Skvorecky's other Danny Smiricky books, but is still quite funny.

---

### Russell says

Very good book, though it ran out of steam towards the end. Quite reminded me of 'Closely Observed Trains'.....

---

### Dennis says

A hilarious book, particularly the first part, which captured the Czech lack of enthusiasm for all things military.

---

### Veronika Sebechlebská says

Viac ma bavila vojna ako láska

---

## Nevolyata says

?????? ?? ??? ???? ?? ?? ???????????, ?? ?????????? ?? ? ?????? ????? ??????. ????? ? ???????????  
??????, ?? ?????????? ? ??? ?? ??? ?? ?? ????????? ?????????? ?? ???????.

---

## Quentin says

A bizarre and in parts hilarious take, clearly from first-hand experience, on the absurdities of the Soviet-dominated communist regime that ruled Czechoslovakia. This is set in the 1950s, well before the 1968 revolution and Soviet tanks on the streets of Prague, after which the regime's attitude became significantly tougher.

Interesting to see the expression 'Svejking about' used.

---

## Crotijak says

Odli?na knjiga, baš ono što ide uz tradiciju ?ehoslova?ke hladnoratovske humoreske. Kod nas prevedena kao Oklopni bataljon u izdanju evergreena. Republika kurvi o?ito nije prošlo kao prijevod naslova u Jugoslaviji ;)

---

## Ivona says

Klasika a pro m? nostalgická ?etba. Poprvé jsem Tankový prapor ?etla, když jsem se "u?ila" na p?ijíma?ky na st?ední školu. :D

---

## Leif Erik says

One of my favorite books of all time. An absurdest take on life in a dictatorship. An excellent examination of what happens when facts are made the enemy of the Truth. Plus military jokes which is always something I'll love.

---

## Shannon says

My rating is probably not fair, because my western-centric mind had trouble keeping all the Slavic names straight. Index cards away! Anyway, it's an interesting glimpse into Communism in the artist formerly known as Czechoslovakia, especially for those of us who have existed completely in a capitalistic environment.

---

## **MJ Nicholls says**

Army humour. Zzz . . .

---

## **Benjamin Kahn says**

An uneven book. The satire on the Soviet socialist propaganda was very funny. The soldiers desperately trying to earn the badge despite not having read any of the The story of Danny's love life was boring. And the satire on military life, although amusing, reminded me of other, similar works - *The Good Soldier Svejk*, *Catch-22*, *Oh What a Lovely War!*, *Turvey"* and *Spike Milligan's war-time trilogy*. For the most part, an enjoyable read, with only the Danny Smiricky's love life to slow the pace down.

---

## **Czarny Pies says**

L'escadron blindé est une collection de neuf comptes tres comiques qu'a écrit Josphe Skvorecky sur ses experiences pendant son service militaire obligatoire en l'ancienne Tchecoslovaquie qui a eu lieu Durant les années cinquante. Comme en France, aux Etats-Unis, en Pologne, en Suede et partout ailleurs ou le service militaire obligatoire existait, les jeunes Tchecoslovaques le détestait. On était loin de sa petite amie et o mangeait mal. Aussi on devennait tres frustré parce que sa carrier est déraillé. En plus on a peur, parce qu'une fois déraillé, ce n'est jamais certain que la carriere va eventuellement se remettre sur les rails.

L'escadron blindé est plein de couleur locale. Les commentaires sarcastiques sur le communisme tombent abondamment mais finalement la vie de service obligatoire en pays communistes semblent etre identique a ce qu'elle etait en pays de l'OTAN. Ce livre fait cavalier seul dans le catalogue de Skvorecky. Dans ces autres romans et collections de contes, l'intrigue se passé au milieu de travail ou des etudes. Dans ces ouvrages la difference et l'Est et l'Ouest est tres marquée.

Si on peut se fier a Skvorecky la vie dans l'armée est la meme partout.

C'est a dire tres comique vue de l'exterieure et tres embetante vue de l'intérieure. L'heureux lecteur voit la chose et l'exterieur et rit beaucoup quand il lit cette collection hilarante.

---