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**THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEGION AS A MILITARY AND A POLITICAL
FACTOR FOR THE RECOGNITION OF CZECHOSLOVAK
INDEPENDENCE (1917–1918)**

(Summary)

The current article deals with the issue of military and political significance of the Czechoslovak legion in Russia for the recognition of the Czechoslovak independence by the Entente and the USA at the end of the WWI. In the first place, the author outlines in brief the history of establishing the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia in the beginning of the WWI. As K. Marholeva argues, while the Russian government refused to support the Czecho-Slovak independence movement, it approved of forming auxiliary Czecho-Slovak military units within the Russian army, at first involved in intelligence service and by no means as independent military forces. K. Marholeva asserts that the Czechoslovak legion assumed a central place in the military strategy of the Allies as a result of three events – the collapse of the Russian front in 1917, the Bolshevik Revolution and the outbreak of conflict between the legion and the Bolsheviks during the spring of 1918. It was France that initiated the formation of Czech-Slovak legion to fight in the Western Front through its political mission to the United States in the summer of 1917. The mission, however, received a little support by the American government since the latter was against any military interference with the Russian affairs.