

Vaclav Klaus

President of the Czech Republic

Vaclav Klaus was born in Prague on July 19, 1941. He studied foreign trade at the Prague School of Economics, graduating in 1963. He later studied in Italy and the United States and completed a doctorate in economics in 1968 at the Institute of Economics of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

After several years with the Czechoslovak State Bank, Mr. Klaus took an academic post at the Czech Academy of Sciences in 1987. In 1991, he was appointed assistant professor of economics at Charles University. In 1995, he became professor of finance at the Prague School of Economics.

Mr. Klaus started his political career in 1989 when he became Minister of Finance. In 1991, he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister of the Czecho-Slovak Federation. He co-founded the Civic Democratic Party in 1991 and was its chairman from the outset until December 2002.

Mr. Klaus won the parliamentary elections with this party in 1992 and became the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic. In 1998, he became the chairman of the Chamber of Deputies.

On Feb. 28, 2003, Mr. Klaus was elected President of the Czech Republic.

Mr. Klaus is married and has two children.