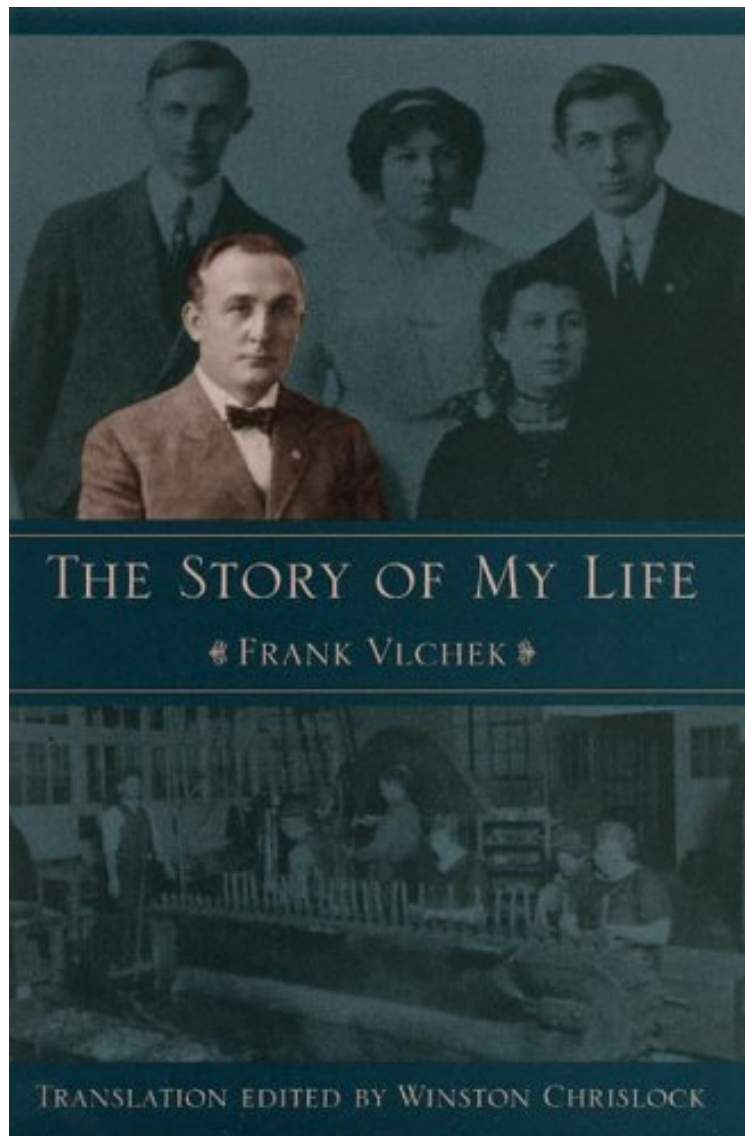


[Mobile book] The Story Of My Life

## The Story Of My Life

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**From Brand: Kent State Univ Pr : The Story Of My Life** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Story Of My Life:

An engaging tale of life as an immigrant in Cleveland during the post-Civil War era and early twentieth century The Story of My Life, originally published in Czechoslovakia in 1928, is the engaging and informative autobiography of

Frank Vlcek, a Czech immigrant who became a successful businessman in Cleveland, Ohio, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The youngest of fourteen children, Vlcek was born to peasant parents in Budyn, southern Bohemia, in 1871. After attempting a career in blacksmithing in Bohemia, at the age of seventeen he decided to follow his two older sisters to Cleveland, home to Americas second-largest Czech community. Vlcek worked a variety of unsatisfactory jobs during his first years in Cleveland. In 1895 he opened his own smithing operation, which after a long struggle was transformed into a successful corporation that specialized in the manufacture of toolkits for automobiles. His narrative relates tales of labor issues, competitors, mergers and acquisitions, and the successes and travails of his operation. Vlcek was often able to travel home to Czechoslovakia, and during those trips he noted the different cultural and political attitudes that had evolved between Czechs and their Czech American cousins. Vlceks memoir provides a rare primary source about Czech immigrants. It also offers insight into a self-made mans life philosophy, illustrates relations between ethnic groups in Cleveland during the 1880s, and demonstrates the assimilation of a late-nineteenth-century immigrant in America. Readers interested in immigration history as well as the history of Cleveland will enjoy this fascinating autobiography.

About the Author Winston Chrislock is professor of history at the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and specializes in immigration history and the history of East Central Europe, particularly the Danubian Basin.