

5. Social and political background of Czech society – years of the communist regime

Lecturer: Pavel Pšěja

Objective: to inform students about the changes in the character of Czech society in the years of the communist regime.

Lecture: Detailed information about the processes and developments that influenced the behaviour of the Czech society under communist rule will be given in this lecture. A brief analysis will also be made with regard to the damages the communist regime inflicted upon Czech society and in what way it affected not only its internal nature, but its position in the international community as well. As a final point, changes after the fall of the communist regime will also be discussed.

First position paper is due in this session (for details please see information as given in the first session).

Assigned reading:

- Fawn, Rick: *The Czech Republic: A Nation of Velvet*, Amsterdam: Harwood Publishers, 2000. pp. 14-26.
- Innes, Abby: *Czechoslovakia: The Short Goodbye*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001. pp. 19-38.

Additional reading:

- Skilling, H. G. “The Czechoslovak Constitutional System: The Soviet Impact.” *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 67, No. 2. (Jun., 1952), pp. 198-224.
- Hájek, Jan; Kolář, František; Matoušek, Václav; Vágner, Petr. *The Heart of Europe*. Pardubice: Theo Publishing, 2000.

Issues for discussion:

The conditions under which the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia seized power in 1948.

The whole notion of “normalization”.