

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

Lecturer: Pavel Pšejda

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 related to the fall of the communist regime will be discussed as well.

Assigned reading:

Fawn, Rick (2000), pp. 14-26.

Innes, Abby (2001), pp. 19-38.

Additional reading:

Hájek, Jan; Kolář, František; Matoušek, Václav; Vágner, Petr. *The Heart of Europe*, Theo Publishing, Pardubice, 2000.

Skilling, H. G.: *The Czechoslovak Constitutional System: The Soviet Impact*. *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 67, No. 2. (Jun., 1952), pp. 198-224.

Issues for discussion:

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

The whole notion of “normalization”.