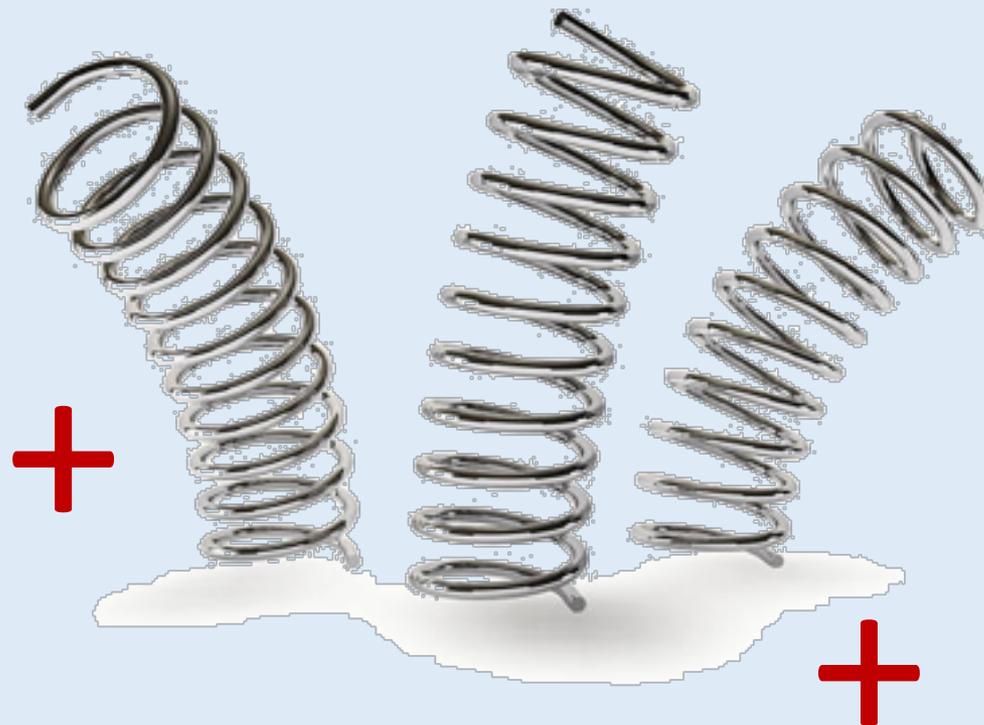


Q: Capital of
Czech Republic



2345 - 377 =

What is the title of today's lesson?



Prague Spring, 1968

Czechoslovakia Crisis: 1968-69

Aim:

- Understand WHY Dubcek introduced reform in Czechoslovakia
- Soviet response
- Affect on International Relations



Key Events: (Remember how important chronology is for Q2 'Narrative')

1. January 1968: Dubcek becomes leader of Czech Government
2. April 1968: 'Prague Spring' – Reforms begin
3. August 1968: Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia
4. September 1968: Brezhnev Doctrine
5. April 1969: Dubcek dismissed

What can we remember about Czechoslovakia so far in our Cold War story?

1948:
Stalin supported a coup
which removed non
communists from power

1948: Also,
established a pro
Soviet communist
government

Secured the 'Buffer Zone'

Think back to Hungary, what problems
did the Hungarians face with a Soviet
controlled government?

Make a list from memory...

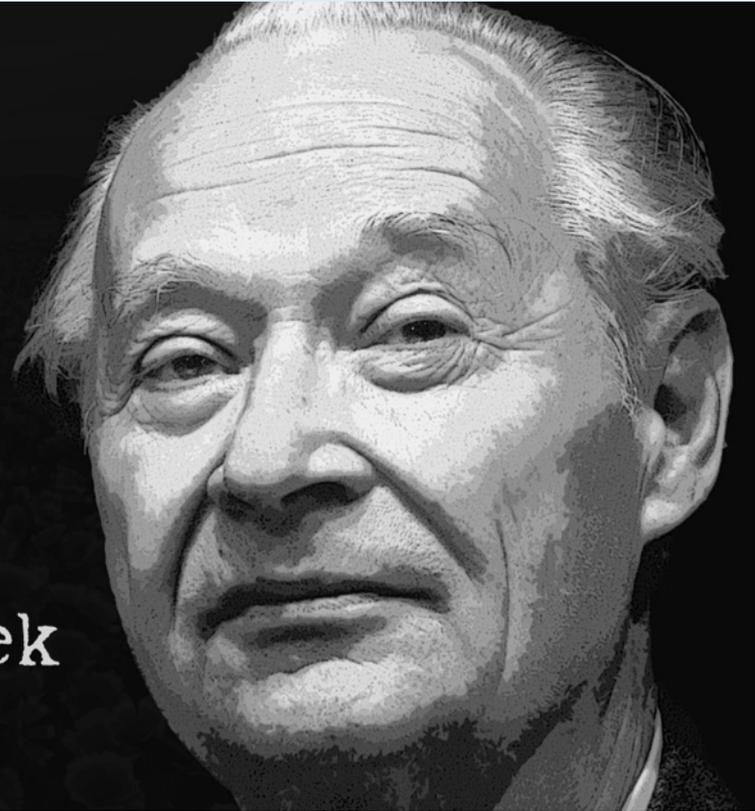
Czech problems

- Ruled by Soviets
- Secret Police limiting freedoms
- Economy run for Soviet Union
- Few consumer goods
- No freedom of speech
- Radio, TV, newspapers censored
- Government ministers 'purged'
- Low standards of living
- Led to riots & protests in the streets

"Socialism with a human face"

"You can crush
the flowers, but
you can't stop
the spring."

- Alexander Dubček



From the quotes here, what impression are you forming about the new Czech leader?

Alexander Dubcek

Elected in 1968 replacing the unpopular Novotny
Pro Soviet Union, supported by Soviet Union
Tasked with restoring order in Czechoslovakia
Committed to Warsaw Pact
Committed Communist



“Socialism with a human face”

The most important thing to me is Communism is the right way forward. I do however believe it should not make the people miserable! They should be able to enjoy life, express their views and challenge the government without fear of being punished by the government!

We need to offer Socialism with a human face!

Following this speech, how do you think the Soviet Union might respond?



Dubcek's reforms became known as the 'Prague Spring'

Prague Spring, 1968

Censorship relaxed and criticism of government is allowed

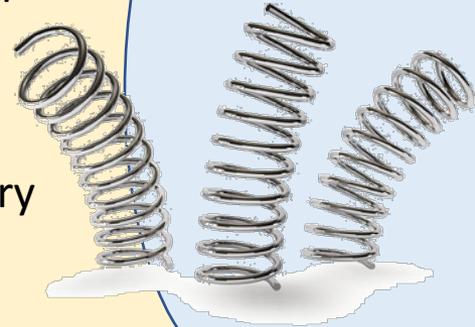
Trade Unions given wider powers and government control of industry reduced

More power given to regional (local) government

Trade with the West was increased

Czech people were given greater freedom to travel abroad

Multi party elections something that could happen in the future



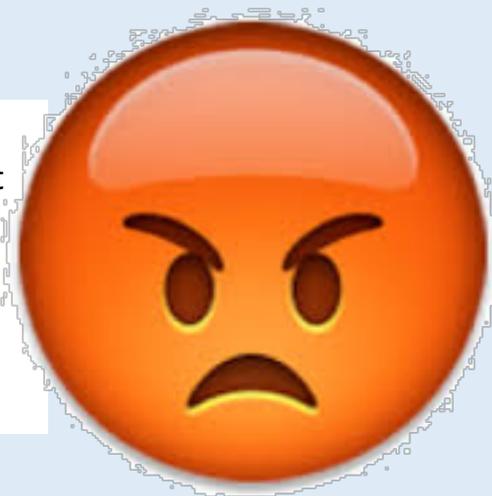
Czech people:



These reforms encouraged opponents of Communism in Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovakia is central to the Eastern Bloc and had the strongest Industry. If Czechoslovakia left the Warsaw Pact it would split the Eastern Bloc in two, also allowing NATO the chance to influence the East

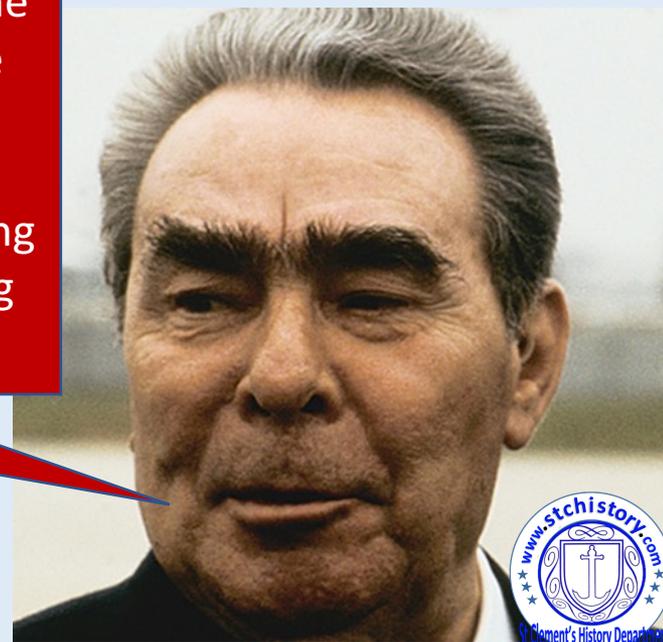
Moscow



My name is Brezhnev, I am the new leader of USSR. I don't care that Dubcek will remain in the Warsaw Pact and says he is loyal to USSR, If I allow his reforms, everyone else in the Warsaw Pact will want similar reforms!

We (USSR) are already struggling with Romania not attending Warsaw Pact meetings and Tito of Yugoslavia not accepting control from Moscow, just NO!

Summarise in your book what Brezhnev's problem is with Dubcek's reforms



- Brezhnev urged Dubcek to not undermine Communism in Czechoslovakia
- He ordered members of the Warsaw Pact to threaten Dubcek
- Dubcek invited the leader of Romania and Tito (Yugoslavia) to Prague for talks...

How do you think Brezhnev felt at this point?



What happens next...?

- 20th August 1968, 500,000 Warsaw Pact troops invaded Czechoslovakia and ended the 'Prague Spring'.
- There was little opposition to the invasion.
- Brezhnev ordered the Czech army to stay in their barracks and not fight back
- Brezhnev told the Warsaw Pact members they had been invited in which was untrue, they were met with hostility which shocked them

Watch the following clip (Burning Bush): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDeXc5mxAXU>

What are your thoughts about the people of Czechoslovakia

The leaders of Czechoslovakia

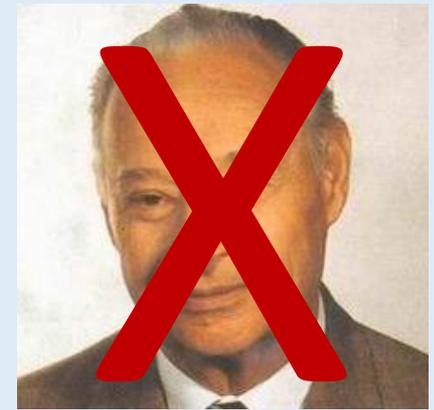
The Soviet attitude to Czechoslovakia



Jan Palach became the symbol for Soviet opposition across Europe

Outcome:

- Dubcek was ordered to reverse his reforms
- Dubcek was arrested and replaced by Husak, a hardliner loyal to Moscow
- Husak clamped down on Czechoslovakia arresting 1000+ Czechs
- Czechoslovakia was firmly under Soviet control



Brezhnev Doctrine, 26th September 1968:

My actions may have appeared an aggressive attempt to dominate another European country, but I prefer to look at it as necessary to protect Communism in Europe.

The actions of any individual communist country affected all communist countries, so if one country's actions threaten the Eastern Bloc and Warsaw Pact, then it is the duty of those Pact countries to take steps to stop them, which is why we entered Czechoslovakia.

Also, if a communist country is threatened by a Capitalist one, then all communist states have the right to intervene using force

Are there any similarities to the Truman Doctrine?

What is the message of the Brezhnev Doctrine?

Basically, that he will stop all communist countries from introducing reforms that will undermine communism and Soviet influence

Impact:

The impact in Czechoslovakia...

The invasion ended the 'Prague Spring'. The authorities soon put things back to 'normal'.

The impact on relations between other communist countries in Europe...

Yugoslavia and Romania condemned the Soviet invasion, straining relations between their governments and Moscow.

The Communist Parties of Italy and France cut links to Moscow.

The governments of East Germany and Poland welcomed Brezhnev's actions. They could feel more secure that they would not be challenged by reformers in their own countries.

The suppression of the 'Prague Spring' led to greater Soviet control of the members of the Warsaw Pact. This was reinforced by the Brezhnev Doctrine which emphasised that members of the Warsaw Pact were under the close control of the Soviet Union.

The impact on relations between the USA and the Soviet Union...

The USA and other Western governments were outraged by the invasion and many of them made strong protests to the Soviet Union.

There was an attempt to pass a formal resolution condemning the invasion in the United Nations but this was vetoed by the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union saw that while the USA might make protests, it would not take direct action to oppose the Soviet Union in Europe.

The impact on the USA's international reputation...

At this time, the USA was involved in a costly war in North Vietnam and was also beginning to adopt a policy of détente with the Soviet Union. Other countries saw that the USA was keen to criticise the Soviet Union but much less prepared to take action.

Exam-style question

Explain **two** consequences of the election of Alexander Dubcek as First Secretary of the Czech Communist Party in January 1968. **8 marks**

Exam tip

This question asks about 'consequences' so think about what difference the election of Dubcek made. How did his election change things?

Summary

- Communist rule in Czechoslovakia became more unpopular.
- Dubcek introduced reforms in the 'Prague Spring'.
- Brezhnev warned Dubcek not to go too far with his reforms.
- When Dubcek did not halt his reforms, Brezhnev ordered tanks into Czechoslovakia.
- The Brezhnev Doctrine was issued.

Checkpoint

Strengthen

- S1** How did Dubcek's reforms change Czechoslovakia?
- S2** Why did Brezhnev disapprove of the reforms?
- S3** Why do you think the period of reforms is known as the 'Prague Spring'?

Challenge

- C1** Can you think of any reasons why Dubcek did not reverse his reforms when he found out Brezhnev did not approve?
 - C2** Why did Brezhnev make a public declaration (the Brezhnev Doctrine) instead of just telling each satellite country what he wanted?
 - C3** Do you think the events of the 'Prague Spring' increased or decreased support for communism in Europe?
- How confident do you feel about your answers to these questions? Discuss any you are unsure about with a partner then try rewriting your answers together.