

The Prague Spring and the 1968 Warsaw Pact Invasion of Czechoslovakia in an international context

SAVE THE DATE:
Monday 24th of September 2018
Prague House, Brussels
Avenue Palmerston 16, 1000 Bruxelles

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| 08:30 – 09:00 | Registration |
| 09:00 – 09:15 | Welcome Speech |
| 09:15 – 10:45 | Panel 1: Culture versus politics: What was the main driver of reforms of 1968? |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | Coffee break |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Panel 2: How neighbouring countries inspired Prague Spring and what was impact of their participation of invasion? |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Light lunch |
| 13:30 – 15:00 | Panel 3: How did events of 1968 influence regional and European cooperation after 1990? |
| 15:00 – 15:15 | Coffee break |
| 15:15 – 16:45 | Panel 4: Inspiring, supporting, but without any significant impact: role of Western European countries during events of 1968. Artificial political tool or relevant substance for today? |

What do the events of the 1968 mean for the Czech Republic and Europe from today's perspective? What impact have the events had on a regional cooperation after 1990? What is the use of 1968 in the current political and social discourse? And finally, what is the understanding of guilty from the perspective of 50 years?

The events of the year 1968 cannot be understood as a single event that ended up by the invasion of the Warsaw Pact armies lead by the Soviet Red Army. It was a result of an intellectual, political, and social uprising which was driven by the will of Czechoslovaks to be an example a transformation of communist regime driven from the inside. However it was the regional as well as European political and social development which created an environment that allowed the Czechoslovak society to believe that reformation of the communist regime was possible.

The intellectual and cultural movement, strongly supported by a political transformation, eventually ended very quickly. The invasion of the Warsaw Pact in August 1968 served as a warning for the other communist states of the Central and Eastern Europe. The same external strength that enabled the early 1968 transformation was used to show that such a reform aims were not welcomed.



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