


HISTORY OF CENTRAL EUROPE

2 BLOCKS: NEED TO COEXISTENCE

- ◉ Since 2nd half 1950s new relation btw 2 blocks - out of the question - political rapprochement, but emergency of objective need of crises management on international scale - fear of nuclear weapons
- ◉ Need of coexistence: both blocks in fact needed each other - economical interests: Soviet Block - technical and technologically backwardness x USA: possibility of new market - Eastern Europe
- ◉ 1962: after Caribbean Crisis - beginning of beginning of the negotiations on the control of nuclear danger

- BUT basic objectives of both superpower remained incompatible
- USA: balance bwt 2 blocks x Soviet Union: aim to spread the power
-  alternating periods of negotiations, conflict, tension and loosening (end 1989)
- 1st phases lasted until end of 1960s : quite successful solution: Indo-China and Austria x lasting issue - Germany - 2nd Berlin Crises 1961 and August 1968 in Czechoslovakia

2ND BERLIN CRISES

- One of the most sensitive question - Germany - conflicts of interest
- Hallstein doctrine
- Economical miracle
- Control of west Berlin - N. S. Khrushchev - neutral or part of GDR - pressure Paris conference 1960 - not successful
- J.F. Kennedy
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjHcNhc ahv4>
- August 1961 - Berlin Wall

BERLIN WALL

- ◉ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vXsdaUmG8s



CZECHOSLOVAKIA



- ◉ 1960 - new constitution and new name Czechoslovak socialist republic and new state symbol
- ◉ President A. Zapotocky - ex fist secretary of KP, 1957
- ◉ Drastically decline of Czechoslovak Economy
- ◉ Need of Economical reform - the most - radical one in Soviet Block - showed that democratization and liberalization of the economy is not possible without changes in policy
- ◉ Liberalization: 1st phases of liberalization of the political regime

- First time criticism of dogmatism and the aim go back to “Young or authentically Marx”
- Not only democratization but also democracy: main tension between culture and political power



- Artists - requirement of creative freedom
- Czechoslovak film: Miloš Forman, Ivan Passer, Jan Němec, Vojtěch Jasný, Jiří Menzel, Věra Chytilová...
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WM3lrSc0Tp4>
- Writers: Milan Kundera, Ivan Klíma, Ludvík Vaculík, Josef Škvorecký, Bohumil Hrabal, Arnošt Lustig,...
- 4th congress of writers 1967 - open criticism of political conditions - cruel punishment - cancel: Literární noviny and movement against liberalism

1968 IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- requirements: demission of the President, economical reform and liberalization of life BUT all changes should be done under the control of CP
- Head of CP Alexander Dubček



JANUARY PLENUM

- ⦿ = beginning of the democratization of the Czechoslovak society
- ⦿ End of censorship
- ⦿ law to the Federation
- ⦿ Prague Spring

REFORM: SOCIALISM WITH HUMAN FACE, PRAGUE SPRING

- ⊙ against: bureaucratic-totalitarian model of socialism
- ⊙ Requirement: more democratic, more economical and more social regime
- ⊙ Idea of political pluralism
- ⊙ Catholic Church
- ⊙ Action program - April 1968 - principles of market economy, facilitate political freedoms and citizens' rights, did not guarantee political pluralism and creation of democratic regime of standard mode

- Effort to restore the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party
- Since May 1968 - growing tension - reform in deep crises
- June 27th 1968 - Manifesto “2000 words”, <http://www.radio.cz/en/section/curreaffrs/the-two-thousand-words-that-started-the-prague-spring>

OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- ◉ Conservative part of CP supported by Soviet Union - preparation of the coup d etat
- ◉ August 18, 1968 Moscow - adopted a resolution on military intervention
- ◉ At night August 20, 1968 - Soviet troops, Hungarian, GDR s, Polish and Bulgarian crossed the boards
- ◉ Czechoslovak government adopted resolution - occupation is against the will of Czechoslovak citizens, international law

- 21st August 1968 - troops of 5 states entered
- Against occupiers - citizens unarmed resistance
- Moscow Protocol - was signed - Soviet troops can stay in Czechoslovakia



OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA



TIME OF NORMALIZATION

- ◉ Moscow Protocol - Moscow Protocol demanded normalization = no reformators in CP
- ◉ Normalization = also period from August 1968 - November 1989
- ◉ Important function - People loyal to the Soviet Union
- ◉ Slovakia - leader of CP Gustav Husák guarantees at least of some reforms
- ◉ Soviet leading - back to period before Prague Spring

- People connected with Prague Spring - out of public life
- Jan Palach burned himself to protest against the regime in January 1969



- ◉ March 1969 - Ice Hockey World Championship - Czechoslovakia beat Soviet Union - DEMONSTRATION x Soviet protest
- ◉ April 1969 - A. Dubček was replaced by Gustav Husák = strict censorship, no protest; „review“ in CP
- ◉ All society = apathy
- ◉ Emigration
- ◉ Economy = since 1968 back to Central planning
- ◉ 1975 G. Husák - president
- ◉ Conferences in Helsinki - Soviet Block agreed on Respect for Human Rights

- Ex CP members, intellectuals, artists, church - fellowship, which was to monitor respect for human rights „Charta 77“ - Jan Patočka, Václav Havel and Jiří Hájek - members were persecuted
- 1978 - Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Persecuted
- Dissidents repeatedly jailed
- Release after 1985 - M. S. Gorbachev - As de facto ruler of the USSR, he tried to reform the stagnating Party and the state economy by introducing *glasnost* ("openness"), *perestroika* ("restructuring"), *demokratizatsiya* ("democratization"), and *uskoreniye* ("acceleration" of economic development), which were launched at the 27th Congress of the CPSU in February 1986

1989 IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- ◉ first manifestations of discontent - January - anniversary of Jan Palach's death
- ◉ November 17th 1989 - police suppressed a student demonstration → beginning of the fall of communism



⦿ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vh3r8tULh1A>

POLAND

- 1978 - Karol Wojtyła - pope
- 1980 - strikes - control - movements
Solidarity: Polish trade union federation that emerged on 31 August 1980 at the Gdańsk Shipyard under the leadership of Lech Wałęsa
- Requirements: economical, Democratic civil rights
- Opposition
- Soviet Union - supported the military coup
- 1981 - Military Council declared state of emergency, 1983, Solidarity cancelled

- Military regime pushed to open the dialog with opposition
- 1989 - election - winner anticommunist opposition - leader catholic politician Tadeusz Mazowiecki



HUNGARY

- ◉ Janos Kadar was deposed from the position in 1988
- ◉ October 1989 New Hungarian Republic was declared
- ◉ 1990 election - winner - Hungarian Democratic Forum

GDR

- ◉ October 1989 Leipzig - manifestation
- ◉ November 1989 Fall of Berlin Wall - symbol of Cold War
- ◉ Current issues of the reunification of Germany
- ◉ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snsdDb7KDkg>

CAUSES DISINTEGRATION OF THE SOVIET BLOC

- ◉ economic depression
- ◉ Deep economic, political, social and moral crisis

HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE DISINTEGRATION OF SOVIET BLOCK

- 1975 Conference in Helsinki - Final Act - signed the declaration in an attempt to improve relations between the Communist bloc and the West
 - Sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty
 - Refraining from the threat or use of force
 - Inviolability of frontiers
 - Territorial integrity of States
 - Peaceful settlement of disputes
 - Non-intervention in internal affairs
 - Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief
 - Equal rights and self-determination of peoples
 - Co-operation among States
 - Fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law

- The document was seen both as a significant step toward reducing Cold War tensions and as a major diplomatic boost for the Soviet Union at the time, due to its clauses on the inviolability of national frontiers and respect for territorial integrity, which were seen to consolidate the USSR's territorial gains in Eastern Europe following the Second World War
- 1976 Soviet Block signed pact of UN - human rights
- Reflection of Helsinki - “Charta 77”,...
- 1988 -89:Vienna meeting - „Human dimension“ - better human rights protection