

CZECH REPUBLIC (CZECHOSLOVAKIA)

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exec	exconst	polcomp
0a	CZE	7	20	10	28	1918	10	9	1938	8	7	4
0b	CZE	-77	0	10	10	1938	3	15	1939	-77	-77	-77
0c	CZE	-66	6	3	16	1939	5	16	1945	-66	-66	-66
0d	CZE	-88	1	5	17	1945	5	26	1946	-88	-88	-88
1X	CZE	5	2	5	27	1946	2	25	1948	7	5	7
1O	CZE	-7	20	2	26	1948	1	4	1968	3	3	1
1Oa	CZE	-3	1	1	5	1968	8	20	1968	3	4	3
1Ob	CZE	-66	1	8	21	1968	9	28	1969	-66	-66	-66
1Oc	CZE	-7	20	9	29	1969	12	9	1989	3	3	1
1Od	CZE	-2	0	12	10	1989	6	8	1990	7	3	2
2X	CZE	7	3	6	9	1990	12	31	1992	7	7	7
2O	CZR	10	13	1	1	1993	6	2	2006	8	7	10
2Oa	CZR	9	13	6	3	2006	99	99	9999	8	7	9

PITF Problem Events:

1) 08/68-09/69 (ARC 08/68-09/69)

0b) October 10, 1938 (state disintegration) – Demands by Nazi Germany to settle a political crisis regarding the status of ethnic-Germans in the Sudetenland within Czechoslovakia along the border with Germany leads to an agreement by major European states to cede the German-speaking regions of Czechoslovakia to Germany without participation or agreement by the Czechoslovakia government itself. The Munich Agreement agreed to on September 29, 1938, and signed in the early hours of September 30, allowed German authorities to occupy and incorporate the Sudetenland by October 10, 1938, thus triggering the disintegration of the Czechoslovakia state. German forces subsequently invaded Czechoslovakia and occupied the capital, Prague, on March 15, 1939.

0c) March 16, 1939 (foreign occupation) – German armed forces invaded the country and captured the capital on March 15, 1939, driving the government into exile. The German occupation continued until the capital was liberated by Soviet forces on May 16, 1945, and a provisional government led by President Edvard Beneš was established.

0d) May 17, 1945 (provisional government) – Following the defeat of German occupational forces, a provisional National Front government is established under the leadership of President Edvard Beneš, who was the last elected executive prior to the German occupation and had led the London-based government in exile, and Prime Minister Zdenek Fierlinger, who held the support of the Soviet Union. A Provisional National Assembly was established and met for the first time on October 28, 1945.

1X) Date of Change to Factional-Democratic: May 27, 1946 (general elections)

Brief Explanation of Change To:

General elections were held on May 26, 1946, for a Constituent National Assembly and resulted in a near equal split between leftists and nationalists. The unity National Front government continues under the leadership of President Beneš, who is elected unanimously on June 19, and Prime Minister Klemens Gottwald, who is elected on July 3. The unity National Front

government masks deep divisions between leftists and nationalists; unity between the groups centers on the mass expulsion of over two million ethnic-Germans.

Identify Main Factions:

- *Left Bloc* — The Left Bloc was dominated by the Czech and Slovak Communist Parties and supported by the Czech Social Democrats and Slovak Labour Party; they received substantial support from the Soviet Union and due to the lingering presence of Soviet forces following liberation from Nazi German occupation.
- *Czech nationalists* — The Czech nationalists were about equally split between the Czech Social Nationalist and Christian Democratic Parties; the nationalists received limited support from the West.
- *Slovak nationalists* — Slovakia was a semi-autonomous region in which Slovak nationalists were organized by the Slovak Democratic Party which predominated over the smaller Slovak Communist Party. The Slovak Democratic Party was accused of supporting a revolutionary plot to seize control of the government in September 1947.

10) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic: February 26, 1948 (new government)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

Extensive nationalist coup plots are “uncovered” by authorities on September 15, 1947, and February 23, 1948. The February 1948 plot was interwoven with allegations of obstructionism by nationalists in parliament, a breakdown of the National Front government, and the resignation of all twelve non-communist ministers. On February 25, 1948, President Beneš reluctantly accepts the resignations of the non-communist ministers and, in so doing, allows the communist takeover of the government under the leadership of Klemens Gottwald. The Communist Party moved quickly to purge the government of opposition and consolidate its control. President Beneš resigned on June 7, 1948, and was replaced by Gottwald on June 14.

Changes within Autocratic Period:

10a) January 5, 1968 (new executive) – On January 5, 1968, the Presidium of the Czechoslovak Communist Party (CPCz) selected Alexander Dubcek, who had been First Secretary of the Slovak Communist Party, to replace Antonin Novotny as First Secretary of the CPCz. Dubcek immediately introduced a broad liberalization policy termed the “socialist democratic revolution” (known more popularly as the “Prague Spring”). Executive authority was to be shared between Dubcek and the president, Gen. Ludvik Svoboda (who replaced Novotny following his forced resignation on March 22).

10b) August 21, 1968 (invasion by foreign forces) – In response to the perceived threat posed by the liberalization program in Czechoslovakia, Warsaw Pact, mainly Soviet, forces invaded the country on August 20 and seized control of major cities. By the end of August about 600,000 foreign troops were in the country.

Adverse Regime Change: August 1968 – September 1969

"Prague Spring" Communist reformers lead popular movement for political and economic liberalization. Communist hardliners, with the support of Soviet troops, crush the reform movement and re-install Stalinist government.

10c) September 29, 1969 (purge) – On September 28, 1969, the Presidium of the CPCz was purged of liberals, including Dubcek, who had been replaced as First Secretary by Gustav Husak on April 17, 1969. The purge of liberals from all levels of the party and government continued through early 1970.

10d) December 10, 1989 (new government) – Following the downfall of the Communist regime in East Germany, opposition to the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia mobilized very rapidly. Mass protests began on November 17, 1989, and opposition groups formed the Civic Forum on November 19. President Husak, who had been in power since 1969, resigned on December 9, 1989, in response to widespread popular discontent and the wave of liberalization sweeping through Eastern Europe. A new government with a non-Communist majority was formed on December 10 and Vaclav Havel was unanimously elected president by the CPCz-controlled Federal Assembly.

2X) Date of Change to Factional-Democratic (Czechoslovakia): June 9, 1990 (elections)

Brief Explanation of Change To:

The first free, multiparty elections in Czechoslovakia since 1946 were held in June. The Czech opposition Civic Forum and Slovak opposition Public against Violence movements unseated the Communists in their respective republics and gained a majority in the federal parliament. However, having ended communism and gaining control of the political agenda, the former opposition movements quickly split into competing factions, divided both over immediate policies and the future course of the country. The Slovak parties voiced strong demands of administrative segregation and eventual separation.

Identify Main Factions:

- *Federalists* — Many in the opposition, particularly in the Czech Lands, favored continuation of a federal union; this position was ardently promoted by Vaclav Havel and Alexandre Dubcek.
- *Nationalists* — Slovak parties tended to favor separation, as they rejected continued domination by the Czech political elites in Prague; this tendency grew increasingly stronger as the strains of transforming to a market economy more strongly affected the largely rural economy of the Slovaks.
- *Communists* — the former, dominant party lost half its membership in late 1989 and the new government moved quickly to dismantle advantages that had accrued to party members.
- Lesser factions:
Ethnic-Hungarians in Slovakia challenged initiatives by Slovak nationalists.

20) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic (Czechoslovakia): January 1, 1993 (formal dissolution)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

The Slovak desire for autonomy becomes increasingly apparent during the June 1992 elections; Czech voters backed the center right while their Slovak counterparts supported separatists and left-wing parties. On July 17, 1992, the government of Slovakia declared sovereignty. At the same time, the Federal Assembly failed four attempts to choose a new president and President Havel resigned on July 20. In August an agreement was reached between the republics to dissolve the federation and on December 27, 1992, members of the federal parliament, divided along national lines, passed a law officially separating the Czech Republic and the Republic of Slovakia on January 1, 1993.

Changes within Democratic Period:

20a) June 3, 2006 (legislative elections) – Elections to the lower house of parliament, the Chamber of Deputies, were held on June 2-3, 2006, shortly after a scandal went public in which senior police and government officials were accused of connections with organized crime. Electoral gains by the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) resulted in it becoming the largest party with 81 seats in the 200-seat Chamber of Deputies (lower house of parliament). The government led by the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) was forced to resign but was retained temporarily due to the inability to choose a speaker in the Chamber of Deputies as the ruling coalition of the ODS, Christian Democratic Union-Czech People's Party (KDU-CSL), and the Green Party (SZ) held only 100 seats and were stalemated by the opposition coalition who controlled the other 100 seats. The deadlock continued until a third attempt to form a government survived a no-confidence vote on January 19, 2007, when two opposition deputies were absent from the vote (both deputies consequently lost their seats). The government budget was passed on October 24, 2007, by a single vote majority, as also was the margin of victory for the re-election of President Vaclav Klaus (ODS) in third round elections in parliament on February 15, 2008. Polarizing issues centered on an impending Czech-US defense treaty and the increasing tensions between west, east, and nationalist policy orientations. Czech party politics remains fragmented and coalitions are difficult to build, generally weak, and prone to no-confidence challenges.