

## Chapter 1 : Velvet Revolution - Wikipedia

*The Velvet Revolution (Czech: sametová revoluce) or Gentle Revolution (Slovak: nezášpinavá revolúcia) was a non-violent transition of power in what was then Czechoslovakia, occurring from 16 November to 29 December*

There was no opposition. Dissidents notably Charter 77 published home-made periodicals samizdat , but they faced persecution from the secret police, and the general public was afraid to support them. A person could be dismissed from their job or school, or have their books or movies banned for having a "negative attitude to [the] socialist regime. These rules were easy to enforce as all schools, media and businesses belonged to the state and were under direct supervision. The Czechoslovak Communist leadership verbally supported Perestroika, but did little to institute real changes, and speaking of the Prague Spring of was still a taboo. The actual impetus for the revolution came from the developments in neighboring countries – by November 16, all neighboring countries of Czechoslovakia, except the Soviet Union, got rid of the Communist rule, the Berlin Wall fell on November 9, and the citizens of Czechoslovakia could see all these events every day on TV both foreign and domestic. The Soviet Union also supported a change in the ruling elite of Czechoslovakia, although they did not anticipate the overthrow of the communist regime. Since the Communist Party of Slovakia had expected troubles and since the fact alone that there was a demonstration was a problem in Communist countries, armed forces were at alert since before the demonstration. In the end, however, the students peacefully moved through the city and finally sent a delegation to the Slovak Ministry of Education to discuss their demands. Most members of SSM are privately in opposition against the Communist leadership, but afraid of speaking up for fear of persecution. This demonstration gives an average student an opportunity to join others and express his opinions without fear. They block all escape routes and brutally beat the students. It is not clear why he did it, but the rumor of "dead student" was perhaps critical for the shape of further events. Still in the evening, students and theater actors agree on going on a strike. At the initiative of students from the Prague Academy of Dramatic Arts, the students in Prague begin a strike. Gradually, this strike is joined by university students throughout Czechoslovakia. The students are supported by theaters in Prague, which are also on strike now. Instead of playing, actors read a proclamation of students and artists to the audience. Home-made posters and proclamations are hanged on public places. As all media radio, TV, newspapers are strictly controlled by the Communist Party see Mass media in Communist Czechoslovakia , this is the only way to spread the message. This persuades some hesitating citizens to disregard fear and join the protests. Theaters in Bratislava, Brno , Ostrava and other towns are also on strike and follow the example of their colleagues from Prague. Members of artistic and literary associations as well as organizations and institutions in some other areas of the society join the strikes. Members of a civic initiative meet the Prime Minister who says to them that he was prohibited to resign to his post two times and that if they want to achieve changes there have to be mass demonstrations like in Eastern Germany some students. He also asks them to reduce the number of "casualties" during the expected changes to a minimum. They call for dismissal of top officials responsible for the violence, independent investigation of the incident and release of all political prisoners. College students announce a strike. On TV, government officials call for peace and want to restore business as usual. It will take several more days to confirm that no one was killed - and by then, the revolution will have already gained momentum. Monday November 20 - Students and theaters are on permanent strike. However, he is outvoted in a special cabinet meeting the same day and the government, in an official statements, refuses any concessions. Civic Forum adds another demand - abolition of the ruling position of Communist Party from the Constitution. Non-Communist newspapers start publishing information, which contradicts the Communist interpretation. First mass demonstration in Prague persons , first demonstrations in Bratislava Tuesday November 21 - First official meeting of the Civic Forum with the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister says that he personally guarantees that no violence will be used against the people. First organized mass demonstration takes place on Wenceslas Square in downtown Prague it will repeat daily for the following days. Actors and students travel to enterprises in Prague and generally outside Prague to gain support of their colleagues in other cities. First mass demonstration takes places on

Hviezdoslav Square in downtown Bratislava it will repeat daily for the following days on the SNP Square. The students present various demands and ask people to participate in the planned general strike for Monday November 17. It will be spontaneously supported by the popular demonstration on November 25 and finally accepted by the Communist Party of Slovakia on November 17. He says that order must be preserved, that socialism is the only alternative for Czechoslovakia and criticizes "groups" that stand behind the current development in Czechoslovakia. Striking students force the representatives of Slovak government and of the Communist Party of Slovakia to participate in a dialogue, in which the official representatives are immediately put on the defensive. Employees of the Slovak section of Czechoslovak TV Bratislava require the leaders of Czechoslovak TV to provide true information on the events in the country, otherwise they would initiate a strike of TV employees. Uncensored live reports from demonstrations in Bratislava follow. Army informs the Communist leadership of its readiness luckily, it was never used against demonstrators. Czechoslovak Army and the Ministry of Defense are preparing for actions against the opposition. Immediately after the meeting, however, the Minister of Defense holds a TV address, in which he says that the army would never undertake interventions against the Czechoslovak people and calls to stop the demonstrations. Czechoslovak TV and Radio announce that they will join the general strike. A discussion with representatives of the opposition is broadcast on the Slovak section of Czechoslovak TV. It is the first free discussion on Czechoslovak TV since its foundation. As a result, the editorial staffs of Slovak newspapers start to join the opposition. Saturday November 25 - New Communist leadership holds a press conference. Demonstrations in Bratislava had a maximum number of participants around 100,000. Monday November 27 - Two-hour general strike takes place throughout the country between 10 and 12. Ministry of Culture released anti-Communist literature for public borrowing in libraries, which effectively ended censorship. This concludes the "popular" phase of the revolution, with many public demonstrations. The speaker of the federal Parliament resigned. It was gradually replaced by non-Communists. The federal government decided that barbed wire should be removed at the border with Austria later also at the border with West Germany, and that Czechoslovak citizens do not need "exit visa permits" anymore when travelling abroad. Barbed wire at the border with Austria was removed from December 1. It had 15 Communist and only 5 non-Communist ministers so called "Democratic Front". December 4 - Government announced freedom to travel to Austria later to all countries. It was no longer necessary to apply for any documents before traveling to Austria. A permanent queue of cars reaching from the city center of Bratislava to the border crossing with Austria will arise. December 6 - Most members of the government of Czechia were replaced by non-Communists. It was the first federal government since in which the Communists had no majority. Strike of theaters was called off, but students stayed on. Secret police burned their files incomplete files, insufficient to convincingly prove or disprove collaboration, caused embarrassment to many public figures in the following decade. December 11 - Barbed wire removed from borders with West Germany. It was the first government of Slovakia since 1945, in which the Communists had no majority. Later on it was established that the militia had operated against the law throughout the whole Communist era from December 28 - Federal Parliament, still consisting of Communist deputies coming from rigged one-candidate elections of 1960, passed a law allowing for co-optation of new personalities. Several non-Communists became deputies this way. Students ended their strike. The Velvet Revolution ended. In December and the following months, Communist Party lost much of its membership especially those who joined it only as a vehicle for promoting their business, academic or political career. The federal parliament introduced key laws for promoting civic rights, civic liberties and economic freedom. The first free elections were scheduled for June. Problematic events included the first parliamentary deadlock, caused by Czechs and Slovaks disagreeing over the name of the state see Dash War, the first step towards a Velvet Divorce, nasty accusations of collaboration with Communist secret police relying on incomplete documents, as some files were burned in December and an increase in crime due to a low esteem for the police and an extensive general pardon by the new president Havel, who in effect released all petty criminals from jails. In general, the population was content, and considered such problems the price of their democracy. Open questions Some events of the Velvet revolution have not been so far satisfactorily explained. For example, It is not clear to what extent it was spontaneous vs. Secret police carried out surveillance on all the leaders of the revolution and had the ability to arrest them.

However, they did not do so and let the revolution progress. A Soviet military advisor was present in the control center of the police force, which beat the demonstrators on November. Supposedly, he did not intervene, but his role is not clear either. Generally, it is assumed that there was a split between different factions of the Communist leadership namely, young Communists anxious to replace old ones and some of them tried to use the popular unrest to promote their agendas - ultimately ending the Communist rule. Media, riding on infotainment wave, saw this success and started tradition of inventing and assigning a poetic name to similar events - see color revolution.

### Chapter 2 : "Velvet Revolution" Takes Armenia into the Unknown | Crisis Group

*In Czech Republic: Labour and taxation of the catalysts of the Velvet www.nxgvision.com leading trade organization to arise in the postcommunist era was the Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions (ČiřeskomoravskÅ; Konfederace OdborovÅ½ch SvazÅ½), which held its first congress meeting in*

He had amended the constitution in to remove term limits which would have prevented him doing this. The Republican Party held its meeting outside of capital Yerevan and unanimously voted to formally nominate Serzh Sargsyan for the office of prime minister. About protesters stayed overnight on France Square after the first day of protests, and an equal number did the same on Saturday night, some sleeping in tents, others gathered around fires. As of Sunday morning, the Armenian police had made no effort to disrupt the demonstrations. He also warned that Pashinyan had not "learned the lessons of March 1", a reference to the 10 protestors killed by police during protests of his election 10 years earlier, amounting to an open threat of violence. The police issued a statement saying that Pashinyan, Mikaelyan and Mirzoyan had been detained for 72 hours; criminal charges may only be brought against them if the Republican-controlled National Assembly strips them of their parliamentary immunity. The protesters gathered in masses and walked to Tsitsernakaberd, the Genocide Memorial. No protest was held on that day. However the majority party blocked his nomination by voting against him with one exception. After the election, prominent Armenian singers such as Iveta Mukuchyan and Sona Shahgeldyan performed for the crowd and made inspiring speeches. Pashinyan walked to Republic Square and told the crowd to go on strike the next day, and block all transportation from 8: The main airport access road was cut off, with some workers striking, and even land crossings were blocked. This time the majority Republican party gave Pashinyan enough votes to win with a margin. Reactions[ edit ] On 4 April Edmon Marukyan , leader of the Bright Armenia party, which cooperates with the Civil Contract party lead by Nikol Pashinyan in the Way Out Alliance published an article in Aravot newspaper, in which he stated his preference of formal means of counteraction to the ruling coalition over civil disobedience actions. On 24 April the head of the EU Delegation to Armenia hailed the success in the civic disobedience campaign in the country, promising a more intensive process towards the ratification of Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement. Armenia has a great future; today I was convinced of it again. I support you, we will always be with you. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova praised the peaceful transition, adding that "Armenia, Russia is always with you! We are convinced that the prompt return of life in the country to normal and the restoration of public accord meet the fundamental interests of the fraternal Armenia. A statement by the US State Department expressed hope that his successor will be chosen in a transparent and constitutional manner.



dissatisfaction among the Slovak Populists, a clerical party headed by Andrej Hlinka. After the separation of the communists, the Social Democracy yielded primacy to the Czech Agrarians, or Republicans, as the latter party was officially renamed. Foreign relations were largely determined by wartime agreements. Czechoslovakia adhered loyally to the League of Nations. France was the only major power that concluded an alliance with Czechoslovakia in January. Czech anticlerical feeling precluded the negotiation of a concordat with the papacy until, when an agreement settled the most serious disputes between church and state. Ultimately, it was Germany that most strongly influenced the course of Czechoslovak foreign affairs. Nevertheless, the relations between Czechoslovakia and Germany improved slightly after the Locarno Pact of 1925. The crisis of German nationalism when the impact of the Great Depression reached Czechoslovakia soon after, the highly industrialized German-speaking districts were hit more severely than the rest of the country. Professing loyalty to the democratic system, he called for recognition of the German minority as an autonomous body. In 1933 Henlein changed the name of his movement to the Sudeten German Party (Sudetendeutsche Partei; SdP) so that the group could take part in the parliamentary election in May. The SdP captured nearly two-thirds of the Sudeten German vote and became a political force second only to the Czech Agrarians. A tense interlude of little more than two years followed the landslide victory of the SdP. A military assistance treaty with the Soviet Union in 1938 enhanced the false sense of national security. The program of the Czechoslovak Communist Party was determined not only by this treaty but also by the general reorientation of the Comintern, which now urged cooperation with antifascist forces in popular fronts. Meanwhile, Hitler embarked on his program of eastward expansion. As early as Nov. 1938, two weeks later Henlein, anticipating that Czechoslovakia would be defeated militarily within a few months, offered Hitler the SdP as an instrument to break up the country from the inside. As the international crisis deepened, Czechoslovak politics became further polarized. The political right, led by the Agrarians, worked to win the support of the Sudeten Germans; the political left was prepared to cooperate with the Soviet Union. The political crisis culminated in September 1938. Armed with information supplied by Lord Runciman, the British prime minister Neville Chamberlain visited Hitler at Obersalzberg, where he assured Hitler that the German objectives could be achieved without fighting. But Hitler wanted war against Czechoslovakia, and he rejected the British plan when Chamberlain visited him for the second time, at Bad Godesberg. For several days Europe stood on the verge of war; Czechoslovakia announced general mobilization, which was followed in France and Britain with partial call-ups. In the end the appeasers won the day. In the resulting Munich agreement, the Prague government was forced to relinquish to Germany all frontier districts with populations that were 50 percent or more German by October 1, 1938. Shortly after the Munich verdict, Poland sent troops to annex the Teschen region. By the Vienna Award of Nov. 2, 1938. By all these amputations Czechoslovakia lost about one-third of its population, and the country was rendered defenseless. As the country lost its German, Polish, and Hungarian minorities, the Czechs reluctantly agreed to change the centralistic constitution into a federalist one. Subcarpathian Ruthenia was also granted autonomous status. A cumbersome system composed of three autonomous units—the Czech Lands, Slovakia, and Ruthenia—was introduced late in the fall. Under German pressure the complicated party system was changed drastically. In Slovakia the Populists absorbed all the other political groups. On the following day, Bohemia and Moravia were occupied and proclaimed a protectorate of the German Third Reich, while Slovakia became a nominally independent state under Tiso as president. Although under German control and forced to participate in the German attack on the Soviet Union with a token military force, Slovakia was able to retain a certain degree of independence in internal matters. For some two years the Czech protectorate kept the semblance of an autonomous body, but in September 1941 Reinhard Heydrich, the head of German secret police, replaced Neurath as Reich protector and inaugurated a reign of terror. After the assassination, the Nazis proclaimed martial law, executed hundreds of Czechs without trial, and destroyed the village of Lidice near Prague. Within a few weeks, the entire Czech underground network was wiped out. Martial law ultimately was lifted only because the Germans needed Czech workers to maintain productivity in the armaments industry. Consignment of young people for work in Germany continued without much resistance until the collapse of the Nazi regime. In Slovakia in late August a popular uprising, planned by officers of the Slovak army, broke out following clashes between German troops and Slovak partisans under Soviet commanders. In contrast with the Warsaw

Uprising , which also took place that August, the Soviets were directly supporting the Slovak rebels. The Nazis crushed the uprising at the end of October, before Soviet troops were able to cross the Carpathians. Nevertheless, the advance of the Red Army through Slovakiaâ€”several months before the Western Allies were able to advance closer to the Czech borderâ€”became of decisive importance. A program of postwar reconstruction was worked out under decisive communist influence. On May 5 an uprising against the German troops concentrated in central Bohemia started in Prague. Appeals for Allied help were largely ignored. Eisenhower , did not advance to Prague. It was believed that his intention was to restore in Czechoslovakia the liberal democratic regime that had collapsed under Nazi assault in In particular, the Czechoslovak state was to be more ethnically homogeneous: The country was to remain a republic whose president would retain considerable constitutional and executive power; a government based on the electoral performance of select political parties would run the country by means of a professional civil service , while the judiciary would enforce laws passed by parliamentâ€”the National Assembly. Subsequently, two additional parties were permitted in Slovakia, but too late for the election in The vice premier was Gottwald, and the leaders of the other political parties also held vice premierships. On May 26, , the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia won a great victory in the general election, polling 2.,, votesâ€” Gottwald became premier, and the communists took control of most of the key ministries, including interior, information, agriculture, and finance. Although the political parties formed a coalition called the National Front, collaboration between the communists and noncommunists was difficult from the beginning. While all parties agreed that economic recovery should remain the priority, and while a two-year plan was launched to carry it out, they began to differ as to the means to be employed. The noncommunists wanted no further nationalizations or land confiscations, no special taxation of the rich, raises in pay for the civil service, and, above all, economic aid from the United States by way of the Marshall Plan. The conflict sharpened in the summer of when the government first accepted Marshall Plan aid but then rejected it because of pressure from the Soviet Union. Although the noncommunists blocked communist policies within the government throughout , they had no common strategy regarding the next electionâ€”only a common desire to defeat the communists decisively. The communists , on the other hand, envisioned gaining an absolute majority in the next election with the help of the Social Democrats. The tension between the two factions developed into a crisis over the question of who was to control the police. The communist interior minister objected to the appointment of noncommunist officials for senior police posts. In protest, most of the noncommunist ministers resigned on Feb. Instead, the communists seized the ministries held by the resigning ministers as well as the headquarters of the parties now in opposition. On February 25 he allowed the formation of a new government, in which the communists and left-wing Social Democrats held the key posts. The other parties of the National Front were nominally represented by individual members chosen not by the parties themselves but by the communists. The Provisional National Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed the new government and its program.

**Chapter 4 : Czech Republic Slovakia: Velvet Revolution at 25 - BBC News**

*Good on Stephen Colbert. The "Late Show" host last night welcomed CNN host Anderson Cooper for a little chat, and the name of former Donald Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski arose.*

Non-violent protesters face armed policemen, holding grenades and automatic weapons. The Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia combined students and older dissidents. The result was the end of 41 years of one-party rule in Czechoslovakia, and the subsequent dismantling of the planned economy and conversion to a parliamentary republic. By 20 November, the number of protesters assembled in Prague grew from , the previous day to an estimated , A two-hour general strike involving all citizens of Czechoslovakia was held on 27 November. In response to the collapse of other Warsaw Pact governments and the increasing street protests, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia announced on 28 November that it would relinquish power and dismantle the one-party state. Two days later, the legislature formally deleted the sections of the Constitution giving the Communists a monopoly of power. Barbed wire and other obstructions were removed from the border with West Germany and Austria in early December. In June , Czechoslovakia held its first democratic elections [3] since . Prior to the revolution the Communist Party seized power on 25 February . No official opposition parties operated thereafter. However, it too was quashed. Later, with the advent of the Civic Forum, independence could truly be seen on the horizon. Until Independence Day on 17 November , the populace faced persecution by the authorities from the secret police. Thus, the general public did not openly support the dissidents for fear of dismissal from work or school. Writers or filmmakers could have their books or films banned for a "negative attitude towards the socialist regime". These rules were easy to enforce, as all schools, media and businesses belonged to the state. They were under direct supervision and often were used as accusatory weapons against rivals. The Czechoslovak Communist leadership verbally supported Perestroika, but made few changes. Speaking about the Prague Spring of was taboo. The first anti-government demonstrations occurred in the Candle Demonstration , for example and , but these were dispersed and participants were repressed by the police. By the late s, discontent with living standards and economic inadequacy gave way to popular support for economic reform. Citizens began to challenge the system more openly. By , citizens who had been complacent were willing to openly express their discontent with the regime. Reform-minded attitudes were also reflected by the many individuals who signed a petition that circulated in the summer of calling for the end of censorship and the beginning of fundamental political reform. On 9 November, the Berlin Wall fell, removing the need for the detour. The citizens of Czechoslovakia watched these events on TV through both foreign and domestic channels. The Soviet Union also supported a change in the ruling elite of Czechoslovakia, although it did not anticipate the overthrow of the Communist regime.

**Chronology**

16 November On the eve of International Students Day the 50th anniversary of Sonderaktion Prag, the storming of Prague universities by the Nazis , Slovak high school and university students organised a peaceful demonstration in the centre of Bratislava. The Communist Party of Slovakia had expected trouble, and the mere fact that the demonstration was organised was viewed as a problem by the Party. Armed forces were put on alert before the demonstration. In the end, however, the students moved through the city peacefully and sent a delegation to the Slovak Ministry of Education to discuss their demands. This demonstration gave average students an opportunity to join others and express their opinions. They blocked all escape routes and attacked the students. Policemen carried his motionless body to an ambulance. The atmosphere of fear and hopelessness gave birth to a hoax about the dead student. This incident mobilised the people and triggered the revolution. That same evening, students and theatre actors agreed to go on strike. The strike at the Realistic Theatre was declared and other theatres quickly followed. The theaters opened their stages only for public discussions. At the initiative of students from the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague , the students in Prague went on strike. This strike was joined by university students throughout Czechoslovakia. Theatre employees and actors in Prague supported the strike. Instead of going on stage, actors read a proclamation by the students and artists to the audience, that called for a general strike on

27 November. Home-made posters and proclamations were posted. As all media radio, TV, newspapers were strictly controlled by the Communist Party see Mass media in Communist Czechoslovakia , this was the only way to spread the message. Although the report was false, it heightened the feeling of crisis, and persuaded some hesitant citizens to overcome their fear and join the protests. We decided to put an end to communism and to establish freedom and democracy. Theatres Bratislava , Brno , Ostrava and other towns went on strike. Members of artistic and literary associations as well as organisations and institutions joined the strike. Members of a civic initiative met with the Prime Minister, who told them he was twice prohibited from resigning his post and that change requires mass demonstrations like those in East Germany some , students. He asked them to keep the number of "casualties" during the expected change to a minimum. They denounced the attack against the students in Prague on 17 November and formed Public Against Violence , which would become the leading force behind the opposition movement in Slovakia. They called for the dismissal of top officials responsible for the violence, and an independent investigation of the incident and the release of all political prisoners. College students went on strike. It would take several more days to confirm that nobody was killed and, by then, the revolution gained further momentum. The leaders of the Democratic Initiative presented several demands, including the resignation of the government, effective 25 November, and the formation of a temporary government composed of noncompromised members of the current government. Wenceslas Monument Students and theatre went on "permanent" strike. Police stopped a demonstration from continuing toward Prague Castle, which would have entered the striking theaters. However, he was outvoted in a special cabinet meeting the same day. The government, in an official statement, made no concessions. Civic Forum added a demand: Non-Communist newspapers published information that contradicted the Communist interpretation. The first mass demonstration in Prague , people and the first demonstrations in Bratislava occurred. The Prime Minister agreed to personally guarantee that no violence would be used against the people; however he would "protect socialism, about which no discussion is possible". Actors and students travelled to factories inside and outside Prague to gain support for their colleagues in other cities. A mass demonstration erupted in Hviezdoslav Square in downtown Bratislava in the following days, it moved to the Square of the Slovak National Uprising. The students presented demands and asked the people to participate in the general strike planned for Monday, 27 November. Further demonstrations followed in all major cities of Czechoslovakia. He said that order must have been preserved, that socialism was the only alternative for Czechoslovakia and criticised protest groups. Striking students forced the representatives of the Slovak government and of the Communist Party of Slovakia to participate in a dialogue, in which the official representatives were immediately put on the defensive. Employees of the Slovak section of the Federal Television required the leaders of the Federal Television to provide true information on the events in the country; otherwise they would initiate a strike of TV employees. Uncensored live reports from demonstrations in Bratislava began. The military inform the Communist leadership of its readiness to act ultimately, it was never used against demonstrators. The military and the Ministry of Defense were preparing for actions against the opposition. Immediately after the meeting, however, the Minister of Defence delivered a TV address, in which he said that the army would never undertake action against the people and called for an end to demonstrations. A discussion with representatives of the opposition was broadcast by the Slovak section of Federal Television. It was the first free discussion on Czechoslovak television since its beginning. As a result, the editorial staff of Slovak newspapers started to join the opposition. The new Communist leadership held a press conference. Demonstrations in Bratislava peaked at around , participants. The Ministry of Culture released anti-Communist literature for public checkouts in libraries, effectively ending decades of censorship. Civic Forum demonstrated its capacity to disrupt the political order and thereby establish itself as the legitimate voice of the nation in negotiations with the state. He resigned shortly afterward. Within weeks, Havel negotiated the removal of all Soviet troops approx. The end of Communism meant the end of life-long employment, and a subsequent increase in unemployment. After the dissolution of Czechoslovakia in , Slovakia used the term Gentle Revolution, the term that Slovaks used for the revolution from the beginning. The Czech Republic continues to refer to the event as the Velvet Revolution. Contending theories of revolution argue that the Velvet Revolution is a legitimate revolution because it is a " revolutionary situation "

of contested sovereignty that lead to a transfer of power "revolutionary outcome". Hundreds of discrete flyers with varying messages were printed, but most shared the same ideals. In the summer of , one of the most widely circulated documents was "The Eight Rules of Dialogue," which advocated for truth, understanding and empathy, informed and respectful discussion, abstaining from ad hominem attacks, and an open mind. Other documents focused less on communication techniques and more on ideals. Democracy, freedom, nonviolence, fairness, and humanness were prevalent themes, as well as self-organisation, political representation, and improved working conditions. According to these theories, the Communist Party only transformed its power into other, less visible forms and still controls society. Belief in such theories has decreased, but well-known individuals such as KGB defector Anatoliy Golitsyn and Czech dissident and former friend of Havel Petr Cibulka still contend that the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia was staged by the Communist StB secret police. The most contentious points were: It is not clear to what extent events were spontaneous or orchestrated by the secret police. Secret police carried out surveillance on the leaders of the revolution and had the ability to arrest them. However, they did not do so and let the revolution proceed.

*The Velvet Revolution was a non-violent revolution in Czechoslovakia which led to the overthrow of the Communist government which had ruled in that nation for over 40 years. It is often commemorated along with other protests, demonstrations, and marches held in former Soviet nations in the late 1980s.*

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Therefore, the transformations in Poland and Hungary and the collapse of the regime in East Germany, both of which could be traced to the new attitude of the Soviets toward East Europe, encouraged Czechs and Slovaks to take to the streets to win their freedom. However, national factors, including the economic and political crisis and the actions of groups and individuals working towards a transformation, destabilised support for the system. Hardly anyone thought that the state could collapse so quickly. Striking students and theatres did not seem likely to intimidate a state that was able to repress any sort of demonstration. Supporters of the revolution had to take instant responsibility for running the government, in addition to establishing essential reforms in political organisation and values, economic structure and policies and foreign policy. The coin depicts a bell with a key adjoining the clapper. Le Guin wrote a short story, "Unlocking the Air", in which the jingling of keys played a central role in the liberation of a fictional country called Orsinia. Civic Forum and Public Against Violence political movements that played major role in the revolution Dissolution of Czechoslovakia peaceful dissolution of Czechoslovakia few years later.

### Chapter 6 : Armenian Velvet Revolution - Wikipedia

*The signature actions of the Velvet Revolution were enormous mass demonstrations (up to one-million in a country with less than 16 million total population) and the public rattling of keys as a dramatic collective show of defiance.*

### Chapter 7 : Velvet Revolutions - Miroslav Vanek; Pavel Měřcké - Oxford University Press

*The Velvet Revolution in November brought about the collapse of the authoritarian communist regime in what was then Czechoslovakia, marking the beginning of the country's journey towards democracy.*

### Chapter 8 : Velvet Revolution - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*Velvet Revolutions: An Oral History of Czech Society is seminal. It is the first work of its kind, and hopefully Vanek and Měřcké have begun a tradition of recording Czech oral history so that other works will reach an English-speaking audience.*

### Chapter 9 : Velvet Revolution | Czech history | www.nxgvision.com

*The Velvet Revolution has always interested me (since I learned about it in University). It is an amazing thing that you all did there. www.nxgvision.com thing Brad, I'm American and lived in the UK as well.*