

CONTINUITY AND POLITICAL CHANGE IN
CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968

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The political events of the year 1968 in Czechoslovakia were by no means accidental. They were the result of a development whose beginnings can be traced back to the year 1963, when Alexander Dubček became First Secre-

tary of the Slovak Communist Party. At that time Dubček allowed a process of change to begin in the CPSL which in 1968 held out the promise of a new style of rule and a new political climate under the leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, whose new First Secretary was Dubček himself. Behind every reform introduced in this year can be discerned an evolutionary process whose beginnings go back, in some instances, even earlier than 1963. The August 1968 invasion put an end to the realization of these reforms, with one notable exception: the federalization of the state. This reform survived above all because of the divergent Czech and Slovak views of the democratization and liberalization process. It is thanks to these diverging views that at least something has remained of the „Prague Spring“.