

# THE PRAGUE SPRING (1968)

## TRUE OR FALSE?

Czechoslovakia had a democracy before World War II.	A 1948 coup in Czechoslovakia installed a pro-Soviet government.	The USSR used the secret police to control Czechoslovakia's population.	The economy of Czechoslovakia was controlled by the USA.	Various groups, including Catholics, Jews, and politicians, were victims of violence.
Freedom of speech was allowed in Czechoslovakia during this period.	Media in Czechoslovakia was heavily censored.	Khrushchev ordered purges of suspected disloyal individuals in Czechoslovakia.	Military leaders in Czechoslovakia were not among those purged.	By 1966, living standards in Czechoslovakia had significantly declined, leading to student demonstrations in Prague.

## WHY DIDN'T THE USSR APPROVE OF THE REFORMS?

For each of the reforms included in the 'Prague Spring' in the table below, say why you think the USSR would have been against it.

Reform	Why did the USSR object to it?
	Trade with western countries was encouraged.
	Censorship was relaxed. People were also able to criticise the government.
	People were allowed to travel abroad.
	Restrictions on trade unions relaxed and greater freedom for industry.