Communism and the Russian Invasion and Occupation

**Readings**

*-* Historical*:* Laura Cashman, *Remembering 1948 and 1968: Reflections on Two Pivotal Years in Czech and Slovak History* (you have the full text online on Ebscohost via NTK).

- Historical: Jonathan Bolton, *Worlds of Dissent: Charter 77, The Plastic People of the Universe, and Czech Culture under Communism* (you have the full text online on Ebscohost via NTK).

- Must read literature: Milan Kundera, *The unbearable lightness of being*.

- Learn about Tuzex <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuzex>

**Visits**

- The National Memorial on Vitkov Hill: the exhibition "[Crossroad of Czech and Czechoslovak statehood](http://www.nm.cz/Historicke-muzeum/Long-term-Exhibitions-HM/Crossroads-of-Czech-and-Czechoslovak-Statehood.html)" (not only communist times but retraces well the history of the country since the first Republic. Especially interesting to apprehend was state propaganda)

- Walk around Prague and spot the communist architecture

**Movies:**

- The Czech movie [Pelisky](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0167331/) is not only a very good piece of Czech cinema, but is great to apprehend the division in the society between pro-East and pro-West people before the invasion in 1968.

**From the contemporary research perspective:** you can have a look at projects and publications by the Czech [Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes](https://www.ustrcr.cz/en/). Issues of their magazine *"Behind the Iron Curtain"* can be downloaded for free directly from the website :)

**Additional:**

- Photos: *Liberation/Occupation* by the Czech photo reporter Koudelka: a testimony on how Russians were first seen as liberators, and then as undesirable occupants. Marine has it at her desk.

- Some background about Staline statue:if you take a look in the book *Gottland* that Stephanie has in her office, there is a chapter about it and the fate of its architect and then of the guy who had been in charge to dynamite it.

- NTK Gallery new exhibition on the theme of censorship and control.