Country: Czech Republic

Years: 1945-1947

Leader: Edvard Benes

Ideology: leftist

Description: CHISOLS identifies Benes’s party as CNSP. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Benes’s ideology as centrist. World Statesmen (2020) identifies the party as Czechoslovak National Social Party (CSNS) and describes it as “conservative nationalist and republican federalist”. Hochman (1998) identifies CSNS as leftist, writing that “the Czech National Social Party was founded in 1897 with a program that combined modern reform socialism and Czech nationalism”. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy CSNS’s party family as right-wing. Paces (2009: 30) writes that “founded in 1897 by an assembly of Czech workers and tradespersons, the National Social Party combined socialism’s emphasis social justice and economic reform with Young Czech nationalism.” Kelly (2006) writes “Most of the early supporters of the Czech National Socialist party that formed in Prague immediately after the elections of 1897 were those unhappy with policies and practices of the Young Czech or Social Democratic parties. The first leaders of this new party were untroubled by any ideological contradiction stemming from their belief that they were both socialists and nationalists.”

Years: 1948-1952

Leader: Klement Gottwald

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (*Komunistická strana Československa* – *KSC*). DPI identifies KSC’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2015-2006: 389) elaborates, writing that “the KSČ was the only East European Communist Party to retain legal status in the 1930s” and that “the Czech component of the KSČ relaunched itself as the KSČM, with a socialist rather than a Marxist-Leninist orientation”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 31 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) as 1.6. Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as leftist. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Gottwald’s ideology as leftist. Lentz (1994: 211) identifies Gottwald’s ideology as leftist, writing that “the communists in the Czech government, led by Premier Klement Gottwald, demanded that a communist-dominated government be established in 1948.” World Statesmen (2020) identifies the party as Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (KSC); it identifies the party as leftist: “Marxist-Leninist communist”. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy KSC’s party family as communist. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Far-left” (-3.705) in 1990.

Years: 1953-1956

Leader: Antonin Zapotocky

Ideology: left

Description: CHISOLS identifies Zapotocky’s party as KSC. Political Handbook of the World (2015-2006: 389) elaborates, writing that “the KSČ was the only East European Communist Party to retain legal status in the 1930s” and that “the Czech component of the KSČ relaunched itself as the KSČM, with a socialist rather than a Marxist-Leninist orientation”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 31 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) as 1.6. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Zapotocky’s ideology as leftist. Lentz (1994: 212) identifies Zapotocky’s ideology as leftist, writing that “he became active in socialist politics at an early age and was imprisoned on several occasions for his activities.” World Statesmen (2020) identifies the party as Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (KSC); it identifies the party as leftist: “Marxist-Leninist communist”. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy KSC’s party family as communist. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Far-left” (-3.705) in 1990.

Years: 1957-1967

Leader: Antonin Novotny

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (*Komunistická strana Československa* – *KSC*). DPI identifies KSC’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2015-2006: 389) elaborates, writing that “the KSČ was the only East European Communist Party to retain legal status in the 1930s” and that “the Czech component of the KSČ relaunched itself as the KSČM, with a socialist rather than a Marxist-Leninist orientation”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 31 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) as 1.6. Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as leftist. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Novotny’s ideology as leftist. Lentz (1994: 212) identifies Novotny’s ideology as leftist, writing that “a supporter of Josef Stalin, he was instrumental in the Stalinist takeover of the Czechoslovak government” and that “Novotny’s close association with Moscow led to criticism from more liberal members of the Czech Communist Party.” World Statesmen (2020) identifies the party as Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (KSC); it identifies the party as leftist: “Marxist-Leninist communist”. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy KSC’s party family as communist. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Far-left” (-3.705) in 1990.

Years: 1968-1988

Leader: Gustav Husak

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (*Komunistická strana Československa* – *KSC*). DPI identifies KSC’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2015-2006: 389) elaborates, writing that “the KSČ was the only East European Communist Party to retain legal status in the 1930s” and that “the Czech component of the KSČ relaunched itself as the KSČM, with a socialist rather than a Marxist-Leninist orientation”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 31 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) as 1.6. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Husak’s ideology as leftist. Lentz (1994: 214) identifies Husak’s ideology as leftist, writing that “Husak was arrested by the German-controlled Slovakian government for his communist activities.” World Statesmen (2020) identifies the party as Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (KSC); it identifies the party as leftist: “Marxist-Leninist communist”. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy KSC’s party family as communist. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Far-left” (-3.705) in 1990.

Years: 1989-1991

Leader: Marian Calfa

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as KSC (*Komunistická strana Československa* – *KSC*) in 1989, as Public Against Violence (*Verejnosť proti násiliu* - *VPN*) in 1990, and Civic Democratic Union (*Občianska demokratická únia* - *ODU*) in 1991. Regional Studies of the World (2004: 216) identifies CDU as rightist, writing that “the three centre-right parties – CDP, CDU, and the FU – won 102 of the 200 seats”. Stradling (2006: 373) also identifies Calfa as rightist, writing that “the new federal government was made up of essentially a coalition between VPN and Civic Forum, with the support of Czech and Slovak centre-right parties and was headed by Marian Calfa of VPN”. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Calfa’s ideology as leftist. Lentz (1994: 217) writes that “Calfa resigned from the Communist Party in 1989 and succeeded Ladislav Adamec as premier on December 10, 1989, at the head of a non-communist government.” Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy KSC’s party family as communist. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Far-left” (-3.705) in 1990. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify leader party’s cohesion as “Negligible visible disagreement” in 1990.

Year: 1992

Leader: Jan Strasky

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as the Civic Democratic Party (*Občanská demokratická strana* - *ODS*). DPI identifies ODS’s ideology as rightist. Political Handbook of the World (2015: 388) elaborates, writing that “intensely anticommunist, the ODS quickly built … an electoral coalition with the Christian Democratic Party”. Armingeon et al. (2018) agree that ODS’s ideology is rightist. Perspective Monde (2019), however, identifies Strasky’s ideology as centrist. World Statesmen (2020) identifies the party as the Civic Democratic Party (ODS); it identifies the party as: “center-right”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 31 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Civic Democratic Union (ODS) as 7.7. Rohrschneider and Whitefield (2009) identify ODS’s oppose-support market score as 6 and its support-oppose welfare score as 6 on scales from 1-7. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy ODS’s party family as conservative. Pederson & Margaras (2006: 344) identify ODS as rightist, writing that “ODS is a center-right party that advocates continuation of the move toward a free-market economy and a limited role for the state”. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.672) in 1992.

Years: 1993-1996

Leader: Vaclav Klaus

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as the Civic Democratic Party (*Občanská demokratická strana* - *ODS*). DPI identifies ODS’s ideology as rightist. Political Handbook of the World (2015: 388) elaborates, writing that “intensely anticommunist, the ODS quickly built … an electoral coalition with the Christian Democratic Party”. Armingeon et al. (2018) agree that ODS’s ideology is rightist. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Klaus’s ideology as rightist. World Statesmen (2020) identifies the party as the Civic Democratic Party (ODS); it identifies the party as: “center-right”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 31 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Civic Democratic Union (ODS) as 7.7. Rohrschneider and Whitefield (2009) identify ODS’s oppose-support market score as 6 and its support-oppose welfare score as 6 on scales from 1-7. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy ODS’s party family as conservative. Pederson & Margaras (2006: 344) identify ODS as rightist, writing that “ODS is a center-right party that advocates continuation of the move toward a free-market economy and a limited role for the state”. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.672) in 1992 and “Right” (1.771) in 1996.

Year: 1997

Leader: Josef Tosovsky

Ideology:

Description: CHISOLS identifies Tosovsky’s party as none. World Statesmen (2019) identifies Tosovsky as non-party. Rulers (2019) identifies Tosovsky as non-party, writing that “his lack of affiliation to any political party made him an easy target for partisan bickering.” Rulers (2019) writes that “an inflation hawk who earned the 1995 ‘Banker of the Year’ honor at the International Banker’s Forum, Tosovsky reluctantly accepted Pres. Vaclav Havel’s plea in December 1997 to guide the country”.

Years: 1998-2001

Leader: Milos Zeman

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as the Czechoslovak Party of Social Democracy (*Česká strana sociálně demokratická* – CSSD). DPI identifies CSSD’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World does not provide any information on CSSD’s ideology. Armingeon et al. (2018) agree that CSSD’s ideology is leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2005-2006: 385) identifies Zeman as leftist, writing that left-leaning former prime minister Miloš Zeman became the first popularly elected president of the Czech Republic”. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Zeman’s ideology as leftist. World Statesmen (2020) identifies the party as Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD); it identifies the party as leftist: “social-democratic”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 31 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) as 3.2. Rohrschneider and Whitefield (2009) identify CSSD’s oppose-support market score as approximately 3.5 and its support-oppose welfare score as approximately 3.5 on scales from 1-7. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy CSSD’s party family as social democracy. Pederson & Margaras (2006: 346) identify CSSD as leftist, writing that “the party tries to promote itself as a modern social democratic European party. In terms of ideas and relations it identifies closely with German Social Democrats and the British Labour Party. The Social Democratic Party is an active member of the Socialist International. The party tries to promote a “social market economy,” and it led a major privatization process along with measures to encourage foreign investment.” In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.293) in 1998.

Years: 2002-2003

Leader: Vladimir Spidla

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as the Czechoslovak Party of Social Democracy (*Česká strana sociálně demokratická* – CSSD). DPI identifies CSSD’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World does not provide any information on CSSD’s ideology. Armingeon et al. (2018) agree that CSSD’s ideology is leftist. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Spidla’s ideology as leftist. World Statesmen (2020) identifies the party as Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD); it identifies the party as leftist: “social-democratic”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 31 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) as 3.2. Rohrschneider and Whitefield (2009) identify CSSD’s oppose-support market score as approximately 3.5 and its support-oppose welfare score as approximately 3.5 on scales from 1-7. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy CSSD’s party family as social democracy. Pederson & Margaras (2006: 346) identify CSSD as leftist, writing that “the party tries to promote itself as a modern social democratic European party. In terms of ideas and relations it identifies closely with German Social Democrats and the British Labour Party. The Social Democratic Party is an active member of the Socialist International. The party tries to promote a “social market economy,” and it led a major privatization process along with measures to encourage foreign investment.” In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.293) in 2002.

Year: 2004

Leader: Stanislav Gross

Ideology: left

Description HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as the Czechoslovak Party of Social Democracy (*Česká strana sociálně demokratická* – CSSD). DPI identifies CSSD’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World does not provide any information on CSSD’s ideology. Armingeon et al. (2018) agree that CSSD’s ideology is leftist. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Gross’s ideology as leftist. World Statesmen (2020) identifies the party as Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD); it identifies the party as leftist: “social-democratic”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 31 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) as 3.2. Rohrschneider and Whitefield (2009) identify CSSD’s oppose-support market score as approximately 3.5 and its support-oppose welfare score as approximately 3.5 on scales from 1-7. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy CSSD’s party family as social democracy. Pederson & Margaras (2006: 346) identify CSSD as leftist, writing that “the party tries to promote itself as a modern social democratic European party. In terms of ideas and relations it identifies closely with German Social Democrats and the British Labour Party. The Social Democratic Party is an active member of the Socialist International. The party tries to promote a “social market economy,” and it led a major privatization process along with measures to encourage foreign investment.” In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.293) in 2002.

Year: 2005

Leader: Jiri Paroubek

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as the Czechoslovak Party of Social Democracy (*Česká strana sociálně demokratická* – CSSD). DPI identifies CSSD’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World does not provide any information on CSSD’s ideology. Armingeon et al. (2018) agree that CSSD’s ideology is leftist. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Paroubek’s ideology as leftist. World Statesmen (2020) identifies the party as Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD); it identifies the party as leftist: “social-democratic”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 31 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) as 3.2. Rohrschneider and Whitefield (2009) identify CSSD’s oppose-support market score as approximately 3.5 and its support-oppose welfare score as approximately 3.5 on scales from 1-7. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy CSSD’s party family as social democracy. Pederson & Margaras (2006: 346) identify CSSD as leftist, writing that “the party tries to promote itself as a modern social democratic European party. In terms of ideas and relations it identifies closely with German Social Democrats and the British Labour Party. The Social Democratic Party is an active member of the Socialist International. The party tries to promote a “social market economy,” and it led a major privatization process along with measures to encourage foreign investment.” In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.293) in 2002.

Years: 2006-2008

Leader: Mirek Topolanek

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as the Civic Democratic Party (*Občanská demokratická strana* – *ODS*). DPI identifies ODS’s ideology as rightist. Political Handbook of the World (2015: 388) elaborates, writing that “intensely anticommunist, the ODS quickly built … an electoral coalition with the Christian Democratic Party”. Armingeon et al. (2018) agree that ODS’s ideology is rightist. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Topolanek’s ideology as rightist. World Statesmen (2020) identifies the party as the Civic Democratic Party (ODS); it identifies the party as: “center-right”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 31 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Civic Democratic Union (ODS) as 7.7. Rohrschneider and Whitefield (2009) identify ODS’s oppose-support market score as 6 and its support-oppose welfare score as 6 on scales from 1-7. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy ODS’s party family as conservative. Pederson & Margaras (2006: 344) identify ODS as rightist, writing that “ODS is a center-right party that advocates continuation of the move toward a free-market economy and a limited role for the state”. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.634) in 2006.

Year: 2009

Leader: Jan Fischer

Ideology: centrist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Turner (2014: 390) identifies Jan Fischer as non-party. Fischer identifies himself as a centrist (Radio Praha: 2012), stating in an interview: “I don’t like to place myself on the right or on the left. I would say I’m well positioned in the centre”. World Statesmen (2020) identifies Fischer as non-party. The Guardian (2013) identifies Fischer as centrist, writing that “The left-of-centre Zeman, who was prime minister from 1998 to 2002, leads the polls with about 25% support. Fischer, a centrist and a former state bureaucrat, gained significant popularity when he led a caretaker government in 2009-10. He is polling at about 20%.” The Wall Street Journal (2013) also confirms Fischer to be centrist: “the nation will for the first time elect its new leader in a popular vote this weekend, and the latest poll, published this week by the Stem/Mark pollster, shows the most likely candidates to qualify for the run-off are left-of-center Milos Zeman and centrist Jan Fischer.”

Years: 2010-2012

Leader: Petr Necas

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as the Civic Democratic Party (*Občanská demokratická strana* – *ODS*). DPI identifies ODS’s ideology as rightist. Political Handbook of the World (2015: 388) elaborates, writing that “intensely anticommunist, the ODS quickly built … an electoral coalition with the Christian Democratic Party”. Armingeon et al. (2018) agree that ODS’s ideology is rightist. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Necas’s ideology as rightist. World Statesmen (2020) identifies the party as the Civic Democratic Party (ODS); it identifies the party as: “center-right”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 31 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Civic Democratic Union (ODS) as 7.7. Rohrschneider and Whitefield (2009) identify ODS’s oppose-support market score as 6 and its support-oppose welfare score as 6 on scales from 1-7. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy ODS’s party family as conservative. Pederson & Margaras (2006: 344) identify ODS as rightist, writing that “ODS is a center-right party that advocates continuation of the move toward a free-market economy and a limited role for the state”. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.463) in 2010.

Year: 2013

Head of government: Jiri Rusnok

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify party affiliation. World Statesmen (2020) identifies party affiliation as none. Rulers (2019) identifies party affiliation as CSSD. DPI identifies CSSD’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World does not provide any information on CSSD’s ideology. Armingeon et al. (2018) agree that CSSD’s ideology is leftist. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Sobotka’s ideology as leftist. World Statesmen (2020) identifies the party as Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD); it identifies the party as leftist: “social-democratic”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 31 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) as 3.2. Rohrschneider and Whitefield (2009) identify CSSD’s oppose-support market score as approximately 3.5 and its support-oppose welfare score as approximately 3.5 on scales from 1-7. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy CSSD’s party family as social democracy. Pederson & Margaras (2006: 346) identify CSSD as leftist, writing that “the party tries to promote itself as a modern social democratic European party. In terms of ideas and relations it identifies closely with German Social Democrats and the British Labour Party. The Social Democratic Party is an active member of the Socialist International. The party tries to promote a “social market economy,” and it led a major privatization process along with measures to encourage foreign investment.”

Years: 2014-2016

Leader: Bohuslav Sobotka

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of government. Political Handbook of the World (2015: 383) identifies Sobotka’s party as the Czechoslovak Party of Social Democracy (*Česká strana sociálně demokratická* – CSSD). DPI identifies CSSD’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World does not provide any information on CSSD’s ideology. Armingeon et al. (2018) agree that CSSD’s ideology is leftist. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Sobotka’s ideology as leftist. World Statesmen (2019) identifies the party as Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD); it identifies the party as leftist: “social-democratic”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 31 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) as 3.2. Rohrschneider and Whitefield (2009) identify CSSD’s oppose-support market score as approximately 3.5 and its support-oppose welfare score as approximately 3.5 on scales from 1-7. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy CSSD’s party family as social democracy. Pederson & Margaras (2006: 346) identify CSSD as leftist, writing that “the party tries to promote itself as a modern social democratic European party. In terms of ideas and relations it identifies closely with German Social Democrats and the British Labour Party. The Social Democratic Party is an active member of the Socialist International. The party tries to promote a “social market economy,” and it led a major privatization process along with measures to encourage foreign investment.” In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.293) in 2013.

Years: 2017-2020

Leader: Andrej Babis

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. Political Handbook of the World (2015: 383) identifies Babis’s party as Action of Dissatisfied Citizens (*Akce nespokojených občanů* 2011 – ANO). Political Handbook (2015: 383) identifies ANO’s ideology as rightist, writing that ANO is “a center-right grouping formed in 2011 by Andrej Babis”. Armingeon et al. (2018) agree that ANO’s ideology is rightist. Political Handbook of the World (2015: 388) identifies Babis’s ideology as rightist, writing that “a center-right grouping formed in 2011 by Andrej Babis”. Perspective Monde (2019), however, identifies Babis’s ideology as centrist. World Statesmen (2020) identifies the party as Action of Dissatisfied Citizens (ANO); it identifies the party as centrist: “centrist, liberal, populist”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 31 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Action of Dissatisfied Citizens 2011 (ANO) as 3.8. Döring and Manow (2019) identifiy ANO’s party family as liberal. In V-Party (2020), 7 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-0.543) in 2017. DPI has no information on ANO 2011. Stegmaier (2014) writes, “in 2013 [ANO] repositioned more toward center right,” and, “Given ANO 2011’s position on the center-right, there is the possibility that this party could become the dominant right party, replacing the nearly defunct ODS.” The article describes ANO as an anti-corruption party with a political message of “cleaning up the system and giving more power to the citizens.” When describing the current government at the time of publication (2014) they state that the three main areas of its focus are “sustainable economic growth based on free market principles,” “aims to fight corruption” and “reconstruct the state based on the rationalization of the state financing and property usage.” Kopecek (2016) describes ANO being run as a business firm party, stating, “The entrance of ANO into government after the 2013 election led to a shift in its programme and its anti-political appeals were promptly transformed into a notionally centre-right orientation.”

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