



# How did they celebrate a public holiday?

**Educational aim:** Students analyse the photograph capturing the progress of May festivities of 1980 in the Eastern Bohemian town of Polička. They focus on the description of the photograph and realize that a thorough analysis may make understanding easier. They get an idea about the form and social function of celebrations in the years of normalization.

**Keywords:** *normalization, anniversary, historical importance, analysis of a photograph*

## Instructions for individual slides:

## Notes:

### 1 AN EXAMINATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH (5 minutes)

Looking at the photograph using the magnifier and reading the caption. The photograph captures May festivities in front of the town hall building in Polička in 1980.

### 2 A DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH (5 minutes)

Marking individual features of the town hall decoration. Students mark the key features by means of drawing and they add captions to them.

### 3 WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE PHOTOGRAPH (5 minutes)

Students take notice of the people in the photograph. They write their findings down in the text field.

### 4 INTERPRETATION (10 minutes)

Students answer the concluding questions in the two text fields. Working with the photograph can bring about a number of different interpretations of the meaning of public celebrations. It thus creates an open and safe environment to discuss the meaning of public holidays at the time of normalization but also today.

## Other options of engaging in the presentation of the topic:

- It is possible to involve family memory in the topic. Students may ask their grandparents about how they experienced holidays at the time of communism. Or they can set off to the municipality centre and address random contemporary witnesses with the request for explanation of what is happening in the picture. Personal memories of such celebrations can significantly enrich the preceding work with the photograph.*
- The celebrations also took place in the school environment. You can make use of the school chronicle, if it is available, and inform students of the progress of similar events directly at your school. Students are familiar with the school environment and so they can better understand the period specifics of political celebrations.*