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Jiri Dienstbier

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Following the downfall of Soviet Russia, Czechoslovakia realizes that socialism cannot assure political and economical stability. The government is in turmoil, trying to find a new direction for the country. Many wish to see the government take a new direction, but many others want to keep the current system. Adding to the instability, the population, divided into the Czechs and the Slovaks, do not share the same cultural heritage. Czechs believe this an opportunity to re-establish control over their land, reminiscing the glorious Czech kingdom of the 17th century. But the Slovaks, who have many occupying high governmental positions, wish to conserve the socialist government structure.

Jiri Dienstbier is a young right politician and avid civil rights defender. He has strongly fought against the status quo in his youth and organized a Stuha, an government independent student movement opposing the current communist government. [[1]](#footnote-2) On 17 November 1989, he organized a hour-long student march into the centre of Prague. This historic march had such an influence that it eventually led to the Velvet Revolution.[[2]](#footnote-3) Although a prominent politician, Jiri is under close supervision from the Communist Party and the secret police because of his dissident ideologies.

Jiri Dienstbier promotes human rights. He is young and promotes student involvement in politics. His student movement strongly incites students to rise against the current oppressive government in peaceful manners. He advocates for an interventionist state.

1. Jir Dienstbieri “[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jiř%C3%AD\_Dienstbier\_Jr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ji%C5%99%C3%AD_Dienstbier_Jr).”. *Wikipedia*. On line. Consulted on November 6, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Velvet Revolution “<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Velvet_Revolution>” . *Wikipedia*. On line. Consulted on November 6, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)