

## „FEBRUARY“ (1948) IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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The ten sections of this study deal with the most important social and other aspects of the subject. The point of departure is the Marxist reinterpretation of recent Czechoslovak history; the author appraises the case made for a „victory of the national and democratic revolution in the ČSR“ engineered by the CPCS. After reviewing some of the more important bibliographical aids, he comments on a number of critical points in the period of the immediate process of transformation, from the autumn of 1947 until February 1948. A further section deals with the problem of the „constitutionality“ of the CPCS' assumption of governmental power. A brief critical evaluation is then made of the varying role played by the Communist Party and other Socialist and non-Socialist parties, as well as their programs, activities, etc. This is followed by short summaries of the huge number of *ex post facto* attempts by bourgeois politicians to justify their behaviour, of the many inflated speeches, exposés, memoirs, etc., of participating Communist and trade-union functionaries, politicians, and members of the militia, as well as their rose-colored „reminiscences“ — which, for the most part, can only belatedly add a little blurred color in the search for truth and for the reconstruction of what actually happened.

Subsequent sections discuss the most important questions of the economic transformation, and the formation and political significance of the so-called „mass organizations“ as new instruments for influencing and manipulating the society. Next, some summary remarks are made about developments in the fields of culture and ideology; this, incidentally, is an area where very little research has been done — despite its function as the „superstructure“ of the new post-„February“ order.

Finally, the author briefly touches upon the sector of administration. With the establishment of „national committees“ as the first representative, executive and finally also legislative organs (by means of the delegation of authority!) after 1945, basic prerequisites had been met for the success of this „transmission process“.

In a word, this article attempts to offer a critical appraisal of the whole complex of problems involved — as regards both the sifting of the material itself and the trends in the secondary literature.