

## CHRONICLING THE "VELVET REVOLUTION" IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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Setting out with a brief history of the gestation of oppositional movements in communist Czechoslovakia, the contribution then proceeds to the most important developments in the political turnaround during the course of 1989. Among these are the mass demonstrations in the streets of Prague reaching their climax on November 17, the founding of the big popular movements in both Czech and Slovak parts of the nation, Civic Forum and Public against Violence respectively, as well as the reactions of the communist leadership to the domestic crisis becoming more and more acute. Finally, the process of the democratic opposition factually assuming power is described, starting when it was granted a circumscribed share of government. This was followed by Václav Havel being elected to the office of President and finally by the former opposition receiving parliamentary majority when 1989 drew to a close.