

Czech Republic

Vanderbilt

In January 1993, Czechoslovakia split into two republics: the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Czech Republic became a parliamentary democracy with Vaclav Klaus of the right-wing Civic Democratic Party (ODS) as its first PM. Klaus governed in coalition with the KDU-CSL and the ODA until 1997. Because of economic problems and corruption scandals, Klaus resigned as Prime Minister in November 1997, and President Havel appointed a non-party technocrat, Josef Tosovsky, to lead a caretaker government (Cook 2001, 271 and Innes 2001, 224). This is not a SOLS change. Tosovsky stayed in office from December 1997 to June 1998 when new elections were held, in which the Social Democrats (CSSD) won 74 out of 200 seats in the lower house. The Klaus's ODS received the second most votes and became the main opposition party. The CSSD appointed Milos Zeman as Prime Minister, and starting a period in which Czech politics was dominated by this party. This is a SOLS change given the different party affiliations of Klaus and Zeman. Zeman was followed by Vladimir Spidla, who led a coalition government with the KDU-ČSL and US-DEU. The coalition government continued when Spidla resigned and Stanislav Gross took over. Gross resigned and Jiri Paroubek took over with the same coalition until 2006. In 2006, Topolanek (ODS) entered office. This is a SOLS change. In 2007 the ODS formed a coalition government with the KDU-CSL and SZ. This is a minor SOLS change.

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Coded by Arturo Maldonado 8/25/2010

Checked by Michaela Mattes 08/30/2010

Revised by Eelco van der Maat 9/15/2011

Revised by Matt DiLorenzo 07/18/2012

Revised by Bryan Rooney 10/17/2012

Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) 05/22/2014