

Practices of Control and Disinformation in Czechoslovakia during the Cold War

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Answers

Exercise 1

Disinformation means feeding prepared false data to the enemy.	T
Disinformation includes some truth in order to have an aura of credibility.	T
During the Cold War, disinformation could be contained in false documents and oral and written agency communication.	T
Disinformation ended with the Cold War.	F
Nowadays disinformation uses the primacy of emotions over facts and information.	T
In the Internet era, people are easily attracted to photos and explosive messages.	T
Authoritarian groups can easily manipulate people through disinformation.	T
Disinformation in the social media does not affect peoples' trust in official institutions.	F

Exercise 2

Possible answer:

Communist regimes controlled the population using ideological tools – education, art, literature and the press. It also made use of secret police surveillance, including private correspondence.

The photograph is of a secret police workplace. There appear to be letters on the desks and boards covered with information in the form of notes and two people probably reading and extracting information.

Exercise 3

Possible answer:

Operation Neptune can be seen as a form of black propaganda as it was intended to create the impression that it was the Nazis who created the documents 'discovered' in the Black Lake. It was successful as it achieved its goals: discrediting West German politicians and extending the statute of limitations for war criminals.

Exercise 4

Possible answer:

Western broadcasts acted like 'surrogate' radio stations, providing Eastern European citizens uncensored information about the economic and political situation. Moreover, it played a significant educational, cultural and spiritual role.

Exercise 5

Possible answer below

