

# Practices of Control and Disinformation in Czechoslovakia during the Cold War

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## Worksheet

### Exercise 1

Use **Sources A** and **B** to evaluate whether the statements in the table below are true (T) or false (F).

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

### Exercise 2

Using **Sources C** and **D**, debate on the methods used by the communist regime to control the population. Write down three things you noticed in the photograph from **Source D**.

**Your answer:**

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### **Exercise 3**

Using **Sources E** and **F**, provide an answer for the following question: was Operation Neptune a case of black propaganda? Was it successful?

**Your answer:**

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### **Exercise 4**

Using **Sources G** and **H**, ask the students to comment on the role of Western broadcasts, especially those of Radio Free Europe, in providing Eastern European citizens with true information and disseminating dissident ideas.

**Your answer:**

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## Exercise 5

Use the information discussed during the lesson to create a mind map to reflect how totalitarian regimes acted both inside their countries, to maintain control, and abroad, to gain political advantage, through disinformation. Include in the mind map media tools used by the Western world to provide free information for citizens behind the Iron Curtain. Mention how the people in Eastern Europe fought the authoritarian regimes.

**Your answer:**

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