

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

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## Introduction for the teacher

The lesson script is intended for students aged between 14 and 18. The subject matter discussed allows for its use in interdisciplinary classes in history, culture, media education and social sciences.

The material has been divided into three parts: the lesson scenario, a set of source materials and a worksheet of exercises to be done during the class, in a group or individually.

## Instructions

The script contains eight pieces of source material and a worksheet with exercises to be implemented during one lesson (45 mins). The lesson structure can be modified by the teacher to achieve specific objectives. The source materials and worksheet can also be adapted and used only in part according to the class requirements.

The lesson will benefit from using the Internet (computer, multimedia projector and an interactive white board), including devices connected to the Internet (smartphones, tablets, etc).

## Teaching objectives

The student will be able to:

- define the concepts of disinformation and black propaganda,
- acknowledge similarities and differences between disinformation during the Cold War and the present time,
- analyse source texts and photographs, indicating the cause–effect link between them and historical events,

- identify and analyse the methods used by the communist authorities to control people in Eastern Europe.

### **Teaching methods**

- teacher-led discussion,
- group and individual work,
- analysis of source material, texts and illustrations,
- mind mapping.

### **Teaching aids**

- sets of exercises and source material available on the '[Hi-story lessons](#)' platform,
- boards/flipcharts, felt pens/chalk,
- large paper sheets/Bristol board sheets, post-its,
- a computer with internet access and a multimedia projector/interactive white board.

### **Before the lesson**

Ask the students to read the essays titled '[A Lesson from the Cold War – Using the Example of Communist Disinformation in Czechoslovakia to Better Understand Current Practices](#)' and recommend they watch the film *The Hater* (2020), directed by Jan Komasa.