

RESSNEWS

L E C T I O N S



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2021

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

In the October issue of Ressnews, we are focusing on politics. As you know, the Czech parliamentary elections took place on 8 and 9 October, and we thought it would be useful to explain some of the basic terms used in politics to the students of ČAO.

Also, in this issue you will find a list of political parties that have made it to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic, together with the main points of their political programs.

And finally, we are inviting you to take part in the student opinion poll on the parliamentary elections. We believe it would be interesting to see who the students of ČAO have voted or would vote for!

We hope you will enjoy reading the texts we have prepared for you! We are looking forward to sharing the results of the student opinion poll with you in the next issue of Ressnews :-)

Your Ressnews

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POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

SPOLU

ODS
(Civic Democratic Party)



KDU-ČSL
(Christian and Democratic
Union Czechoslovak
People's Party)



TOP 09



- ODS was founded in 1991
- the leader of this Party is Petr Fiala
- liberal conservative, right-wing
- KDU-ČSL was founded in 1919
- the leader of this Party is Marian Jurečka
- social conservative, center - center right-wing
- TOP 09 was founded in 2009
- the leader of this Party is Markéta Pekarová Adamová
- liberal conservative, center right-wing

Program of the coalition:

- free enterprise and low taxes
- motivate people to work and lower unemployment
- the pension system must be predictable in the long term
- municipalities must function efficiently, cheaply and citizen-friendly
- protection of the environment
- against drug legalization and same-sex marriage
- sustainable development of agriculture
- affordable housing

PIRÁTI A STAROSTOVÉ

Piráti
(Czech Pirate Party)



- Pirates were founded in 2009
- the leader of this Party is Ivan Bartoš
- liberal, center - center left-wing

- STAN was founded in 2004
- the leader of this Party is Vít Rakušan
- liberal, center - center right-wing

STAN
(Mayors and Independents)



Program of the coalition:

- low taxes
- safe country; strengthening the alliance with NATO
- efficient health care (including mental health)
- stabilizing the pension system
- increasing the quality of education
- construction of high-speed train lines
- justice for everyone
- access to healthcare

SPD
(Freedom and Direct Democracy)



- SPD was founded in 2015
- the leader of this Party is Tomio Okamura
- conservative, right-wing

Program:

- future without debts
- leaving the EU
- supporting families and seniors
- no to tax growth
- no to immigration

ANO



- ANO was founded in 2012
- the leader of this Party is Andrej Babiš
- conservative, liberal, populist

Program:

- promises a shift away from coal by 2038
- against the euro
- safety - against immigration
- higher pensions
- abolition of bureaucracy
- investments in high-speed trains, roads, schools
- public housing
- no to same-sex marriages

WHAT IS CONSERVATISM AND LIBERALISM?

by Diana Pokorná, Felicia Fanaru and Michaela Petrusová

Conservatism

Conservatives are generally right-wing and anti-federalist. Conservatives prefer smaller government, less regulation, most services to be provided by the private sector in a free market, and a literal interpretation of the Constitution.

Conservatives desire security, predictability and authority.

They think the government should tax less and spend less. Cutting spending to balance the budget should be the priority. Higher income earners should have an incentive to invest (credits). Charity is the responsibility of the people.

Conservatives are opposed to gay marriage, abortion and embryonic stem cell research. They support personal responsibility as an individual.



Boris Johnson (conservative)

Liberalism

Liberals are left-wing and federalist. Liberals prefer more regulation and services like free universal health care to be provided by the government to all citizens.

Liberals are more comfortable with novelty, nuance and complexity.

They think the government should provide more services to the less fortunate (like health care) and increase taxes if necessary. High-income earners should pay a larger percentage of their income as taxes.

Liberals are supportive of gay couples to get equal rights like everyone else (e.g. marriage); abortion should be legal; support embryonic stem cell research. Support restrictions and regulation around the right to bear arms.



John Fitzgerald Kennedy

“If by a "Liberal" they mean someone who looks ahead and not behind, someone who welcomes new ideas without rigid reactions, someone who cares about the welfare of the people—their health, their housing, their schools, their jobs, their civil rights and their civil liberties—someone who believes we can break through the stalemate and suspicions that grip us in our policies abroad, if that is what they mean by a "Liberal", then I'm proud to say I'm a "Liberal.”

(diffen.com, scientificamerican.com)

WHAT IS THE POLITICAL RIGHT or RIGHT-WING POLITICS?

Kristýna Šteflíková, Teodor Parvanov

K: Hi Teo, I heard that there will be elections soon and I would like to ask you some things about right-wing politics.

T: Ok. What would you like to know?

K: What are the right wing political parties?

T: For example, in the American system the Republicans are on the right of the political spectrum.

K: What is their goal and what do they focus on?

T: Their main goal is economic freedom and they focus on the individual, they also support employers.

K: I have heard that they have deregulated the economy, business and industry. Is that true?

T: Yes, and they tax less.

K: What is their opinion on abortion and gay rights?

T: Less than 50% support gay rights and abortion.

K: Is it true that they take freedom as a chance to achieve or fail?

T: Yes they do, and they also see equality as an opportunity.

K: Ok thanks for explaining what right-wing politics is. Now I understand it better.

T: I was glad to help!

WHAT IS THE POLITICAL LEFT or LEFT-WING POLITICS?

Svobodová & Kulij

- *Those on the left tend to adopt a progressive view, meaning they often want social change or reform. A typical example is supporting same-sex marriage.*



- *Those on the left strive for an equal society and believe that the government should play a large part in people's lives in order to achieve this. This is sometimes referred to as big government.*



Big Government

Definition:
A negative term used to describe a government or public sector that is considered to be too large.

More:
It is a term that is often used to criticise governments which spend a lot of money on social welfare issues.



GETTY IMAGES

- *Those on the left tend to support higher taxes on the rich, welfare for the poor and government regulation of business. This can also mean taking an interventionist approach towards economics, where the government will step in to prevent a recession (a period of economic decline). They can do this by taxing people when the economy is doing well and then spending this money when the economy needs it.*

(dictionary.com; britannica.com; simple.wikipedia.org)

2021 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

student opinion poll

Hi students!

The Ressnews magazine would like to know which political Parties are popular at CAO.

In your English class, you will be asked to vote for one of the political parties or coalitions that participated in the 2021 parliamentary elections.

Your votes will be **anonymous**.

You will find the final results in the next issue of the magazine.

Thanks for participating!!!

RESSNEWS