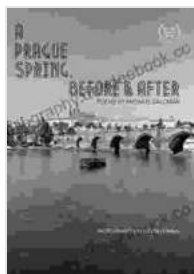


# Prague Spring: A Time of Hope and Renewal



## A Prague spring, Before & After: Poems by Michael Salcman Photographs by Lynn Silverman by Yvette Himmel

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 8165 KB  
Print length : 106 pages  
Lending : Enabled  
Hardcover : 197 pages  
Item Weight : 1.28 pounds  
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Paperback : 390 pages



The Prague Spring was a period of political liberalization in Czechoslovakia in 1968. It began with the election of Alexander Dubček as First Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in January 1968, and ended with the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968.

## Background

After World War II, Czechoslovakia became a satellite state of the Soviet Union. The country was ruled by a communist government that suppressed dissent and limited civil liberties.

In the 1960s, there was growing dissatisfaction with the communist government in Czechoslovakia. People were demanding more freedom and democracy.

## **The Prague Spring**

Alexander Dubček was elected First Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in January 1968. Dubček was a reformer who wanted to liberalize the communist government and give people more freedom.

Under Dubček's leadership, Czechoslovakia experienced a period of political liberalization known as the Prague Spring. The government relaxed censorship, allowed more freedom of speech and assembly, and began to implement economic reforms.

The Prague Spring was a time of great hope and optimism for the people of Czechoslovakia. People believed that they were finally going to achieve the freedom and democracy that they had been denied for so long.

## **The Soviet Invasion**

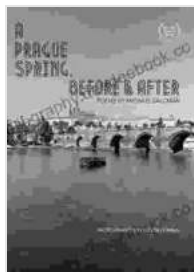
The Soviet Union was alarmed by the political liberalization in Czechoslovakia. The Soviets feared that Czechoslovakia would become a bridgehead for Western influence in Eastern Europe.

On August 21, 1968, the Soviet Union led a Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia. The invasion crushed the Prague Spring and restored the communist government to power.

## **Aftermath**

The Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia had a profound impact on the country. The invasion led to the suppression of dissent, the curtailment of civil liberties, and the emigration of many intellectuals and professionals.

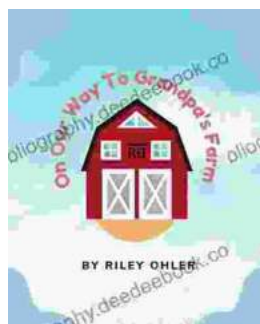
The Prague Spring remains a symbol of the hopes and dreams of the people of Czechoslovakia for freedom and democracy. The legacy of the Prague Spring continues to inspire people around the world who are fighting for their own freedom.



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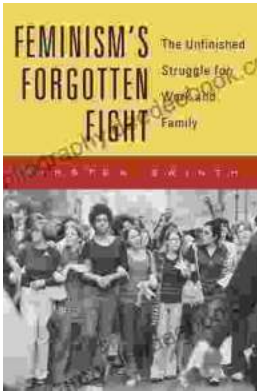
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