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**Velvet Revolution and its Importance**

**At the end of the 80’s the communist dictatorship was in crisis.** Downfall of the Soviet Union power enabled weakening of the regime also externally.The year of changes was 1988. On 25th of March Catholic Church organized a **peaceful demonstration with candles in Bratislava**. The Communist government dispelled the peaceful demonstration with the use of force.

On 16th of November in 1989 students from Bratislava on the eve of International Students Day organized a demonstration. It was not as wild as that on the following day (17th of November) in Prague. **27th of November** was another great day for Czechoslovakia – two hours long general strike across the country was accompanied by massive demonstrations, in which people called for the end of the one-party, free elections, the resignation of Husák from the post of President and for democracy.

The collapse of the communist totalitarian regime in Czechoslovakia came into the awareness of global and domestic public as soft or **velvet revolution**. This attribute was for the peaceful and bloodless revolution. President Husák appointed a new government and then resigned. The opposition groups in Prague united in the Občanské fórum (Citizen forum),in Bratislava Verejnosť proti násiliu (Public against violence) was created. In six weeks they succeeded to upturn more than 40 years built communist monopoly. The Government of national understanding was built from representatives of opposition groups and communists as well, as Chairman of the Federal Parliament was elected Alexander Dubček, as President of the Republic was elected dissident and drama writer **Václav Havel**.

The **first free elections in 1990** have shown, that the **communists have lost the trust**, in Slovakia they received only 13.3 % of votes. The sovereignty of the state was strengthened also by departure of the last Soviet troops in June 1991. The liquidation of the **state monopoly** on property and economic management started. The citizens received back the after 1948 nationalized enterprises, houses, real estate, shops, workshops, the privatization of the big enterprises had started.

The discussion on the rights of republican bodies took the politicians three years. In the end many discussions collapsed on too different ideas about future Czecho-Slovakia. The idea of Czech party was close to unitary state, the Slovak idea was about free federation to confederation. So, after **velvet revolution** followed agreement on **velvet divorce**. In July 1992 the Slovak National Council adopted **Declaration on Slovak Sovereignity**, on 1st of September Slovak Constitution was adopted, at the end of November the Federal Assembly in Prague voted for cease of the federation.

**On 1 January 1993 on the world scene appeared new sovereign state – Slovak Republic. Both the Velvet revolution and the Velvet divorce were really gentle and really velvet. Not cruel like e.g.in Romania. We are really thankful for it, we are thankful we can live now in more democratic society and environment. We, like other nations in Europe which have had democratic revolutions, deserve it. Better life in better democracies i tis what our nations have deserved for decades...**