



Coalition of last resort

When Mirek Topolánek tells [HN](#) that Jiří Paroubek is the biggest problem in post-1989 politics, it must be music to Václav Klaus's ears. As long as Topolánek and Paroubek remain at each other's throats, Klaus is assured of reelection. But what if it's a smokescreen? What if Topolánek and Paroubek plan to join forces against their common enemy, Klaus? Topolánek might have no choice, despite the huge risks. Analyst [Jiří Pehe](#) predicts that as soon as Klaus is reelected, he intends to get rid of Topolánek anyway. A grand coalition with ČSSD or a minority ODS cabinet backed by ČSSD would kill three birds with one stone: Klaus would be the one dethroned, the radar would pass, and Paroubek would get a post that sufficiently strokes his ego. Alexandr Vondra told [FAZ](#) that Paroubek was apparently open to the radar earlier this year because he saw himself as foreign minister in a grand coalition.

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