

Clinton, Klaus and Clausewitz



Many Czechs can't stand Václav Klaus for the same reason that many Americans can't stand Hillary Clinton. Better than anyone else (except for the other Clinton), these two politicians know how to use (and abuse) the idiosyncrasies of their countries' democratic systems. It's not their fault that democracy works the way it does.

They didn't invent it; they merely reinvented it. To stymie Klaus, his opponents will need to learn to be proactive, instead of always reacting in awe to what Klaus has carefully been planning for them long in advance. Klaus gave his opponents an unusual opening in the recent debate, when he said he'd accept a tightening of the veto-override rules. Instead of jumping on this, though, his opponents either let it pass or even declined the offer. To paraphrase a Klaus namesake, Clausewitz, if they aren't willing to use all the means at their disposal, they're never going to win.



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