

Grand coalition time



There are two main types of political analysis. One tries to explain and predict, without injecting much bias on the part of the analyst. This kind is nearing extinction, because almost everyone has an axe to grind or an ideology to flog. The other main type is largely designed to help bring about (or prevent) the very situation being analyzed. At its root, it's actually political agitation, even if its creators don't always intend it to be.

Most of the analysis of the situation at Prague city hall falls into this category. We can read, for example, that the election was a referendum on "godfathers," that Zdeněk Tůma must use his mandate from voters to blackball the main evildoers, and that a grand coalition of ODS and ČSSD would destroy ODS's chances in future elections. It's perhaps all true, but it's still political agitation, because it fails to take into account the bird-in-the-hand attitude of Prague's political bosses. They're worried more about the here and now than about what short-minded voters might theoretically do in a few years' time.



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