


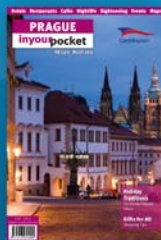
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## Post-totalitarian and pre-totalitarian

At some point in the distant future, if freedom of expression is allowed, the brief period we are living through now might come to be labeled both post-totalitarian and pre-totalitarian. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe unshackled themselves from the Soviet yoke starting in 1989, but a new yoke is gradually being fitted under the guise of fighting terrorism, money laundering and illegal migration. It's a global phenomenon and is most visible in the U.S., but its footprint can also be seen in the CR in the intrusive new tax-reporting systems and the clampdown on "hate" speech. The current corruption scandal at Česká pošta can certainly be viewed as a mere mudslinging match in advance of next year's regional elections, but there's a deeper aspect. Who will be in control of the Czech police as the yoke is tightened around the necks of the citizens of the Western world? Will it be Milan Chovanec's thugs, or someone else's?

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