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## Eternal covid



German Pres. Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in his [Christmas address](#) that the pandemic will not just end suddenly one day and will instead occupy us for a long time to come. The New York Times referred to the pandemic two days later in its [international print edition](#) (but not on its [website](#)) as "eternal covid" and said that the feeling is taking root that "the coronavirus will not be eradicated with vaccines or lockdowns, but has become something endemic that people must learn to live with, maybe for years to come." The newspaper added that "as the pandemic drags on, scientists are often losing out to politicians." When Czechs of a certain age hear "eternal covid," they might recall the Communist-era slogan about the eternal bond with the USSR, "Se Sovětským svazem na věčné časy a nikdy jinak!" Each Czechoslovak learned to live within the system, knowing that there was little he or she could do to change it. Politically driven "eternal covid" will apparently require even greater adaptation.

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