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The Great Fiala



Part of the brilliance of *The Great Gatsby* is in the character development. Jay Gatsby is a likeable figure who is gradually shown over the course of the novel to be a liar, an imposter, a representative of organized crime, the frontman of someone who probably fixed the World Series and a participant in insider trading. Yet he remains a positive hero for many readers because everything he does is in the pursuit of a higher ideal - the attention and devotion of the woman he loves. Likewise, the Czech government's austerity package has exposed the likeable Petr Fiala as someone who is willing to renege on his promises in the pursuit of a higher ideal - the consolidation of public finances. The related transformation of ČEZ has further developed his character as someone who is prepared to use gangster-like practices to destroy shareholder value and to provide those in the know with a huge insider-trading opportunity. Without the glasses and beard, Fiala would even resemble the [smiling Jay Gatsby](#).

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