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Biased but 'fair' public media



Many of the same Czechs who applauded Péter Magyar for saying he would suspend state news broadcasts until fair and unbiased coverage could be guaranteed would have taken to the streets if Andrej Babiš had said the same thing after the Czech elections in Oct. Many of the same former professors or teachers in Parliament who see the monthly user's fees for Czech TV and Czech Radio as a key safeguard of democracy would give a student an F for making the case in a thesis that the fees were a key safeguard of totalitarianism under the old regime. Does anyone really believe that Magyar wants "fair and unbiased coverage"? The Czech opposition is right to suspect the ruling coalition of wanting to take control of the public media, but the harder it fights to avoid giving up what it considers its own, the worse the outcome for it. The most the opposition can really hope for is that the reform of public media will result in a model that assures that ČT and ČRo will always "fairly" take the side of the election winners.

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