



Ripple analysis: consequences of the Prague Spring

Tasks:

1. Look carefully at each consequence of the Prague Spring. Colour code to show if it is:
 - a) an immediate consequence for Czechoslovakia.
 - b) a consequence for the relationships within the Eastern bloc and the USSR.
 - c) a consequence that had an impact on the relationship between East and West.

<p>A. The USA and other western nations' media were critical of the invasion by Warsaw Pact forces immediately after the event.</p>	<p>B. Yugoslavia and Romania (both Communist countries) had supported the Prague Spring. They were critical of the Soviet response, and became more hostile towards the USSR because of it.</p>
<p>C. It created deep resentment in Czechoslovakia against the USSR, which contributed to later demands for independence. In 1989 Czechoslovakia broke free of Soviet control, and voted non-Communists into power.</p>	<p>D. Relations between China and the USSR were already very poor by 1968, with both countries seeing each other as rivals. China was critical of the Soviet reaction to the Prague Spring as it feared Soviet invasion itself. Relations stayed strained until 1989. This in turn encouraged the USSR to try to relax tensions between themselves and the USA.</p>
<p>E. In spite of events in Czechoslovakia, the USA and USSR spent three years from 1969-1972 in discussion in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT). They reached agreement in 1972, agreeing to limit their numbers of Anti-Ballistic Missiles (ABMs) and Inter-Continental-Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs).</p>	<p>F. Dubcek was removed from office. The new leader Gustav Husak returned Czechoslovakia to its old ways.</p>
<p>G. Within the Iron Curtain the 'Brezhnev Doctrine' made it clear to East Germany, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria that they could not pursue reforms or greater political independence in their own countries. The next time wide-scale demands were made for free elections was in 1981 in Poland.</p>	<p>H. Albania withdrew from the Warsaw Pact in protest.</p>
<p>I. The USA was more focused on ending the Vietnam War than the Prague Spring, and started to withdraw troops in 1970. President Nixon felt that after the failure of the Vietnam War there was no point in going to war in future to pursue 'Containment'. He was keen to reduce tensions between the USA and USSR.</p>	<p>J. Czechoslovakia returned to communist control and Soviet troops were stationed there. Half the Communist party leaders were sacked and 47 anti-communists were arrested.</p>

2. Use the information to write notes in the 'ripple effects' diagram explaining the consequences.