

Summary

The presented monograph is a result of a meeting, where the Slovak journalists and historians came together in order to discuss the events of 1968 and the indispensable role of mass media in the reform process in Czechoslovakia, which is generally known as the „Prague Spring“. While the historians were stressing both the importance and the contribution of Slovak and Czech media for the evolution and the take-off of the reform process in the cultural context of the 1960s and the significance of historical milestones of the year 1968, the journalists-eyewitnesses of these events were remembering their own evaluation of the unforgettable atmosphere of that time.

The individual papers published in this book are focusing on the role and significance of mass media, which – after a short hesitation at the beginning – became an accelerator of the whole reform movement. The particular authors are pointing out a generation of silenced journalists' courage to investigate in a short period of freedom they had never known before. In the conclusion of the presented monograph they look for parallels and connections between this modern tradition of Slovak journalism and the role of mass media in the 1989 events of the Velvet Revolution that aimed to dump the totalitarian communist regime. Furthermore, one of the aims of this book is to put in remembrance the most eminent personalities of journalism, which demonstrated a remarkable portion of civil courage and presented principal standpoints, taking many risks including communist regime's persecutions.