

November 17th

CZECH REPUBLIC

Students' Day



Czech students gathered on November 17, 1989 to commemorate a protest held on the same day fifty years earlier in opposition to Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia. The student demonstration rapidly turned into a protest against the oppressive communist regime, and it marked the beginning of the so-called Velvet Revolution.

Sometimes referred to as World Students Day, this holiday celebrates the political role of students. In the Czech Republic the holiday has greater significance because it also commemorates the end of communism in Czechoslovakia.

GREECE

November 17 Day of the student rise against the Junta of 1974.

The Athens Polytechnic uprising in 1973 was a massive demonstration of popular rejection of the Greek military junta of 1967-1974. The uprising began on November 14, 1973, escalated to an open anti-junta revolt and ended in bloodshed in the early morning of November 17 after a series of events starting with a tank crashing through the gates of the Polytechnic.

