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Czechia

A Lucky Break from Populism?

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While the defeat of Prime Minister Andrej Babiš at the hands of a right-wing coalition surprised everyone, the electoral results can hardly be heralded as the end of populism. They do mark the demise of the billionaire oligarch Babiš, but they also show how far the political scene has shifted towards xenophobic and authoritarian tendencies, with no real left-wing forces in view.

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[1] In Czechia, each elector votes for a regional party list and can give a preferential vote to four candidates from this party, which can make some people go up the list and have more chance to be elected. While the initial order of candidates is chosen by the party, electors can change the order with their preferential votes. It seems like STAN voters massively used that option and concentrated their efforts on the top STAN candidates, making them overtake the Pirate candidates, while Pirate voters did not use the option much or spread their preferential votes across Pirate candidates.