

## **VÁCLAV HAVEL – First Czechoslovak and Czech President (1990–2003)**

Select a text style and discuss, what are the differences between them. Explain how all the examples could be used on Wikimedia projects.

### **Example 1:**

The November Revolution in 1989 put Václav Havel (5 October 1936 to 18 December 2011) in a situation he had never known before: he had to assume the role of a real politician, i.e. someone who addresses and leads the masses. The existential notion of public action as "living in truth" or so-called non-political politics was quickly replaced by a full-fledged struggle for power, both with the ending communist regime and within the broad anti-regime coalition. Indeed, the euphoria of the fall of communism was increasingly intertwined with the growing ambitions of groups and individuals. Václav Havel died exactly two years ago.

What literary style is it?

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### **Example 2:**

When Václav Havel came to the Castle, he had to get some solid suits and tuxedo. „*Don't worry about it, Václav, I'll take care of it.*“ After a few days, a smaller, sprightly fellow arrived, the president looked from all sides, then chatted with Schwarzenberg and disappeared. After a few days, he appeared with an almost finished tuxedo, tried it on, tightened a little, loosened something and left again. Then the package with the tuxedo arrived and with it the bill. The president felt nauseous. He was the best tailor in London. While flying, the president would occasionally ask his secretary a question: „Vladimir, is the tuxedo paid for?“

What literary style is it?

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**Example 3:**

Dear fellow citizens,

For forty years on this day you have heard from the lips of my predecessors in various permutations the same thing: how our country is prospering, how many more millions of tons of steel we have produced, how happy we all are, how confident we are in our government, and what wonderful prospects are opening up before us. I assume that you did not put me in this office so that I would lie to you. Our country is not prospering. The great creative and spiritual potential of our peoples is not being put to meaningful use. Whole industries are producing things that are not wanted, while what we need is not being supplied. The state, which calls itself a workers' state, humiliates and exploits the workers. Our outdated economy wastes energy, of which we have little. A country that could once have been proud of the education of its people spends so little on education that it now ranks seventy-two in the world. We have spoiled the land, the rivers and the forests bequeathed to us by our forefathers, and we now have the worst environment in all of Europe. Adults die earlier in this country than in most European countries.

What literary style is it?

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**Example 4:**

Václav Havel (5 October 1936 Prague - 18 December 2011 Vlčice-Hrádeček) was a Czech playwright, essayist, dissident, critic of the communist regime and later a politician. He was the ninth and last President of Czechoslovakia (1989-1992) and the first President of the Czech Republic (1993-2003). Václav Havel worked at the Na zábradlí Theatre in the 1960s, where he was also famous for his plays *The Garden Party* (1963) and *Understanding* (1965). During the period around the Prague Spring, he became involved in political debate and advocated the introduction of a democratic society. After the violent suppression of the reforms by the military invasion of the Warsaw Pact states, he was banned from publishing and became one of the prominent dissidents and critics of the then normalizing regime.

What literary style is it?

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