**The Rise and Fall of Communism**

**Essay #2**

**Many scholars regard Vaclav Havel as one of the few people who predicted the revolutions against communism of 1989. But if Havel was so insightful, why did so few people challenge the communist system in 1978?**

**Please respond to this question by assessing *all* aspects of Havel's argument about the causes of political change under communist rule. Be sure to look closely at the evidence he provides. Note: this question does not ask you to comment in any way about events after 1978 because Havel would not have known about those events. Both you and Havel are reading history forward based upon the circumstances he was facing at the time he was writing.**

**Your response to this question should be no more than four (4) typed, double-spaced pages. As you write, please keep in mind my standard advice: state your argument clearly, be simple and direct, don’t meander off the question, and dare to be original!**

**You will have until class time on Monday, November 21, to complete your essay. It is your responsibility to turn it in to your TA.**

**Good luck!**

**AJM**