

# Lennon Wall

The **Lennon Wall** or **John Lennon Wall** is a wall in  Prague,  Czech Republic. Once a normal wall, since the 1980s it has been filled with  John Lennon-inspired graffiti and pieces of lyrics from  Beatles' songs.

In 1988, the wall was a source of irritation for the communist regime of  Gustáv Husák. Young  Czechs wrote grievances on the wall and in a report of the time this led to a clash between hundreds of students and security police on the nearby  Charles Bridge. The movement these students followed was described as " Lennonism" and Czech authorities described these people variously as alcoholics, mentally deranged, sociopathic, and agents of Western  capitalism.

The wall continuously undergoes change and the original portrait of Lennon is long lost under layers of new paint. Even when the wall was repainted by some authorities, by the next day it was again full of poems and flowers. Today, the wall represents a symbol of global ideals such as  love and  peace.

The wall is owned by the  Sovereign Military Order of Malta, which allowed the graffiti to continue on the wall, and is located at  Velkopřevorské náměstí (Grand  Priory Square),  Malá Strana.

A similar wall inspired by the original wall has appeared on the walls of the Hong Kong Central Government Offices, with citizens posting colourful post-it notes with their democratic wishes for Hong Kong during  2014 Hong Kong protests.<sup>[1]</sup>

On 17 November 2014, the 25th anniversary of the  Velvet Revolution, the wall was painted over in pure white by a group of art students, leaving only the text "wall is over" [*sic*]. The Knights of Malta initially filed a criminal complaint for vandalism against the students, which they later retracted after gaining contact with them.<sup>[2]</sup> The wall mural is still there as of July 23, 2017. And the "Wall is Over" bit has been changed to " War Is Over".



Lennon Wall in August 1981



Portion of the wall, 1993



The Lennon Wall, May 2015

## See also

- John Lennon Park
- Lennon Wall, Hong Kong
- List of famous walls
- Tsoi Wall — a similar wall near  Arbat Street in  Moscow

## References

- https://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/15/world/asia/rescuing-protest-artwork-from-hong-kongs-streets.html?\_r=2
- "Wall Is Over! Lennonovu zed' v Praze přetřeli na bílo" (http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/ct24/regiony/292765-wall-is-over-lennonovu-zed-v-praze-pretreli-na-bilo/) [Wall is Over! Lennon Wall in Prague painted over in white]. *Česká televize* (in Czech). Retrieved 18 November 2014.

## External links

- Digital Lennon Wall (http://www.lennonwall.org)
- Google Maps location (http://goo.gl/maps/f48v4) of John Lennon Wall
- Article about the Lennon Wall in the Erasmuspc World CityPoem collection (https://web.archive.org/web/20070312101448/http://www.erasmuspc.com/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=299&Itemid=81)
- Book of Lennon Wall (http://www.kosmas.cz/knihy/130532/lennonova-zed-v-praze-cd/)

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