

# **COMPARISON OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF LEGAL REGULATION OF SLAVERY AND ITS ABOLITION IN THE USA AND IN GREAT BRITAIN**

## **Resumé**

This thesis deals with legal regulation of slavery in Great Britain and the United states of America and also with its abolition.

The first part of the thesis is theoretical. At the beginning, it describes the concepts of “slavery”, “slave society” and “abolition”. This is followed by the brief history of slavery, from the ancient society, through the Middle Ages, to slavery in North America. The end of this chapter briefly discusses the legal aspects of slavery in general, and the influence of the Enlightenment and Christianity on the perception of slavery.

The second part focuses on situation in various geographic regions and some legal phenomena relating to slavery. The regions covered include England, specific for fact that slavery was abandoned there as early as in the 12th century and has never had any legislative background, together with India and the Caribbean as two examples of the opposite ends of the spectrum - while in the Caribbean slavery still constitutes a determining social element, in India the effects of slavery are surprisingly “negligible”. The next section deals with other Britain’s colonies and the characteristics of North American continent, and situation in the North and the South. Of the various aspects of the legislation, the thesis looks at enslavement, family law, the issue of slaves as things, legal protection of slaves, their legal personality, legal capacity and roles in litigations, probate law and manumission.

The last part of the thesis describes the abolition of slavery, first in the UK and then in the US. It respects the chronology in both countries, mentioning significant court decisions, involvement of prominent personalities fighting for the abolition of slavery, and the related major historical events. Both parts end with an epilogue describing the situation after the formal abolition of slavery (by law in the UK, and by a constitutional amendment in the US), and outlining the consequences of slavery.

**Keywords:** slavery, history of the United Kingdom, history of the United States of America