

Abstract

The thesis explores the role of the contemporary underground subculture. The study critically deals with the "underground myth": the idea that the underground community had a major influence on the fall of the communist regime in Czechoslovakia. The last topic is the role of Voknoviny, a magazine considered a fundamental medium of the current subculture. The theoretical part of the work focuses on history of the underground subculture. Furthermore, the theoretical part describes popular culture and subcultures theories. Also, the historians' view of the normalization proces and the role the underground played in the fall of the communist regime. The principal part of the work analyses interviews with four figures of the underground community. The research sample was designed to cover the main significant "structures and institutions" of the underground. The analysis of the interviews is complemented by the content analysis of the Voknoviny magazine. The results show that while the current underground is based on the tradition of its pre-revolution predecessor, it now fits within the dominant society framework. The interviewees agreed that the role of the underground in the collapse of the communist regime lied primarily on uniting the opposition. Although Voknoviny has a larger readership than the pre-revolution Vokno, it also gets criticized in the subculture.