

Abstract

The aim of my thesis is to closely examine the world of thought in seminars organized by a branch of Československá vědecko-technická společnost Státní banky československé v Praze (Czechoslovak Scientific and Technical Society of State Bank in Prague) which were led by Václav Klaus in the years of 1979–1986. The members of the seminars were publishing their papers semiannually in collections named Ekonomické modelování (Economic Modeling). These consisted of written versions of presentations and in later years also of the polemics among the authors. The foreword to each collection was written by Václav Klaus himself. Over the years, the fame of the seminars and number of copies of Ekonomické modelování has began to rise, so the whole event received to the attention of StB in 1984. The Secret police then kept a file on Václav Klaus named Akce Kluk and in 1986 prevented Klaus from organising more seminars because of their right-wing orientation. The above-mentioned seminars have not yet been the point of interest in historiography, mainly due to the poor accessibility of the collections. The thesis will deal with the content of the seminars themselves captured in Ekonomické modelování and also with the monitoring of the meetings by the secret police. The result is a perspective on the unresearched issue of the world of ideas of the academic elites in the late socialism, which is all the more interesting because of the fact that a large part of the participants of the seminars were catapulted into high level of politics after the Velvet Revolution and played a key role in the economic transformation of Czechoslovakia in the 1990s. However, the thesis will not deal with the application of the ideas discussed at the seminars in the context of economic transformation in the 1990s.