

Abstract

In this bachelor thesis I deal with the role played by the Soviet Union and Comintern in the history of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (CPC). For a better understanding of this issue, I chose a time period beginning in 1929, the year of Klement Gottwald's appointment as General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPC and ending in 1939, the end of the independent Czech-Slovak Republic. Nevertheless, I do not avoid explaining some of the events that took place before that time. I mean, the establishment of the CPC, the brief history of the Comintern, and the relations between the Comintern and the CPC just before Gottwald's entry into the post of General Secretary. I think that by comparing some differences between the CPC before and after 1929, I will get a better explanation of the causes and consequences of these changes.

For the examination of the period 1929-1939, I choose several events, during which the working of the CPC, Soviet Union and Comintern has intersected the most. I am referring to the year 1929 during which the V. meeting of the CPC took place and Klement Gottwald gave his first speech in Rudolfinum, the Bolshevism of the CPC, the rise of the Nazis in Germany, and the reaction of the Communist Party to it, the 1935 Czechoslovak-Soviet Treaty, the Spanish Civil War, the Munich crisis and finally the era of the Second Republic and its end.

From the perspective of working with sources and literature, I chose the straight method, although some of the archive materials I would like to use for this work are beyond my reach in Russian Moscow archives. From the whole work it is possible to read more the focus on the CPC itself than on the Soviet Union and the Comintern. Informations about Soviet Union and Comintern I was studying mainly in publications from the USA and the UK. In Czech publications, I try to distinguish between publications written before and after 1989. Publications written during the period of totality contain useful facts for further study, but they are also full of propaganda and dogmatic texts. But when we learn how to distinguish between facts and propaganda, the work with these publications is relatively easy. On the timeline, I use the progressive method.

This bachelor thesis aims to evaluate the influence of the Soviet Union and the Comintern on the decision-making and working of the CPC during the breaking moments of Czechoslovak and world history. So I carefully analyzed these events and found a satisfactory conclusion. The role of the Soviet Union and the Comintern in the CPC's first-republical period was not always so important in its functioning. It changed the same way as the power balance in the Soviet Union itself changed. At the same time, my work has provided me with a much more

comprehensive view of the governance of Soviet foreign policy and its connection with the Comintern.