

Abstract

The following thesis deals with the question of ideological conflict between the Eastern Bloc and the Chilean military junta. The author of the thesis investigates the media portrayal of Czechoslovakia in Chile and analyses the Czechoslovak media propaganda against the Chilean military government. The qualitative analysis is accompanied by the memories of four Czechs who lived in Chile during the period.

The main focus is on the years 1973, 1988 and 1989. The first year marks the beginning of the military dictatorship, the year of the biggest shock. The years 1988 and 1989 mark the end of the nondemocratic governments in both countries, Chile and Czechoslovakia.

The daily journals chosen for the analysis were the most important newspapers in the countries of interest. These were El Mercurio and La Segunda in Chile, and Rudé právo and Mladá fronta in Czechoslovakia. The media analysis is accompanied by interviews with Milan Syruček, the foreign editor at Mladá fronta (1973), and Bohuslav Borovička, a Rudé právo reporter in Havana who travelled to Chile in 1988.

The thesis offers a theoretical part with a summary of modern Chilean history and the question of ideologies in the Latin American state. There was conservative anticommunism with roots already at the beginning of the 20th century. On the opposite side there were Allende's vision of socialism, the Communist Party of Chile and the guerrilla organization MIR. Also, the Cold War and Cuban Revolution had an impact on Chilean affairs. In the theoretical part, the reader can find a sketch of the Chilean media structure and the question of ideological conflict between El Mercurio and Chilean Left-wing parties too. The chapter defining propaganda is also incorporated for a better understanding of the following media analysis.

The analytical part is divided into chapters dedicated to the Czechoslovak view of Chile in years 1973 and 1988 and the Chilean view of Czechoslovakia in years 1973 and 1989. An extensive chapter deals with the stories of Czech living in Chile. Interviews with them add personal memories and opinions on Chile and the Chileans during the tough years of the Chilean history to the media analysis.