Abstract

The bachelor thesis deals with the German colony in Chile, called "*Colonia Dignidad*". The "*Dignity*" colony was a cult led by Paul Schäfer in Chile from 1961 until his escape in 1997. Throughout its existence, its leadership has committed inhuman crimes of enormous proportions.

The thesis presents not only the historical background and the development of the colony, it also focuses on the personality of its leader Paul Schäfer, the inner functioning and conditions prevailing within this cult. The key element is the description of crimes committed by the colony's leadership not only on its members but also beyond its borders. This thesis also works with political and legal issues, including public opinion and awareness. The aim of the bachelor thesis is to provide the reader with comprehensive information that will help to understand the deeper context and background of the "*Colonia Dignidad*" case.

The bachelor thesis is processed chronologically. It brings an analysis of the themes associated with Colonia Dignidad and introduces the facts that - due to the low awareness and unavailability of adequate resources in the Czech Republic - the ordinary reader cannot simply get acquainted with. Individual chapters are devoted to individual topics.

The bachelor thesis is divided into chapters dealing with Paul Schäfer; development and conditions in the colony; political context; crimes committed outside the Colonia Dignidad; and public responses.

The thesis responds to questions related to the community crimes and presents their description so that the reader can learn the real functioning of the cult within and beyond its borders. Thesis also answers the question of how the colony was perceived and how the actions of both governments and the general public, including the legal steps towards colony, has developed over the years.

The result of this thesis is a written material containing a wide range of information, which will give readers a deeper insight into the issue of "*Colonie Dignidad*" as a whole.