

Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with the motives of individual participants in the operation of escape routes called Ratlines, especially during and after the Second World War. Ratlines were escape routes that used to escape mainly Nazi war criminals from justice. The work first deals with the thirties and the period of war, which is associated with the creation of the first Ratlines in Spain. Furthermore, the work is devoted to the Red Cross and the process of issuing travel, so as to understand how the Nazis managed to gain a new identity. The last part of the thesis is devoted to the Italian Ratlines, where the functioning of the Refugee Assistance Commission and two of the most famous Italian Ratlines are examined.

The main research question is the motivation of individual participants, which are mainly found anti-Semitic and national motives, which led to the participation of Alois Hudal or Krunoslav Draganovič in the issue of Ratlines. Another issue that the work dealt with was the participation of parts of the Roman Catholic Church, where the work came to the conclusion that it was primarily individuals or groups, as was the case of the two above-mentioned priests. In conclusion, the work deals with the influence of communism on the Roman Catholic Church and the emergence of the Ratlines, concludes that it was a relevant factor and had an impact on the Roman Catholic Church.