

Abstract

Jan Nepomuk, count Harrach (1828-1909) was a member of an ancient aristocratic dynasty, an important squirearch, a politician and a member of the Conservative Great Landowners Party; but also, a Czech aristocrat. The aim of this work is to provide a detailed analysis of political activities, views and ideas of count Harrach, conveyed through his writings, articles and speeches presented on the Bohemian land diet; and to present him not only as a conservative faithful to his class but also as an aristocrat, who willfully claimed allegiance to ethnic-linguistic conception of the Czech consciousness. The work follows a narrower focus on Jan Nepomuk's activities mentioned above, however it attempts to put them in context of his life and historical period, which constitute inseparable context. The source basis for the study are first and foremost archives from the personal literary remains of count Harrach stored in the National Archives of Austria in Vienna. Alongside, the contemporary press and administrative sources have also been used. The presented work is also a contribution to the studies of the history of the Bohemian aristocracy and its political activities and attempts to balance two stereotypes that were and to some extent still are typical for this field of historical studies – the a priori negative approach to aristocracy on one side and its needless idealization on the other.

Keywords: Jan Nepomuk Harrach (1828-1909), Harrach family, Czech lands, 19th century, 1848-1918, aristocracy, Conservative Great Landowners Party