

Abstract:

This thesis focuses on the Greek military junta regime of 1967–1974 and the role of the USA in its inception and subsequent support. Events concerning the military regime are also shown from the perspective of contemporary Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

The first chapter maps the history of US-Greek relations between the end of the Second World War and the military coup d'état in April 1967. It describes the role of the USA in the events since the Greek Civil War through the reign of Prime Ministers A. Papagos, K. Karamanlis and G. Papandreu, until the military coup. The role of the USA in the post-war development of Greece was essential, the US was sending its economic, military and ideological support into Greece. This chapter is based on scholarly literature, the authors of which had access to the archives of the US, the CIA and Greece.

The second chapter deals with the American factor in the coup and US-Greek relations during the Greek totalitarian regime. The events of April 21, 1967 are described in detail, with emphasis on the doings of the putschists, king Constantine II. and the US ambassador in Athens, Phillips Talbot. The diverse approaches of the US presidents Johnson and Nixon to the Greek military regime are described. Apparently, both the United States of America and the Central Intelligence Agency hadn't expected the coup. While the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson was distant to the new military regime, Richard Nixon didn't hesitate to support the junta openly and fully. This chapter is based mainly on scholarly literature, the authors of which had access to the archives of the US, the CIA and Greece.

The third chapter sheds light on the national Czechoslovak correspondence in reaction to the Greek coup. There are details of the ideological „anti-junta“ standpoints of the communists and instructions from Moscow, according to which the Greek regime had to be restrained in political, cultural and economic fields and according to which it was necessary to conduct propaganda against the new Greek regime both inside and outside Czechoslovakia. This correspondence about the Greek military regime implies the following instructions for the communists: ideological contradiction, breaking economic and cultural ties. Resources for this chapter were drawn from the National Archives of the Czech republic.

The fourth and final chapter maps the Czechoslovak news coverage of events in Greece between 1967 and 1968, with emphasis on Czechoslovak-Greek and US-Greek relations. In various international cases, including for example the relatively detailed story of the

Papadomichelaki family, Czechoslovak „antijunta“ propaganda and demonstrative communist activity are seen. Czechoslovak newspapers don't hesitate to openly condemn the Greek military regime, but they usually don't describe events in depth and are limited to short reports and articles. The sources for this chapter were drawn from the National Archives of the Czech republic.