Abstract

This paper examines the discourse among Czech political actors on George Soros, an American billionaire and philanthropist. The work is divided into two parts, one being theoretical and the second applied. The former defines the theoretical foundations of the study, which are then used to interpret the results of the quantitative content analysis. Given the main objective of this paper – to demonstrate that the discourse relating to the figure of George Soros is in line with the interpretation of the New Populism theory – the theoretical section introduces the concept of populism and its chief problematics, and subsequently describes the main characteristics of the theory of New Populism by the British political scientist, Paul Taggart. A theoretical dataset was constructed on the basis of this interpretation of populism, which is then used as a research framework for the practical analysis. The second part of this paper opens with a description of the research methodology. This includes an explanation of the process used to select research subjects, to compile the dataset (data collection methodology and definition of the time period), and to formulate the function and its variables. The next segment of the second part of this paper deals with George Soros himself, or more precisely, the wider phenomenon of 'George Soros'. A whole host of activities as well as a number of controversies are associated with him, which are important to familiarise oneself with. This segment will describe the genesis of the George Soros persona in global political discourse and the context of his activities in the Czech Republic. The third and final segment contains the practical study itself, including the results of the quantitative content analysis focused on the rhetoric of selected political actors -Tomio Okamura, Radim Fiala and Radek Rozvoral.