

## **Annotation**

This thesis focuses on the depictions of Czech and Czechoslovak presidents in caricature. It deals with the timespan between the foundation of Czechoslovakia and the present, within which it examines the cartoon representations of presidents. The thesis deals with the period of the First Czechoslovak Republic, the Second Czechoslovak Republic, the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, the period from 1945 to 1948 (also known as the Third Czechoslovak Republic), the communist regime of the 1950s and 1960s, the Prague Spring, the era of normalization and the Velvet Revolution. It aims to describe the reasons why and how each president is depicted in one way or another within a given era, or in some cases why he is not depicted at all. The thesis pays special attention to the issues of freedom of the press and speech and also to the laws against the defamation of the head of state, and sees them as direct factors influencing the depictions. The thesis further aims to place the cartoons in their socio-political context and deduce from it what was the public perception of each head of state in the various stages of our history. The research sample is primarily based on period caricatures in the press, containing a wide spectrum of opinions and periodicity. The thesis also uses file catalogs of the most prominent cartoonists and online resources as a supplement. It monitors not only the presidents in office, but also persons who had yet to become presidents as well as persons whose presidential terms had already ended.