

In this dissertation I focus on the Czech (Czechoslovak) politician Karel Kramář and his political thought. This work describes Kramář's political career and also aims to capture the development of his political opinions. This is the first Czech attempt to bring the complete and objective political biography of the first Czechoslovak Prime Minister.

Karel Kramář has always stirred emotions in Czechoslovakia, both positive and negative ones. We can study books, which praise Karel Kramář, or books, which criticize him. These books are usually from the era of the First Czechoslovak Republic. During World War II, the name of Karel Kramář was unwelcome because of his opinion on the Germans, after the year 1948 because of his attitude to the Soviet Union and the Bolsheviks. That is why we have only partial studies about some aspects of Kramář's politics. Year 1989 brought no change, except for the increased focus on Kramář's politics. In spite of this fact we still did not have the book about Karel Kramář and his political life and thought which would be written by a Czech author. We just had to read books from German historian Martina Winkler or Russian historian Elena Pavlovna Serapionova. Their work concentrated just on some topics of Kramář's political thought.

The theses of this dissertation follow chronologically. In this text I describe his years at school, his first steps in the political life, his contacts with the Realist-group or his work as the Member of Parliament in Vienna and in Prague as well. The reader can find here some information about Kramář's struggle for independence during World War I, about his imprisonment and sentencing to death, and about general pardon which was given to him. After this there is the institutional top of his political work – the era when Kramář was the Prime Minister of the Czechoslovak Republic. The year 1919 is the break in Kramář's life and work, after this year he was only a Member of Parliament and the leader of his political party.

There is also the analysis of Kramář's political thought in this dissertation. The main sources were Kramář's books, articles and speeches. Special position in Kramář's politics played his attitude to Russia and to the Slavs. The author analyses also Kramář's attitude to other nations, especially to Germans. A special part of the dissertation is about Kramář's opinion on political system of the Habsburg monarchy and the First Czechoslovak

Republic as well. The author writes also about the problem of nationalism or about the problem of fascism. In the end the author presents her ideas on whether Kramář was a successful or unsuccessful politician and whether his thought is up-to-date.