

Abstract

After the collapse of the communist rule, how to collectively-memorize and narrate its Communist past in the contemporary context has been an urgent and critical mission for the Czech Republic. Interpretations and portrayals of the communist state have experienced a fluctuating path, from complete rejection to indifference and empathy. An examination of the re-interpretation of the Czech communist history to its younger generation could be an effective approach for a clearer and overall understanding of Czech communist history narration. Meanwhile, history textbooks are, to a great extent, representations of the authoritative narrative. Therefore, while drawing on the rich literature on both the studies of historical narrative and especially Czech communist history, the interpretation of Czech communist history narration in this research is focused on the close examination of a Czech secondary education textbook. This thesis argues that in addition to stating and explaining the general historical facts, the textbook utilizes emotionally descriptive expressions, selective depiction, and an indictive comparison to highlight a narrative of discontent and distrust towards the communist regime and the Soviet oppression while endorsing democratic values and the market economy of the West.