

Nationalization and confiscation in 1945 – 1948

Abstract

The main subjects of this thesis are nationalization and confiscation that took place in Czechoslovakia between 1945 and 1948. In the introductory chapters it deals with the definition of the concepts of nationalization and confiscation and their historical context. Closer attention is paid to the land reform of the First Czechoslovak Republic.

The following is a description of political and economic concepts that emerged during World War II in both domestic and foreign resistance movements and in which the demands for a fundamental economic transformation of Czechoslovakia were stressed. The opinions of Edvard Beneš and the negotiations between Moscow and London exile politicians on the future Košice government program are also discussed.

The following chapters deal with nationalization and confiscation in 1945, individual decrees on nationalization and confiscation are discussed, the process of their adoption, taking into account especially the government meetings. Institute of national administration, which had a very close connection to nationalization and confiscation, is delineated as well.

In the period from 1946 to 1947, the main focus is on revision of the land reform of the First Czechoslovak Republic and other measures concerning land ownership and also on discussions about settlement of small and medium-sized confiscated industrial enterprises. One chapter is devoted to Lex Schwarzenberg and the takeover of Schwarzenbergs former manor.

The final chapters describe the development in 1948, when the new land reform and the second stage of nationalization were enacted, paying attention to the legislative implementation consisting partly in amending the 1945 decrees on nationalization and partly in adopting separate laws on nationalization in other economic fields.

The final part of the thesis consists of a short case study, which deals with the nationalization of kaolin mining industry in Karlovy Vary Region and the integration of nationalized assets into the newly established United Sedlec-Vildštejn Kaolin and Clay Mines, National Corporation.

Keywords: Czechoslovakia, nationalization, confiscation, ownership