

Abstract

The thesis entitled *Conspiracy Theories during the First Czechoslovak Republic (1918-1938)* deals with conspiracy theories, both in general and also specifically about those that were spread in the period from 1918 to 1938, known as the First Czechoslovak Republic. The author first characterizes conspiracy theories, divides them, introduces the readers to their main characteristics and describes why these theories are trusted by a large number of people. In the second part of this thesis the author deals specifically with periodicals from the First Czechoslovak Republic. These newspapers (*Lidové noviny*, *Národní listy* a *České slovo*) are examined by historical-comparative analysis and it is shown how on three specific cases (the mysterious death of Milan Rastislav Štefánik, the Gajda's affair and the alleged infection of Jiří Stříbrný with syphilis) conspiracy theories were spread during the First Czechoslovak Republic, what was the outcome, what was the motivation of those who spread them and how the state either opposed those theories or used them. In addition, for better understanding, this whole part is set in the historical context of the events. In the final part, the author examines whether the mentioned affairs and cases hold the characters of conspiracy theories or not.