

Abstract

Diploma thesis deals with the topic of the position of the First Secretary of the Central Committee of Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Antonín Novotný and the role he played in the political system during the 1960s; system named for its characteristics as *quasi-pluralist authoritarianism* by Harold G. Skilling. First Secretary's authority within the limits of the system was supported by several competences, formal and informal, that he could use to strengthen his position. The author of the thesis works on the assumption that his position stayed inherently unstable and therefore provides an analysis of the second half of the "Novotný era" to discover which factors at that time supported his authority, and on the other hand, which ones tended to undermine it.

Key words: Communism, Czechoslovakia, Antonín Novotný