

Social Psychology of Nazism; Law in the Third Reich

This thesis deals with two essential aspects of the former Nazi Third Reich (1933-1945) – the law and social psychology such as conformism and authority. The aim of this thesis is to analyse and evaluate this problematic with a closer focus on a certain part of these two topics.

The first part focuses on the basic terms and general context. There are described definitions of totalitarianism and Nazism in Germany and the history from the Weimar Republic to the end of the Third Reich. There is also chapter describing the role of propaganda in Nazi Germany, which was precisely managed and strongly influenced the German population. The second part of the text deals with Nazi law, old and new sources of law and especially well-known Nuremberg Laws, which are analysed in detail. Part of this chapter is focused on the comparison of Czech law and the law in the Third Reich, respectively whether and how is protected the state against undemocratic forms of government and this kind of political parties. The last part is focused on social psychology (selected phenomenon) which played an important role in the Third Reich – the conformism and authority. Emphasis was placed on practical experiments and concrete examples of these phenomena in Germany.

Topic of this thesis is very extensive, so the perfect description was not the aim. It was important to focus on selected information which were analysed in detail. The Third Reich made an indelible mark in the history and it should never be forgotten. So it is important to constantly remind these events and compare them with current situation. Moreover the findings from social psychology are applicable at any time. People have a high opinion of themselves, but this thesis shows that only few people would refuse obedience to authority or group opinion (even if it does not match with his own opinion). People who had committed inhuman acts in the past were same as we are right now. It is necessary to keep this observation in mind, because anyone can be in the similar situation.