

This thesis concentrates on the “other” subject of history writing, once an important women’s organisation in Czechoslovakia, the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) and from its perspective analyzes the changes that occurred in the NGOs sector after the communist takeover in February 1948.

At first the thesis deals with its programme as well as the activities from its founding until 1948. Archive materials are in this part supplemented with the memories of its members. The main part of the thesis addresses the changes after 1948. It proves that the Communist Party did not have a clear vision of the extent of ideological control it would seek over the society – the thesis describes discussions about the structure of women and youth mass organisations that continued long after February 1948; the Communist Party indecisiveness about whether to liquidate the YWCA or merge it with one of the mass organisations; also a concern for the international consequences of liquidating the YWCA may have played its role in the communist indecisiveness.

Further, the thesis describes the process of liquidating associations, institutionalising the National Administrators in charge of the associations for the purpose of exercising better political control, and/or merging the associations with mass organisations. On the other hand the analysis reveals that National Administrators acted to the advantage of the YWCA and also that the YWCA supported of the new regime. Therefore, as such the thesis problematizes the binary relation of regime-people and shows the importance of understanding both sides of the binary as differentiated and embodied institutions.

Last but not least, the thesis engages the analytic category of gender to analyze among others the character of the YWCA as a women’s organisation and the gender inequality lying at the foundations of the new regime.

Key words: YWCA, Central Action Committee of the National Front, Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the Union of Czech Youth (SČM), the Council of Czechoslovak Women (RČŽ), mass organizations, action committees, National Administration, 1948, gender.