

This thesis aims to analyse the point-blank change of political situation in 1969 spring. These changes have been connected with Husák's election to the chair office of the Party in general public conscience. In detail, the circumstances accompanying Husák's arrival to the supreme Party post have been discussed and analysed. Also, a series of backstage talks prior to the elections of the new Party leader have been described, illuminating the parts played by individual Party fractions and CPCz administration leaders. The role of the Soviet representatives has been portrayed, too, along with a search for reasons of why Husák was selected for the position of the Party's First Secretary. Also, it includes both the domestic reports and those from abroad that accompanied Husák's election, arranging these into the context of the events of that time. In particular, the approaches and activities of the most radical strata in the Czechoslovak society (i.e. trade unions, university students, and creative intelligentsia) are followed in detail. The thesis analyses the power measures applied by the CPCz administration to suppress their resistance. Due attention has been devoted to the depiction of gradual sharpening of the policy of normalization in the course of 1969 spring. In fact, its appearance was more a reflection of the permanent power struggle inside the CPCz administration than of any realisation of a detailed political concept.

This thesis has been founded on archive sources, memoirs and contemporary domestic and foreign press; also, it has profited from interviews with the witnesses of these events acquired by the fellows at Institute of Contemporary History in the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.