

Abstract

The diploma thesis *Czech Nobility in the First Third of the 20th Century* analyses the significance of the nobility living in Bohemia after the establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918. The focus is put on five of the noble families, specifically Auersperg, Buquoy, Czernin, Metternich-Winneburg and Schaumburg-Lippe, their lives, and their strategies in the newly formed republic. The aim of the thesis is to analyse their reactions to the change of the establishment, the ongoing land reform, the abolition of the aristocratic titles and their use leading to the end of their privileged social status as well as the joint of the individual and collective aspects of the nobility. From the methodological point of view, the thesis is based on the concepts of Pierre Bourdieu and Fernand Braudel, specifically the concept of habitus, capital, social fields, *longue durée* and the so-called new nobility. The introductory parts of the thesis, the historical context, sources, and the methodological approaches, aim to demonstrate the suitability of the use of these concepts for the study of nobility. The following part, empirical part of the thesis, beginning by the fifth chapter, studies the individual fields of nobility, with the first area being the political field. The accent is put on the attitude of the studied families towards Czechoslovakia. The core of the thesis lies in the sixth chapter, which demonstrates the continuity of nobility after 1918; analyses the economic field of the aristocracy, specifically three main strategies developed in reaction to the ongoing land reform. The first mentioned strategy is their collective effort to protest the steps taken by the State Land Registry. The nobility pursues its goals against it via The Union of Czechoslovak Land Owners. The other two strategies are individual, either dependent on the agreement of the noblemen with authorities or leading to judicial disputes with possible international impact. The seventh chapter deals with the social field and the cultural capital of the selected noble families. Based on the archival research it also demonstrates the complicated interpersonal relations related to the person of nobleman-landowner. The thesis is concluded by the overall analysis of habitus and the analysis of the interconnection of the particular fields and capitals. These also characterize the Czech nobleman in the first third of 20th century.