

The aim of my thesis is to examine the up to the present not treated topic of the persecution of the lay churchgoers of the region of Kromeríž in the 1950s and in the beginning of 1960s. I will carry out the examination on the basis of available archival sources and literature and I will also endeavor to advert to the consequences of persecution as well as to mention briefly the redress of the persecuted.

In the first chapter I evaluate in general the development of the church-state relationship from the 1945 till 1960. I refer to the interferences of the State with the affairs of the Church and I describe the attempts at creating interaction between the State and the Church. I always try to document the whole-state development by regional cases of persecution.

In the second chapter I examine the situation of the Church in the region of Kromeríž. The chapter is further concerned with the description of the structure of the Church in this region and I mention the monastic orders and congregations operating there. I have also included the data about the religiousness in the region of Kromeríž in that period, which is essential to the overall picture of the situation.

I proceed to deal with the individual cases of persecution. A whole chapter is dedicated to the restrictions imposed upon the teaching of religious studies. It was the very field of the upbringing of the youth at which the communists thought it necessary to aim their interventions. Consequently, the teaching of religious studies was being restricted by the decrees of The Ministry of education and a state monitoring of classes was ordered. Furthermore, the children were offered alternative activities during the classes of religious education.

With the restrictions of religious education is also connected the persecution of the lay teachers of religious studies, which I try to examine in the following chapter and I prove it on some instances of extrajudicial persecution. As a separate chapter I add the politic checks of 1958, which I document by four cases from the region of Kromeríž. Next chapter describes the trials with members of catholic organization intent on physical education Orel. Most of the trials passed of in summer 1949. At that time, four people from the region of Kromeríž were sentenced. In the last chapter I focus on the trials with The Catholic Action.