Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with the Silent Revolution and its consequences concerning mainly the political and social sphere in Quebec. "Révolution tranquille" was an important part of the historical development of the Canadian province of Quebec. Thanks to this "great reformist leap," Quebec was liberated from a longtime conservative government that kept the entire province under the supervision of the Roman Catholic Church and rejected any progressive ideas that had been developing elsewhere in the Western world in the meantime. The period from the late 40's, when Maurice Duplessis became Prime Minister of Quebec, until the end of his reign in 1959, is sometimes sarcastically referred to as the Dark Ages, the socalled Grande Noirceur, literally translated as "The Great Darkness". The consequences of the revolution included not only a change in the political sphere, but also a considerable wave of secularization, reform of education, health care, the economy, a change in relations between the Francophone and Anglophone populations in the province, and last but not least, the beginning of the Quebec nationalist movement and its desire for an independent Quebec, which became the number one issue for several decades throughout Canada. The thesis consists of four basic chapters. The first chapter briefly mentions the historical development in Quebec up to the early 50s of the 20th century for understanding the historical status of the province and the Francophone inhabitants in it. The second chapter follows the situation that prevailed here before the revolution, especially from the end of the 40s until the arrival of the liberal Prime Minister Jean Lesage in 1960. The third chapter deals with the course of the Silent Revolution and the fourth describes all the consequences within the political-social change of the province. The aim of the thesis is to describe the issue of the Silent Revolution in Canada within all the historical consequences of that time, including the political and social situation before the revolution as well as the situation after it.