

There were several outer aspects influencing the image of Soviet Russia in Czechoslovakia between World Wars. On the one hand it was Soviet propaganda using all possible means at that time to create abroad a positive image of SSSR. On the other hand, there were various control mechanisms and institutions monitoring foreigners in the Soviet territory. It was VOKS (The All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries ) and the Soviet state travel agency Intourist, to name the most significant of them. The amount of places the visitors were able to visit was limited, just as the available information and that is why the reality shown in their literary works was distorted. The writers who tried to present an objective description of the situation in the Soviet Union were often dependent on theoretical information without the possibility to verify their theories in practice. A significant number of leftwing intellectuals considered the dictatorship of the proletariat to be a political vanguard. They stuck to these beliefs because they did not have any opportunity to discover the real consequences of Bolshevik government on the people in the Soviet Union.