

The Cistercian Monastery in Sedlec existed with intermissions in the years 1143–1783/99. The Convent Church of Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist belongs from 1995 to World Cultural Heritage of UNESCO.

During the 20th century were many Czech historians for example Jaromír Čelakovský, Jaroslav Čechura, Kateřina Charvátová, Josef Nuhlíček, Pavel Zahradník and art historians Mojmir Horyna, Karel Chytil, Viktor Kotrba, Jiří Kuthan, Petr Macek, Jaromír Neumann, Zdeněk Wirth interested in history of Sedlec. As for the youngest generation it is possible to mention for example Jana Hynková and Štěpán Vácha.

Through the first chapter of the thesis we want to introduce the history of the Monastery as a whole. The last part of the chapter obtains a brief essay about the economic progress. In 1760 Sedlec had around 450 000 rheinisch gulden in debts. The great debts of Monastery were the important cause of the Emperors Josef II decision to cease it (8th August 1783).

The second chapter is dealing with the process of the rise of the anti-monastic social atmosphere during the 18th century. Monks lifestyle became incomprehensible especially for the followers of philosophical enlightenment. The economic theoreticians thought that the monasteries injured national economy. Inside the Church shared the above said process the so called Catholic enlightenment with its important components: jansenismus and aversion to Jesuits. All these theoretical arguments used the rulers to realize a large reduction of the monasteries. This happened in the most of catholic countries. Another important circumstance of the secularization was a tense in relationships between the rulers and the popes which was mirrored in the campaign against Jesuits.