

Abstract

The dissertation thesis focuses on the contemporary concept of the *socialist city* in the context of Czechoslovak Stalinism. Using Prague as an example, it examines how this concept was defined in the historical city environment. The aim of the thesis is to reconstruct the process of socialist modernization of Prague in the 1950s, to identify the basic features of the *socialist city*, to analyze its ideological foundations and to contribute to the discussion on the nature of Czechoslovak Stalinism.

The thesis is divided into five main thematic sections. The first conceptualizes the notions of utopia, Stalinism and space. On their basis, it interprets the socialist city as a distinctive vision of modernization. The second section reconstructs the political and symbolic significance of the transformation of space (landscape, cities) within Stalinist modernity. Based on contemporary texts and urban plans, the third section analyses the planning and construction of Prague in the 1950s. It defines the chronology of events, the typology of the implemented projects and the main actor groups that participated in this transformation (politicians, architects, preservationists, journalists, citizens). The fourth part of the thesis explains the roots of the concept of the *socialist city* in the professional and political discourse of the first half of the 20th century. It examines its genesis and development in the Czechoslovak and Soviet environments of the 1920s-1940s and how Soviet norms were mediated in the context of post-war Czechoslovakia. The final case study reconstructs the circumstances of the creation of the so-called central space, the most ambitious project that was planned for the historic center of Prague in the 1950s.

Keywords

Architecture, urbanism, heritage, socialist realism, stalinism, modernity, Prague