

The theme of this thesis is the portrait of the communist politician Václav Kopecký (1897 -1961) who was one of the leading exponents and propagandists of the Stalinist era in Czechoslovakia. He was not only a politician but an ideologist as well.

The thesis is based mainly on archival sources and newspapers of the relevant period.

The thesis is divided chronologically into five chapters. The first one focuses on period 1897 - 1938 and shows how young Václav Kopecký joined the Communist party and as how as one of the so-called "boys of Karlin" became the great supporter of Klement Gottwald. Václav Kopecký also participated in bolshevisation of the party in 1929. The following part of the chapter depicts Kopecký's activities as a deputy of the Parliament in the First Czechoslovak Republic and ends with the description of his departure to the exile in the USSR.

The second chapter (1938 - 1945) called "the Moscow period" shows the life and activities of Václav Kopecký in the days of his exile, which he spent in Moscow, Ufa and Kujbyšev. Then this chapter describes how Kopecký participated in preparation of political platform of Košice Governmental programme and ends with his departure to the homeland.

The third chapter (1945 - 1948) presents Václav Kopecký as the Minister of Information and demonstrates how his deeds and behaviour contributed to the final victory of the Communists in February 1948. Part of this chapter shows some paradoxes in behaviour of this man and also some conflicts which he had with the members of non-communist parties.

The fourth part (1948 - 1956) focuses on Kopecký's role in the period after communist assumption of power and presents how he significantly participated in consolidation of Stalinism.