

# **Rehabilitation of victims of political trials in the 1960s to 1990s**

## **Abstract**

This diploma thesis deals with the topic of judicial rehabilitation of victims of political trials. The term rehabilitation does not mean only the expungement of a conviction, but also the cancellation of an unlawful court decision. This thesis deals with rehabilitation carried out in the period from the 1960s to the 1990s and is based mainly on a detailed analysis of two key acts – Act No. 82/1968 Coll., on Judicial Rehabilitation, and Act No. 119/1990 Coll., on Judicial Rehabilitation. To complete the context and address the issue of rehabilitation of the victims of political trials, the thesis also contains sections dedicated to the socio-historical development, which conditioned and significantly influenced the rehabilitation itself.

The diploma thesis presents a specific section of modern history, using a comparative method to analyze two laws that regulate the same subject. Furthermore, the thesis uses an analytical method. In addition to the texts of two laws on judicial rehabilitation, the laws that amend them, and other legal regulations, the thesis is based on publications and journal articles on related topics. Explanatory reports and records of legislative body meetings are also an important source, which helps us to understand the text of the laws. Furthermore, the diploma thesis briefly summarizes available statistical data describing the extent of rehabilitation and the costs used for their implementation.

The result of the diploma thesis is a detailed analysis of the rehabilitation undertaken at the end of the 1960s, which ended at the beginning of the 1970s due to normalization, without achieving a significant result. Rehabilitation efforts in the early 1990s, i.e. after the change of the political regime, were significantly more successful. The fundamental difference in the design of the Judicial Rehabilitation Laws is the use of review of proceedings at the request of the entitled person, which prevailed in the Rehabilitation Act of 1968, and *ex lege* rehabilitation preferred by the Rehabilitation Act of 1990.

**Keywords: judicial rehabilitation, victims of political trials, communist regime**