

The social inequality is one of the most discussed problem in today's world. Inequality among different socioeconomic classes are also reflected in the character of today's cities.

Residential segregation is a spatial form of social inequality in the area of towns. Spatial differentiation is the process which caused spatial segregation of different groups of inhabitants. The spatial differentiation has not only negative effects on the condition of towns and population, but also the experience with segregated poor ghettos and deprived neighborhoods in American cities shows how important this urban phenomena could be if we do not pay enough attention to it.

The thesis in theoretical part outlines the context, causes, typology and possible consequences of the residential segregation in cities, there are also described policy preventive precautions. The paper is inspired by the American school of urban sociology, together with comparison of the environment of European and American cities. The second part is dedicated to the methodological discussion about the most useful tools to measure and identify segregation. The case study of the city Prague, which is the key part of this paper, display the situation of 22 administrative districts using the secondary analysis of census data in four dimensions (the demographic and sociologic structure of population, typology of estates and the quality of life). Current social situation of each administrative district is more or less balanced and in the area of the city there are any highly segregated groups of population or areas. Nevertheless the urban process that is proceeding signify the coming social polarization of the Prague's society. The processes that are forming new character of the city are mainly: suburbanization, gentrification, revitalization of brownfields areas and worsen social status of estate housing.