

The thesis deals with the comparative analysis of the role of history in four nation – centred works from the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. The complex of analyzed works includes three texts of T. G. Masaryk concerning the so called ‘Czech question’ - Česká otázka [Czech Question], Naše nynější krize [Our Contemporary Crisis], Jan Hus [Jan Hus], Unamuno’s book En torno al casticismo, Dmowski’s Myśli nowoczesnego Polaka [Thoughts of Modern Pole] and Gökalp’s Türkçülüün esaslar [The Foundations of Turkism]. The structural and thematic similarity was the main criterion for the choice of these texts. All texts deal with the problem of ‘national existence’, combine the features of works in social sciences with the ideological element and use history and historical examples for the construction of national programme. The thesis looks for the similarities and differences in the use of history and in the role of history in constructing national programmes in the analysed texts, and tries to define their typology. Furthermore the treatise examines the relation between the degree of modernization and the political position of respective society (dominant, non – dominant) on one hand and the way of using historical examples on the other. The thesis is divided in five chapters. The first chapter outlines the situation of the above mentioned societies in the examined period with the emphasis on showing the degree of their modernization and the character of intellectual discussions within them. The second chapter describes the life and the work of the authors of examined texts. The third part is dedicated to the non - comparative analysis of included sources. The objective consists in showing them as the contextualized historical whole. The following part approaches the texts in thorough comparative perspective. The last chapter attempts the summarisation and evaluation of the outcomes obtained by the comparative analysis.