

## **English resumé**

### The welfare state – historical and theoretical origins

The thesis is focused mainly on legal aspects of the welfare state and its historical and theoretical origins. The goal of the thesis was to describe development of welfare state and to compare models of welfare state in the Czech Republic, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden and USA.

The thesis charts historical and culture background which leads to the establishment of first social policies. The roots of the modern welfare state stem from economic and cultural changes connected with the process of industrialization in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The first theoretical frame of welfare state comes from works of utopist writers like Proudhon, Owen or Saint-Simon. The main impulse for change was the terrible working conditions in 19<sup>th</sup> century factories.

The whole chapter deals with establishment and development of welfare state in the area of contemporary Czech Republic. Special attention is paid to authors of Czech social school. Works by Albin Bráf, T.G. Masaryk or Karel Engliš formed the basics of social doctrine in the so called "First Republic". Czech social school created very modern social legislation, especially when considering the time frame. The high level of social security in the First Republic was one of the crucial factors which allowed it to maintain its character as a democratic state. The integration of social insurance was successfully finished after the World War II. by the Act on National Insurance. This modern act was inspired by the principles of British national insurance, proposed by sir Beveridge, but it also contains the ideas of Czech social school. The act was the last democratic act in the area of social security for the next 40 years. After victory of the Communist Party the promising development of welfare state in Czechoslovakia was brought to a halt.

The thesis describes the establishment and development of welfare state in several model countries: Great Britain, Germany, Sweden and USA. It compares the aforementioned models of welfare state and describes aspects which distinguish them.

Attention is also paid to the question of the welfare state crisis and the criticism from liberal positions. The reform, or even an end of the welfare state, is often discussed in time of economic depression – like the one we are facing these days. The economic depression stresses the problem of public social expenditures growth and public budgets deficit. The thesis presents different opinions regarding possible future perspectives of the social welfare state.

### **Keywords:**

1. sociální stát - welfare state
2. česká sociální škola - Czech social school
3. sociální politika – social policy