

The work deals with the person of Jan Otto (1841 – 1916) introducing him as one of the most outstanding man of business, culture, policy and economy in the Czech national society in the second half of the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century. At the same time it documents the forming process of modern Czech national business elites. It is based mainly on the research of archive documents from the files of Otto's publishing house and his personal life deposited in Literary Archive of the Museum of Czech Literature. The work presents an analysis of factors enabling Jan Otto's participation in the contemporary Czech national elite. To cover Otto's significant social enhancement conditioned by his life-long service to the nation, Otto's work is examined from several viewpoints.