

## Abstract

This graduation thesis called *Relations between Czechoslovakia and Portugal between 1920 and 1940* aims to document the development of bilateral diplomatic, cultural and economical relations between these countries in the mentioned period.

Diplomatic ties between Portugal and Czechoslovakia were established in 1920. Despite different priorities of their foreign policies, both countries began gradual closer cooperation during the twenties. In 1922 they signed a commercial deal which set the rules of export and import – e.g. the export of Portuguese wine to Czechoslovakia or the export of Pilsner beer to Portugal. The Czechoslovakian embassy in Lisbon helped the Czechoslovakian producers to enter the markets in Portugal and it also played an active role in the cultural field. It supported various cultural exchanges and organised lectures on Czechoslovakia, its history, economy and environment.

In 1927 the Portuguese government moved its embassy staff from Vienna to Prague and it was very disappointed when Czechoslovakia did not do the same and its ambassador remained in Madrid. Despite objections from the Portuguese the Czechoslovakian government did not decide to change the status of its office in Lisbon and promote it to the one of an embassy.

It is evident that the developments in Europe had an impact on the relationship between Czechoslovakia and Portugal and that the situation in the thirties was not favourable for closer ties. In 1933 Portugal adopted a new constitution which limited the rights of its citizens and meant that the country was ridding itself of democracy. The situation in Czechoslovakia was even more difficult because that year in Germany the Nazis came to power which represented a threat to the existence of the country.

It was the decision of the Portuguese government to suspend the ties with Czechoslovakia. It was taken in August 1937 after a commercial row over deliveries of Czechoslovakian machine-guns to the Portuguese army became a political problem in those difficult times. The official relations remained severed until June 1974.

**Keywords:** czechoslovak-portuguese relations, interruption of diplomatic relations, cultural cooperation, economical contacts.