

Abstract

The aim of the present thesis is to introduce the topic of foreign direct investment (FDI) from the multiscience (multidiscipline) perspective. FDI is a phenomena that cuts across many fields of human activity. It is of major significance for the national economies and an important factor for the global economic growth. Although these characteristics of FDI are widely known today, it was not always the case in the past. Since the sixties, it has been a focus of deeper studies and an object of interest especially for the international organizations that supervise the global economy. As each socio-economic phenomena, the issue of FDI has its historical background and this thesis seeks to comprehend this subject and further tracks the emergence of the business climate and economical processes that show the characteristics of later defined FDI.

The historical formation of FDI is related to qualitative and quantitative development of the phenomena, and to its temporal and geopolitical context. The thesis presents the most relevant factors and causes of the present state of FDI, and monitors the crucial moments of the elements contributing to the evolution of the international investment environment. A more detailed study is devoted to Central European countries, since their specific development after the Second World War effected their slower involvement in FDI and a kind of uniqueness given by their unprecedented historical experience. Most of the space is given to the Czech Republic, general macroeconomic facts related to FDI are introduced, and the final chapter focuses on the present state of investment arbitration in the Czech Republic and its most important cases.

The third and the fourth chapter attempt to enter the world of investment arbitration and lay out the milestones of international investment arbitration. They note the precedent cases decisions, the formation of the fundamental investment institutions, the behind-the-scenes manoeuvres that had an impact on the perception of FDI, the process of creation of the fundamental international documents and treaties, and last but not least the problems of searching for the optimal forum for the needs of investment arbitration.