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**DUALISM IN EUROPE:
HISTORICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS
OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND ITS DELIMITATION**

Summary

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The Twentieth Century gave the European structure as well as the world new face. However, this assertion is true only partially. Behind these “fresh” traces as results of more and more intensive and dynamic development there are still hidden hundred-year-old fundamentals which, thanks to their influence, continuously determine and jointly form the current geographical structure of Europe, including its special contours and division. Looked at from the most general level, the European structure was at least till the year 1989 clear: on one side there was the capitalist and democratic West and on the other side the socialistic and communistic East. It was this period when the dual perception of Europe became dominant, not only in the geopolitical concepts of the literature focused on this field but also in the perception of the public itself. The fact that the phenomenon of dualism in Europe is clear and continually followed from the ancient times till the present days makes this conception even more stable. This continuum can be also found behind the fact that not even after the year 1989, when this strict post-war bipolarity loses its strict and “transparent” form, did it come to the break-up of this dual perception of Europe (even when there are parallel conceptual alternatives). The European division into the West and East automatically remains in the range of professional as well as popular theses, and also in media and people’s thinking.

For this phenomenon of European division into two parts I use in my theses the term dualism. Its geographical meaning at the same time corresponds here with the philosophical sense of this word (also dualism) which means polarity of two contrary aspects. If we proceed from the main hypotheses of this permanent division of Europe into two parts, then we can look at the current period after the year 1989 as very dynamic period of the development of the dualism. By this we especially mean the transformation of Central Europe and its proclaimed shift towards the West. This development is quite often interpreted as the return to the natural state. What should this “natural state” be like or was, or did it exist at all? And if yes, what was and is it determined by? These and other questions together with a range of changes that currently take place in the picture of Europe make the topic of this dissertation theses relevant and logically invite to the deeper cognition and understanding of the causes and results of the processes which formed the dualism in Europe.

Except this considerable explorational challenge there is another motivation – the fact that science has so far concentrated especially on the 20th Century or else on the issue of Central Europe – to which part of dual Europe it historically belonged or if it is an independent unit. If there are studies which deal with deeper historical perspective, then they focus only on one aspect of the dualism (e.g. cultural-religious) according to which they deduce historical-geographical division of Europe into two parts. Even the authors who try to

delimit this division in a more concrete way, or better they try to physically construct it and to cartographically draw its borders make no exception. However, even in these studies it is static approaches that are dominant. A deeper and more complex historical-geographical analysis of the dualism in its dynamic and flexible approach is still missing.

The issues of the dualism in Europe have a broad scope from the time and space view. The whole area of geographically determined Europe and the period from the ancient times, when according to my opinion the first clear and deep European dualism (northern-southern) developed, till the present days became the item of interest of my thesis. It is clear that a more complex and broad time approach to this topic would be a very ambitious project and it would necessarily need some broader space than that which is given by only one study. Therefore, I tried to concentrate on the level of my own concept of dualism in its dynamical delimitation and on the analysis of the development of the dualism including an attempt to construct the in the past changing imaginary borders between the two parts of Europe and finally on the interpretation and generalization of the conclusion of the analyses.

Such specifically focused issues required interdisciplinary approach which would integrate knowledge and methods of both geographical and historical research, alternatively of other social sciences. The main paradigm was found in the historical geography which deals with the change of geographical organization of natural and social sphere in the relationship with space and time. My broad and for several years lasting research of the issues of the dualism in Europe was preceded by participation in projects dealing with the issues of border peripheral areas, territorial polarization and regional identity. Except my home Charles University in Prague I also dealt with these issues in years 2007 and 2008 till 2009 at foreign educational and scientific stays at Universities in Bonn and Bamberg which are the two main centres of historical geography in German speaking countries.

I worded such name of my dissertation thesis so that it corresponds with its main aim which is:

To find and try to conceptually define and physically delimit the dualism in Europe on the base of historical-geographical analysis of a long-term development.

From the point of this general intention **several basic aims** followed:

1. To form my own concept of dualism in Europe, which would be more complex and dynamic and which would take into consideration the changeability of the reality of the time in a more flexible way.

2. To try to structure and hierarchize the single determinant aspects of the dualism and to determine their importance and time changeability.
3. To form and apply for this framework a suitable methodical procedure of historical-geographical analysis – analysis of the aspects of dualism in the set of historical European areas for individual time selections.
4. On the basis of the analysis results to find the complex boundary between the two parts of dual Europe for individual time selections and to physically construct the boundaries of the dualism including their cartographical representation.
5. To generalize and explain the general and long-term processes and trends, alternatively the regularities in the development of the dualism in Europe, to diagnose their dominant causalities by which the roots of the current state and development would be clarified.

Fulfillment of these aims should answer the key research questions which I asked before the research itself and which are based on the current (dual) reality in Europe: What resulted in the foundation of this dualism and when was it formed? What is this dualism based on and how was it developed in the past? Can we follow a boundary between “two Europes” and if yes, where would it go through? Would be the process of this boundary in the past rather static or would it be overpowered by strong dynamism and changes? Which general processes, tendencies or rules can be distinguished in the development of the dualism and how would these alternatively correspond with some of the developmental theories and concepts?

When answering these questions it was necessary to proceed from some **input assumptions – premises** set on the theoretical bases and generally accepted regularities.

1. Europe is space in which civilizational aspects of two dominant poles historically met, penetrated and influenced each other, from which the permanent division into two parts – “two Europes” – can be concluded.
2. This concept cannot be static but it must be dynamic and in its basis it corresponds to the changes of historical reality.
3. The dualism is a complex phenomenon and a bare reduction to its only aspect – unilaterally focused set of factors (e.g. cultural, geo-/political or economical) does not give a true picture to its full substance and it only leads to partial interpretations.
4. The complete dualism can be followed and defined only with help of a broader set of aspects – more possible sets of factors whose composition and determination rate (currentness) are changeable in time.

5. On this basis the prevailing discontinuity – imaginary boundary of the dualism dividing both European parts from each other – can be surveyed
6. In historical-geographical analysis the in time changeable historical countries (not only the state units that were formed from them) and their borders can be used as spatial units.
7. Application of the current concepts, regionalizations as well as methodical approaches of the current geographical research and theoretical models (the theory of the polarized development and the concept core-periphery, space-time diffusion and phase falling behind, border effects etc.) is also suitable for the analysis of the processes taking place in the past.
8. From the conclusions of the analysis of the development of dual long-term tendencies, processes and regularities can be concluded.
9. The current Western-Eastern dualism, which we know especially from the 20th Century, has far deeper roots, causes and continual historical development.
10. With the introduction of the industrial period in Europe a long-term expansion of the economically more developed West to the East was started, the situation from the WWII till the year 1989 was an exception in this trend.
11. The fact that the East was falling behind the West is a historical fact, the rate of this falling behind was changeable in time and in regions.
12. In history the boundary of the Western-Eastern dualism, alternatively transitional zone can be continually located in the area of Central and Central-Eastern Europe.

The presented thesis is divided into three parts; the fulfillment of the survey aims themselves is mainly given in the last part. As an important part of the study we can also consider also the wide list of sources that relates to this topic and supplements that include some essential working analytical outputs

The first part deals with the **theoretical-methodological definition** of the research and the discussion of the approaches and concepts whose application was possible in the monitored issues. Because of the scope of the time and spatial focus and complexity of the chosen topic the thesis was not based only on one main theory, or rather on one mental concept. We can rather speak about plurality of theoretical bases, inspiration and authors whose works and views more or less influenced my own approach. From the important theoretical bases this thesis reflects e.g. theories of the developmental stages (Rostow 1969, Bell 1973, in Hampl 1998), uneven development as well as other developmental theories or

concepts of socio-geographical differentiation of the world (Russett 1967, Huntington 1996, Hampl 1009), core and periphery (Friedmann 1966, Wallerstein 1974), time and spatial diffusion and phase falling behind (Hägerstrand 1967, Purš 1973b) etc. Generally, rather positivist approaches and concepts prevailed, which corresponds with nomothetic focus of this study.

This was followed by the categorization of the issues of dualism in Europe relating to the fields of the research within the historical geography, economic history (e.g. Weber 1904/5, in Guttandin 1998, Purš 1973b, Bairoch, Lévy-Leboyer, eds. 1978, Pollard 1981, Fischer, ed. 1985, 1987, Chirot, ed. 1991, Maddison 2002, Landes 2004), geopolitics (e.g. Hnízdo 1995, Schenk 1995, Heffernan 1998), cultural geography and the issues of regional identity (e.g. Jordan 1995), borders and border areas (Jeřábek, Dokoupil et al. 2004, Gurňák 2007) or demographical development and development of the population and settlements (e.g. Hajnal 1965, 1983). A whole range of theoretical concepts with the emphasis on different existing approaches to the dualism in Europe was introduced (e.g. Cahnman 1949, Pounds 1969, Aldcroft, Morewood 1995, Krejčí 1997) including different historical geopolitical projects (Mackinder 1904, German Mitteleuropa, Curzon's line) and national approaches. There is also a confrontation with several to some degree alternative views of the differentiation of Europe, alternatively with different opinions concerning the classification of Central and Central-Eastern Europe (e.g. Rupnik 1992, Stehlík 1996, Halecki 2000, Szücs 2001, Wandycz 2004, Křen 2005). Looking at the topic with help of these theoretical-methodological conclusions and discussion of the concepts were necessary for consequent formulation of my own dualism in Europe. This results in a rather wide extent of the first part of the thesis.

Its **second part** deals with particular **procedures and methods** applied in processing of this study. The in terms of time broadly and spatially outlined and rather complex issues necessarily came across limited possibilities given by a lot of methods, particularly by the quantitative ones. It required a sensitive approach and usage of innovative methods and procedures. Therefore the result was a flexibly outlined historical-geographical analysis of the development of the dualism in Europe. It can be comprehended as rather a general analytical approach and research of the geographical territorial reality in the past than a particular applied method. There was an exactly given and structured process which combined elements of quantification with a so called "soft" approach to complex reality and it can be comprehended as original. Its purpose was not a complicated quantification of the dual

geographical reality (moreover this aspiration would actually be, according to my opinion, baseless), but a framework, and a complex character of the issues taking into consideration categorization and division of the observed areas on the imaginary axis of the dualism.

The analysis carried out in this thesis concerned the set of historical territorial units and related to 14 time selections. The categorization was made on the basis of the figures that the territorial units showed in the observed indicators of the dualism¹⁰ The single indicators were structured according to four complex aspects of the dualism into cultural (A), economical-social (B), political (C) and ethnical (D). The determination of the categories for values of a particular phenomenon (indicator) was always conditioned for each of them separately by their approximate statistical distribution and by thorough comparison of the territorial units. The categories of all levels of the analysis were formulized in such way so that their nominal designation was always on the scale from 0 to 6 with figure 3 being the imaginary midpoint – the border value of the dualism. The gained figures were further processed with help of a chosen statistical method into so called complex indexes. Only according to them and to exactly set rules were the territorial units divided into two groups: into those that belong to either one or other part of dual Europe, which means e.g. to the West or to the East. The complete methodical procedure developed into several after one another following steps and working with a wide base of statistical data and calculations was used especially for the industrial period. For older time selections the analysis and used procedure were necessarily simplified according to the lower exactness and accessibility of the estimations. Therefore, in the second part of the thesis I explain the whole process of the analysis and its categorization by means of two examples of application, one of them for pre-industrial and other one for the industrial period.

Thanks to such combination of statistical and “soft” methods the risks that would be brought by usage of only one of those ways were minimized. Whereas it was impossible to fully develop more exact and more complex quantification because of the historical and complex conception of the study, the “soft” approach itself would due to the insufficient exactness resulted in speculative conclusions.

I at the same time assume that the chosen approach can be considered as appropriate according to the principles of a scientific thesis and as a constructive way how to achieve

¹⁰ Concerning its choice and selection see chapter 1.1 in part III of the thesis. Their complete list including assigned importance and change of their usage in the analysis of single time selections are included in table 1 in chapter 1 part II of the thesis.

relevant results and how to fulfill the aims of the study. With creation of my own methodology the 3rd partial aim of this thesis was fulfilled.¹¹

The core of **realization of the main aim** of the dissertation thesis, namely “to find and to try to conceptually define and physically delimit the dualism in Europe on the base of historical-geographical analysis of the long-term development”, is based in its **third part**. This aim was divided into a general level, i.e. conceptual determination of the dualism, and a particular level, the analysis of its development and consequent synthesis of the gained results. The contents of individual chapters were adapted to that.

The general determination of the dualism in Europe is the subject of the first chapter and corresponds to requests set in aims No. 1 and 2.¹² The **authorial concept of the dualism** in Europe which I presented in the thesis, can be characterized as dynamic which was conditioned by the requirement of the flexible consideration of the changeability of the time reality. The dualism itself is comprehended as a complex phenomenon which can be observed and determined with help of four aspects – groups of factors and their indicators: cultural (including religious = A), economical-social (B), political (C) and ethnical (D). Their structuring, hierarchization and determination of the changes and their importance depended on the context of historical development of Europe (see table 1). The content determination and definition of the dualism was made in two ways, on one side by setting the so called ideal types and on the other side by determining the reciprocal relationship and interaction between both parts of Europe. Their connection resulted in complex and in time changeable picture of the dualism in Europe. Like all similar concepts also that one of mine is based on the philosophy of the history and on the range of socio-geographical theories and mental analysis and assessing of the complex historical-geographical reality of European space.

¹¹ “To form and apply for this framework a suitable methodical procedure of the historical-geographical analysis – analysis of the aspects of dualism in the set of historical European areas for individual time selections.”

¹² “To form my own concept of the dualism in Europe, which would be more complex and dynamic and which would take into consideration the changeability of the reality of the time in a more flexible way.” “To try to structure and hierarchize the single determinant aspects of the dualism and to determine their importance and time changeability.”

Table 1 – Hierarchization and importance of the aspects determining the dualism in Europe¹³

← Aspects	Time selections and schematization of the predominant dualism ¹⁴													
	5 th -2 nd Cen. B.C.	1 st -4 th Cen. A.D.	Round 15 800	11 th Cen.	Round 1300	Round 1500	Round 1600	Mid- 18 th Cen.	1815/ 1820	1870/ 1871	1910/ 1914	Round 1930	1970/ 1980	Present/ 2009
	S-(N)	S-(N)	S-(N) W-E	W-E	W- (E)	W- (E)	W- (E)	W-E?	W-E	W-E?	W- (E)	W- (E)	W-E	W-(E)
A	3	4	AI=3 AII=3	4	3.5	3	2.5	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2.5</u>	2	2	1	-
B	2	2	AI=1	2	<u>3</u>	3	3.5	4	4	5	5	4	<u>4</u>	5
C	1	2	CI=1 CII=1	1	1	1	1	1	1.5	1.5	2	2	5	<u>2.5</u>
D	1	1	DI=1 DII=1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1

Source: author's own suggestion

Into this general and partly theoretical platform I implemented in the second chapter the results which were gained in the broad **historical-geographical analysis of the development of the dualism in Europe** with the aim (No. 4) “to find a complex boundary between the two parts of dual Europe for individual time selections and to physically construct the boundaries of dualism including their cartographical representation”. On this basis the dualism in Europe gained through the determination of its key elements (core areas, borders of the dualism, transitional zones) more exact spatial contours. Altogether there were 14 time selections from the ancient times till the present days analyzed which produced the same number of the maps of the dualism in Europe (compare pictures 3–16 in the second chapter part III of the thesis). These maps illustrate in the best way the findings and conclusions of the analysis so they can be also considered as one of the most important outputs of the whole thesis. The tracing of the development of the dualism was based on the comparison of the analysis results between the individual historical selections and I put

¹³ The figures given in the table present the importance assigned to the single aspects and determine their approximate influence on the time determination of the dualism in Europe. On the scale from 0 to 6 they can be characterized in the following way: 0 = no influence (marked as: - ; in this case the aspect was not used at all), 1 = partial/small influence, 2 = medium influence, 3 = medium-strong influence, 4 = strong influence, 5 = decisive influence, 6 = absolute influence (in this rather theoretical case the other aspects would not be taken into consideration at all). For expressing of the hierarchization the following marking was used: the in bold printed figures = main aspect (such aspect that presents the main basis of the determination of dualism), the underlined figures = so called main secondary i.e. modifying aspect (such aspect that strongly modifies and completes the main basis of the determination of dualism), other figures = other secondary aspects (such aspects that do not directly determine the dualism, they only complementarily supply its identification).

¹⁴ For the schematization of the dualism (i.e. marking S-(N), W-E, W-E? etc.) see subchapter 1.2 in part III.

¹⁵ This time selection presents the breakpoint in the determination of dualism: I consider the forms of Northern-Southern and Western-Eastern dualism approximately equal. The aspects AI, CI and DI present the figures of the importance meant for the Northern-Southern dualism and AII, CII and DII for the Western-Eastern dualism.

emphasis on the explanation of the particular spatial changes and processes. This explanation was connected with seeking of their initiators and determinants.

Because of a partial simplification of the methods and smaller exactness of the analysis the results relating to the pre-statistic (pre-industrial) period are rather framework-like, still I consider those as quite representative. In case of statistical (industrial) period the existence of sufficient amount of statistical sources allowed some better processing of the quantitative parameters and their categorization in a more exact way. On the contrary for the period after WWII and the period of the present post-industrial development I would speak about some analysis conclusions as about less representative ones. Even though their information value could be better as well as other indicators (especially the quantitative ones), the analysis of them was dependent, because of the comparability of the conclusions with past historical selections, only on current set of predominantly quantitative indicators. Especially the results of the evaluation and determination of present Western-Eastern dualism is necessary to be comprehended as rather temporary. To verify their correctness it would be appropriate to use also other methods, alternatively other indicators as well.

Both the first and second chapters answered some of the questions which I asked at the beginning of the research: “What resulted in foundation of this dualism and when was it formed? What is this dualism based on and how was it developed in the past? Can we follow a boundary between “two Europes” and if yes, where would it go through?”

I assume that the last of the partial aims (No. 5) “to generalize and explain the general and long-term processes and trends, alternatively the regularities in the development of the dualism in Europe, to diagnose their dominant causalities and by which the roots of the current state and development would be clarified” was sufficiently fulfilled in chapter 3. **Summarizing picture of the development of the dualism in Europe** focused especially on several essential stages of the development: the changes in the relationship and the proportions of both parts of the historically divided Europe, their identities, the position of their core, the differences in their development, the character and difference between the two types of dualism (so called primary and secondary, see below), the shifts of the determination of the borderline of the dualism and transitional zones, the changes of dynamism and finally the distinguishing of the basic stages of the development of the dualism (see table No. 2). An extra emphasis was also put on setting of the main determinants and causalities of the long-term tendencies of the development and its reflection by prism of some theoretical starting points and generally accepted rules of the spatial development which I discussed in part I of

the thesis. Furthermore, I also tried to produce a certain prediction of this development in the future.

As an example of the conclusions of such summarization of the development of the dualism in Europe we can have a brief look (to have a better picture) by means of the distinguishing of the two types of the dualism and further at the final table showing the generalization of the basic stages.

In the work study I differentiated two types of the dualism in Europe: a) the primary one which is characterized by the relationship of two independent and relatively equal regions with their own cores and b) the secondary one dividing the area into two unequal parts from which the first one presents a more developed unit with its own core and the second, the more underdeveloped one, alternatively also a dependent area without its own core. Of course that we speak about two ideal types whose elements in reality penetrated into each other. As we can see from the conclusions, in most of the time in the development of the dualism in Europe it was the secondary one that prevailed. Its specific and in many things extreme variety was the Northern-Southern dualism which was dominant in Europe in the ancient times and early Middle-Ages. During the early Middle-Ages the dualism in Europe started its profiling according to my concept more in its Western-Eastern orientation. Such formed relationship between the West and East lied originally on the basis of the primary dualism which however with the beginning of the 13th Century gradually changed into prevailing elements of the secondary type dualism. This long-term situation was later twice temporarily changed. Every time it happened under the influence of stronger Russia which became the core of the East. For the first time at the turn of the 18th and 19th Centuries (more precisely in the 18th and in the 1st half of the 19th Centuries) when we can consider the relation between the elements of the primary and secondary types of the dualism approximately balanced. For the second time it was the period of years 1945-1989 in which we rather speak about a different shape of the primary type of the dualism. From the point of view of the concept of this thesis it is clear that while the secondary type was characteristic for the period of the Western-Eastern dualism conditioned especially by economical-social aspect (i.e. aspect B), a larger number of the elements of the primary type of the dualism was characteristic for the period in which the cultural and political aspects (A and C, see table 2) were dominant.

If I proceed from the periodization which I worked on for the particular observing and analysis of the development of the dualism in Europe, I differentiate, on the basis of the same features and tendencies of this development, several basic stages (see table 2). While the period of the predominant Northern-Southern dualism created only one stage, in case of the

period of dominant Western-Eastern dualism I, on the basis of the carried out analysis, delimited altogether 4 stages. The last stage marked as “x4” and delimited by the years 1945-1989 with its character deviated from the long-term tendencies of the development and therefore it is necessary to look at it as at a specific stage.

Table 2 – The stages of the development of the dualism: synthesis

Stage	Time delimitation	Diagram of the dualism ¹⁶	Prevailing type of the dualism	The part where the core is	Main aspects of the delimitation of the dualism duality ¹⁷ and its simplified conception
I.	1 st Half 1 st Millennium B.C. – 800 A.D.	S – (N)	secondary (specif.)	S	A: „civilized“ S – „barbarian“ N
II.	1. 800– early 13 th Century	W – E	primary	W, E	A: Western - Eastern cultural scope
	2. 13 th Century– 17 th Century	W – (E)	secondary	W	A, B: more developed/Western – falling behind/Eastern cultural scope
	3. 18 th Century – mid-19 th Century	W – E?	secondary/primary	W, part. also E	B: developed West – falling behind East
	4. 2 nd Half of 19 th Century – 1 st Half of 20 th Century and after 1989	W – (E)	secondary	W	B: developed West – falling behind East
	x4. 1945–1989	W – E	primary (specif.)	W, E	C: Western – Eastern block

Source: author’s own suggestion

The aim of this synthesis of the development of the dualism in Europe was to create a compact picture needed for deeper understanding of this development and with its help to clarify the continuity of the current situation. Only if we look at it in a more general way it is possible to determine the main processes and long-term tendencies and at the same time to find the most important determinants and initiators for them. From the above presented results it is clear that this development always had a complex character with aspects political, cultural or ethnical, economical and social and we can also see an accent of geographical determinism. The process of formation and changes of the dualism in Europe in the past showed a narrow connection with regularities and mechanisms of the spatial development and from this point of view the current situation can be comprehended as natural. The individual passages of this closing synthesis besides other things answered the remaining questions asked before the research: “Was the process of this boundary in the past rather static or was it overpowered by strong dynamism and changes? Which general processes, tendencies or rules can be

¹⁶ The diagram of the dualism characterizes the relationship between both parts of Europe: S = South, N = North, W = West, E = East. For more detailed explanation see chapter 1.2 in part III of the thesis.

¹⁷ Aspect A = cultural, B = economical-social, C = political

distinguished in the development of the dualism and how these would alternatively correspond to some of the developmental theories and concepts?

The conclusions more or less confirmed the relevance of my hypotheses. We have to divide them into those that were formulated on the basis of input premise which should make the research possible (see above No. 1–7) and into the hypotheses meant to be verified on the basis of the conclusions of the research (No 8–12). The validity of the premises No. 1–7 was verified in an indirect way because (conceptually and methodically) the possible direction of the research led to the required results. The only objection can be made with the premise No. 1 (“Europe is a space in which historically met, penetrated and mutually influenced civilizational aspects of two dominant poles from which we can conclude permanent division into two parts – as if “two Europes”) whose wording turned up as inaccurate. It is suitable rather for the so called primary type of the dualism, whereas for the secondary type which was predominant during the modern age it is characteristic that there was only one pole dominant. The division of Europe into two parts remains relevant.

In case of hypotheses No. 8–12 the first two ones, i.e. No. 8 (“From the conclusions of the analysis of the development of dual long-term tendencies, processes and regularities can be concluded.”) and 9 (“The current Western-Eastern dualism, which we know especially from the 20th Century, has far deeper roots, causes and continual historical development.”) were verified in chapter 3 part III of the thesis. On the contrary hypothesis No. 10 (“With the introduction of the industrial period in Europe a long-term expansion of economically more developed West into the East was started, the situation from the WWII till the year 1989 was an exception in this trend.”) turned out to be simplified. From the conclusions of the thesis we can see that the tendency of expansion of the West into the East began already in the period of the high Middle Ages. Within this tendency we can find several main phases with the fact that the most intensive and the strictest phase appeared with the introduction of the industrial period. Similar partial objection can be raised to the hypothesis No. 11. (“The fact that the East was falling behind the West is a historical fact, the rate of this falling behind was changeable in time and in region.”) because the falling behind of the East was shown first in the 13th Century, which means also in the period of high Middle Ages. Till this time the level of both units can be seen as approximately the same. The last premise No. 12 (“In history the boundary of the Western-Eastern dualism, alternatively the transitional zone can be continually located in the area of Central and Central-Eastern Europe.”) turned out to be correct which was fully proved by the results of this study.

On the whole we can say that the thesis brings into the issues of monitoring the dualism, or more precisely the differentiation of Europe new view which looks at the phenomenon of dualism in Europe as at phenomenon which is complex and with its content and spatial delimitation dynamic. On the contrary to other studies which dealt with these issues rather marginally or partially it, according to my opinion, presents particular, compact and rather systematized approach. I support my conclusions and findings with thorough analysis which also gives them partial exact argumentation. On the basis of these results I tried to particularly spatially delimit the dualism for individual time selections. Thanks to this purpose 14 original maps were created. Besides the synthesis of the development of the dualism in Europe showing the continuity and roots of the current situation I regard the contribution of this study also in the introductory discussion of the concepts which summarized the existing findings in this field, especially in creation of own elaborated concept of the dualism, alternatively in unique methods connected with application of some original procedures. Within defining and developmental delimitation of the dualism in Europe several terms needed for its evaluation were established, e.g. boundary of the dualism, transition zone, “westernization”, “easternization” etc. These were used in connection with these issues in scientific studies only exceptionally and non-uniformly. I also consider as innovative e.g. the distinguishing of the dualism into two types in terms of work termed as primary and secondary.

This thesis presents a certain argument and a proof of the fact that comprehending of Europe as of space which is divided into two parts has its substantiation. Concerning Central and Central-Eastern Europe it brings the opinion that this area is not, from the historical point of view, single and sufficiently independent units as some concepts look at it¹⁸, but that it is a specific transition zone between the West and East. We can consider its areas, depending on the changes within the imaginary boundary of the dualism in the past, to be taking turns in being parts of one or other part of Europe.

I think that from this point of view the presented approach to the dualism as well as the particular conclusions can be seen as original contributions to the discussions of the broader historical-geographical development of Europe and its spatial differentiation which can help with better understanding of the current reality by prism of the developmental continuum. I also believe that the results of the dissertation thesis can be inspiration for further research of these issues.

¹⁸ Especially those whose authors come from this area – see chapter 2 in part I of the thesis.