

The thesis submitted by me deals with two interconnected problems. The first part of the text consists of an analysis of changes of the Czech nationalistic discourse, with an emphasis on periods of political crises in the years 1897 – 1899 and 1918 - 1920. I attempt, primarily, to picture the importance of racial analysis – a transcription of nationalistic discourses into biological terms on the background of the struggle for recognition of those public spheres which tried, at the end of the 19th century, to enter the political space defined as the Czech national society. Racial analysis became, within the discourse, one of the strategies of this struggle for recognition and means of expression of opposition against the liberal conception of equality and the state that represented such a liberal order (i.e. the Austro-Hungarian monarchy). Following the First World War, the function of racial analysis changed: this time, racial war discourses helped to preserve the integrity of the national state and the notion of a common national interest. In the second part, which is more analytical and extensive, I try to explain how the modern policy of the Jewish identity formed itself in the given political space. First, I outline the form and development of languages of political identity integrating liberal and racial discourses (Czech-Jewish movement, Zionist movement). Then I focus on situations when a certain conception of the Jewish collective identity adopted the class struggle discourse (Poale Zion, Jewish communists). While doing so, I point out not only the differences between the above mentioned political identities but important parallels as well.