

## Abstract

The aim of this thesis is not to describe again what happened in Czechoslovakia in February 1948, but to present the role of the Presidential office in that political crisis and the role of president Edvard Beneš himself - how much power he had and what could he really do to solve the crisis of that time. After the short introduction to the situation, which led us to the end of the Second World War, follows the presentation of the Presidential office with its departments and employees, who worked there and later published their memories about February 1948. The most important was the presidential chancellor Jaromír Smutný, who worked for a short time for the next president Klement Gottwald as well, and after that he escaped abroad.

Their memoirs will be compared with the memoirs of other political icons of that time. Memories wrote national socialists Huber Ripka, Prokop Drtina and Ota Hora, communist Bedřich Rattinger was writing a diary in February 1948, the situation in the Presidential office described Jaromír Smutný, Miroslav Jirásek and František Škarvan. The other persons, who are important as well, are ambassador Eduard Táborský, Swedish friend of Hana and Edvard Beneš Amelie Posse-Brázdová and journalist Ferdinand Peroutka.

From the archival documents would be used the materials from the president's personal archive, news from the Czechoslovak press agency, police information, documents about the crisis from the Archive of the Presidential office and materials from the Klement Gottwald's folder, which is placed in the National archive. Books by Karel Kaplan and Václav Veber are very important for understanding the whole situation.

## Keywords

February 1948, Presidential office, demission, political crisis, communist's coup d'état, Czechoslovakia, Edvard Beneš.