

## Abstract

This paper asks, whether a crisis of masculinity can be found in Czech political movements and communities at the turn of the 19th and 20th century. We analyze the development of gender orders between 1870 and 1910. There the imagination of separated spheres created an asymmetric gender order, yet partial shifts were evident. The ideals of masculinity and femininity were influenced through nationalism, which led to an emotionalization of masculinity by the beginning of the 20th century. The integration into the national body enabled the femininity to take positive use of the prevailing stereotypes. A change came after 1900, when the idea of degeneration appeared, attacking the contemporary form of masculinity denoting it as false.

It follows a case study of the emergence of the Czech scouting. The establishment of scouting in Britain and America is today interpreted as a reaction to the crisis of masculinity, which makes it a good starting point for observing the crisis in another culture. The crisis manifested itself indirectly, on an abstract level, as a criticism of the state of the culture. Some of the scout founders considered this an opportunity, to set up a new culture by colonizing the nature (a feminine attribute).

There were presuppositions for a feeling of crisis in the Czech environment, but this feeling wasn't probably wide spread.