

The theme of the thesis, The Relation between the State and the Roman Catholic Church in the period 1870-1918, is rather extensive. The thesis starts with a view of the development of the relation. It describes Tolerance Letters Patent of Joseph II., Evangelical Letters Patent of 1861 and continues to the turning point, December Constitution of 1867, bringing beginning of democratization of feudal Austria's society. The thesis then focuses on the Codes of 1868 and 1874 which partly restricted the authority of the Catholic Church on the other hand they brought new impulse for development of churches and religious societies not recognized by the state until that time. Profound investigation of the relation history could help in the current dialogue between the state and the church.