

## **Abstract**

This B.A. thesis called „The reaction of the Czechoslovak and East German leadership on the crisis of the 1980s“ deals with the situation in Czechoslovakia and the GDR, two countries similar in many of their characteristics, in the period of 1985-1989, when these communist regimes were facing a crisis caused by a complex of economic, social and political reasons. Firstly the main three fields in which the problems of both regimes manifested are defined – economic difficulties, relation between the leadership and the society and the crisis of elites. The thesis deals also with external impacts affecting those countries, which include particularly the changes in the USSR after the emergence of Michail Sergejevich Gorbachev. Further it describes the form of the reaction on the effects of the crisis and the measures taken in this context. While there occurred limited reforms, concerning especially the economy, inspired by the Soviet perestroika for the first time in 1987 in Czechoslovakia, the reaction of the GDR mainly consisted of maintaining the current course and of the effort to gain financial resources to keep living standards. A major problem for both regimes in addition to the economic stagnation and the need to respond to the change of the course of the Soviet policy was as well the activation of the society represented by an increasing number and intensity of public protests, which culminated in autumn 1989 and significantly contributed to the collapse of both regimes. The goal of this work is to find and describe the relation between various aspects of the crisis and to compare the approach of the Czechoslovak and East German leadership to the solution of the problems.