

## Abstract

My doctoral thesis focuses on Eduard Albert (1841–1900), who was a significant figure in Czech and Austrian scientific, cultural, as well as political circles at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I concentrated my research primarily on the relatively unknown aspects of Albert's life, *i.e.* his private life and political activities. My fundamental question was: what kind of role did a man, whose professional career and social status in Vienna reached brilliant heights, play in Czech political life? Although he initially resisted openly engaging in politics, he found he could not stand completely on the sidelines. Albert's relationship to the Realist group reveals that Albert was vitally interested in contemporary political events. He was no mere passive observer – he often actively interfered in Czech politics. Another topic I focused on was Albert's attitude toward the Czech Academy of Arts and Sciences. Even in this instance, the creation of the Czech Academy wasn't a purely scientific question, but was to a great extent a political decision.

The thesis is divided into six main chapters, the composition of which combines chronological and thematic approaches. In the introduction I tried to define the topic and establish a conceptual framework; I summarized the research up to now and analyzed the most important sources and literature. In the first chapter *Homo privatus*, I outlined Albert's life, including his family history, as well as his interests and hobbies. I devoted the second chapter, *Homo eruditus*, to Albert's professional career and his efforts to popularize medicine. The third chapter, *Homo scriptor*, focuses on Albert's literary and historical pursuits. The fourth chapter, *Homo urbanissimus*, maps Albert's social relationships, friendships and his patronage. Here I also look into Albert's role as a pro-Czech lobbyist in Vienna. In the crucial fifth chapter *Homo politicus*, I analyzed in detail Albert's activities at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when he pondered accepting a seat in the Imperial Council, and his efforts to integrate himself into Czech scientific circles. I further focused on Albert's relationships with the Czech political representation and I clarified his role in the creation and conception of the Czech Academy. I directed most of my attention to Albert's role as a negotiator in the meetings between the members and followers of the Realist group with representatives from both Czech political parties, the result of which was the fusion of the Realists and the Young Czechs. In the final sixth chapter I looked into the so-called *second life of Eduard Albert*. One can conclude that Eduard Albert's name has become a permanent part of the Czech historical memory, not just in the Czech national environment, but also in the wider context of the former Habsburg monarchy. Even today, he is often remembered as a scientist, man of letters and patron.