

Josef Macek and the Programmatic Debates in the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party (ČSDSD) from 1924 to 1938.

This thesis deals with the programmatic debates in the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party (ČSDSD) from 1924 to 1938. The debate is analyzed in three ways: Firstly, its chronological development is given same as the link between the various topics discussed. The second part researches the structural features of the debate (external context, institutional environment, social profile of discussants, the structural cleavages like generation conflict or the relationship between theorists and decision-makers etc.). In the final part the content differences among discussants are analyzed in respect to a few selected issues (the foundation of socialism, the role of intelligence in the socialist party, the relationship to the state, the evolutionary way to socialism). Marxism is understood as the primary axis of the debate. In relation to it I speak about three intraparty streams, which were repeatedly clashing and which differed not only in the approach to Marxism as such or in solution forms which resulted from it, but also in their generational affiliation and its influence on the programmatic profile of the party as a whole: The left stream, the youngest generation, was based on Marxism with the relatively highest degree of consistency and recommended to follow the Marxian intentions. The right stream, represented by the middle and older generation, had a very reserved approach to Marxism or even that of a refusal. The center stream, represented by the oldest generation and symbolized by the leaders of the party controlling to the greatest extent its structure, was based on Marxism too, but saw it rather as a traditional mobilization and integration instrument than prescription for concrete steps. Therefore the content of its Marxist theory varied in respect to different issues, sometimes it leaned more towards the left stream, sometimes more towards the right one. In the thesis the debate as a whole is characterized as very specific (discussion of intellectuals within workers' party) and its significance for the majority of the members is marked by a question mark.