

ANGLICKÁ ANOTACE

DIPLOMA THESIS TITLE:

THE OPINION OF TOMÁŠ GARRIGUE MASARYK ON THE FUNCTION OF RELIGION IN THE CIVIL SOCIETY

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ANNOTATION:

It is to be stated that the current postmodern Czech society does not pay much attention to the heritage of the first President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Prof. Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, nor it takes much efforts to understand. Moreover, the rising generation has hardly any cognizance, what was the importance of the personality of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk for our state and for the Czech society. The secularized Czech civil society of the beginning of the 21st century perceives the heritage, left by one of the most important personalities of the Czech, European and world history in his life and works, with certain constraints.

The main objective of this thesis is to give a transparent survey of Masaryk's views on the function of religion in a civil society, proceeding from the assumption of a very quest, based on the existing and actual facts that are known about Masaryk's life and work.

In the first section, the life story of Prof. Masaryk is described. It is not, however, a pure listing of biographical data. This section aims at "clarifying and illuminating" that nebulous cloud, shrouding the person of T.G.M. for present-day society.

The second part gives the characterization of Masaryk's religious life, his idea of God, faith, the nature of human soul, immortality and eternity. This section smoothly proceeds into the third part, the main objective of which is to refer to the view Masaryk had on churches, and to eliminate thereby possible misunderstandings, prevailing as a consequence of the so called "common consciousness".

The closing chapter of the thesis presents Masaryk's relations towards the Czech society and to religion in general, particularly pointing out the role, religion played in Czech or Czechoslovak history, as well as the unsubstitutable function of religion in solving of the crisis in society. Furthermore, it tracks mutual fading of religious faith and politics and pays attention to the essential role religion plays in the process of education of civil society.

This diploma thesis should encourage all of those, who desire, without prejudice, to search for and find the truth about the life and work of T.G. Masaryk.

KEY TERMS GIVEN IN THIS DIPLOMA THESIS

1. Personality and Life Work of T. G. Masaryk
2. Masaryk's Faith and Religion
3. Masaryk's Relation towards Churches
4. Masaryk's Opinion on Religion Values in Civil Society