

Annotation

The three years lasting postwar period in Czechoslovak history, sometimes denoted as the „Third Republic“, still deserves attention of the historical research in the Czech Republic. The 1947 autumn political crisis in Slovakia is undoubtedly one of the most important issues of that historical period. The aim of this thesis is to point out the sources, the process and consequences of this political crisis that is nowadays recognized as a „litmus paper“ of the following „coup d’etat“.

First parts of the thesis analyse the collapse of the nondemocratic regime of the Slovak Republic as well as the framework of the political system of Czechoslovakia and its main features. The following part deals with circumstances of the general elections that took place in May 1946, elections, that resulted in a quite unexpected win of the Democratic Party in the Slovak part of Czechoslovakia. The political situation in Czechoslovakia deteriorated, as the year 1947 continued. It developed into a deep political crisis in autumn, preceded by a campaign against the alleged subversive complot against the state authority. The complot and the following crisis form the main theme of the thesis. These occasions deserve maximal attention because they explicitly show that the decisive politics was dominated by the bloc consisting of both Czechoslovak communist parties. The critical political situation eventually ended in the so-called Victorious February, when the decisive political authority was usurpated by the communist parties.