

Abstract

The thesis focuses on the phenomenon of students from the so-called less developed countries in communist Czechoslovakia, specifically Arab students in the 50s and 60s of the twentieth century. In the first part the issue is put into a broader context of political and cultural connections. Apart from the situation inside the Arab region after the Second World War, the work offers insight into the mutual Czechoslovak-Arab contacts followed by a recap of Czechoslovak tertiary education after the year 1948. The text also presents the general situation of international students in the Czech environment in the observed era. Because it was the first wave of Arab scholarship holders supported by the Czechoslovak government to arrive at the end of the 50s, it is crucial to describe the shape of negotiation between the Czechoslovak and Arab sides. At the beginning of the second thematic part dealing with Arab students in Prague the attention is shifted towards cultural agreements and forms of studies in Czechoslovakia. The aspects of arriving abroad, preparatory language courses, accommodation in Prague, studying, everyday life of Arab students in Czechoslovakia and the conflicts they had faced are analyzed in the following subchapters. The problem of Arab student adaptation to the new environment and troubles caused by cultural differences are illuminated in the framework of these thematic sections. The thesis closes with an outline of the Arab absolvents' fates and their contacts with Czechoslovakia after ending their university studies and returning to their homeland.

Keywords:

students, universities, Czechoslovakia after 1948, Communism, Arabs, identity, everyday life, cultural history.