Annotation

This thesis attempts to capture the development of the position of civil engineers, who tried to achieve the position of an academic educated elite in the society of the 2nd half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. The complete professionalisation of engineers was the condition „sine qua non“ to the recognition of civil engineers as part of the academic intelligentsia, and that was one of the main reasons why civil engineers sought to enter the municipal government. The aim of the thesis is to complete the research of the transformation of the municipal government from the „honorationes“ into the „executive“ government in the city of Prague.

The thesis describes the historic development of the technical intelligentsia as a new part of academic educated elite, it shows the reasons that led to the engagement of civil engineers in the process of the modernization of the city, and especially shows the rivalry between them and the jurists. The example of engineer Jan Kaftan shows a successful career of one technician, who thanks to, among other skills, his technical knowledge, was elected to the Austrian parliament. The thesis describes as well the transformation of the municipal economic policy, that was influenced by the development of the technology and by the effect of civil engineers in the municipal policy. The thesis is mainly based on the technical branch-periodicals and studies concerning the development of the municipal government.

Keywords: civil engineer, officer, jurist, municipal government, Prague, modernization, professionalisation, Society of Engineers and Architects in the Kingdom of Bohemia, Jan Kaftan.