

Summary

Mrňka, Jaromír: *Proměny každodennosti pohraničí českých zemí a ustavování diktatury KSČ na příkladu okresů Šumperk a Zábřeh 1945–1960*. [Transformation of Everyday Life in the Czech Borderlands within the (De-)Stabilization of the Communist Dictatorship as illustrated by Districts Šumperk and Zábřeh 1945–1960]. Prague: Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, Institute of Economic and Social History, 2014. Rigorous Thesis, Supervisor Matěj Spurný, 217 p.

Based on research into regional context, the rigorous thesis contributes to a deeper understanding of the process of constituting a new society in the Czech borderlands. The research field is defined on the one hand by the structural aspects of demographic changes following the Second World War (the forced expulsion of the German population, the impact and consequences of unorganized and organized colonization process), on the other by the constitution and transformation of the communist rule, including the deep crisis from 1953 to 1957. In observing the changes of dominant and authoritative discourses on the one hand and the language of the acteurs on the other, the thesis identifies core values and images which contributed to the stabilization or destabilization of communist rule. The shared vision, enabling the mobilization of the society, was the evolving image of the enemy. At the time of the Stalinization of society, the post-war nationalist construction was changed to fit the current criteria. It was eventually de-legitimized by the revelations of Stalin's cult of personality. In the second half of the fifties, the image of the enemy was being reinterpreted in accordance with the then promoted values of "socialist legality" and "peace to work". The core value that allowed the Communist Party to recapture its previously disrupted legitimacy was the image of "honest work". The contrary, destabilizing role was fulfilled by the issue of social status, associated with the idea of living a "life in satisfaction". The party and social discourse came under direct influence of this image only in the period after 1953, but it was in fact present throughout the whole period 1945–1960. In promising the fulfillment of "life in satisfaction" to the citizens, the Communist Party finally managed to stabilize the social situation at the latest during 1957. Abandoning the utopian achievement of a communist society, the Party vowed soon to accomplish the creation of a socialist one.

Key Words

Communist Dictatorship – Process of the New Settlement – Czech Borderlands – Building of the New Society 1945-1960 – Social Transformation – District of Šumperk – District of

Zábřeh – Mass Mobilization of the Society – Image of the Enemy – Honest Work – Living of the good life