

## Summary

This thesis is called "Czechoslovak Television in the Period of Perestroika: Discussion Programs in the Late 1980s" and it attempts to add its bit to the research of the complex mosaic of late socialism in former Czechoslovakia. Television is not a topic standing in the limelight of historiographers' interest. However, the reasons for this thesis are clear – in the 1970s, television has become a dominant information channel in the Euro-Atlantic space. The thesis wants to draw attention to the significant phenomenon affecting society in the second half of the twentieth century – role of the mass media and their contribution to creating public space. With help of contemporary concepts of Jean Baudrillard, Jürgen Habermas, and Bruno Latour, the thesis tries to answer the question: what is television? The thesis maps the efforts and development of promoting television in Czechoslovakia and focuses on selected programs from the late 1980s. These programs contributed to reconstitution of public space as a place of articulation of specific interests of various social groups, mostly through public debate or conflict. In order to understand the change that these programs brought, the thesis attempts to reconstruct contemporary discourse on a wider pallet of resources than just television programs. These are mainly textual resources which are, however, connected to television as an institution. The thesis also addresses institutional context allowing production of these programs in the Czechoslovak television.

## Keywords:

Czechoslovakia; Television; Perestroika; Discussion.