

This work offers an analysis of social democracy in the Czech lands in 1916 - 1921. The aim is to describe the process and the causes of the collapse of the ČSDSD. This gave rise to the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. The study seeks to answer the question of why the Communist coup in ČSDSD failed. The introductory part deals with the historical development of the party against the background of national and world events. The main accent is set on the analysis of the two wings within the party: the left (revolutionary) and the right (reform). These wings are examined from the perspective of Giovanni Sartori and the sociologists of policy of the time, John Mervin and Robert Michels. This is complemented by the inclusion of the party into cleavages by Stein Rokkan and Seymour M. Lipset. The study also contains information about developments in the number of party members between 1913 and 1924, reflecting the decline in the war years and especially after the collapse of the party. The following chapter is dedicated to the strength of social democracy in the legislatures in comparison with the other Czech, respectively Czechoslovak parties. It shows the position of social democracy within the party system and its real influence on the direction the Czech and, later, Czechoslovak nation took. The text is supplemented by the overview of the representation of social democracy in Czechoslovak governments.