

Edvard Beneš was a popular statesman and respected diplomat. After World War Two the communists came into power. It was a critical time for Edvard Beneš. He was seriously ill and political progress was different from his political opinion.

The aim of this work is to find out how the contemporary press dealt with the person of Edvard Beneš in the years 1945 and 1948. I've chosen four important terms of his life. I've also chosen two daily papers: Rudé právo, which was the newspaper of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and Svobodné slovo, which was the newspaper of the National Social Party of Czechoslovakia. I was also interested in the activities of the censorship, which was controlled by the Communist Party.

In the first chapter I describe the way the two contemporary dailies looked like. At the same time I focused on the influence of censorship. The second chapter deals with the person of Edvard Beneš, his life and his political work. The third chapter is divided into two parts. The first part speaks about Edvard Beneš's return home. The second part describes three terms in the year 1948. The communist's putsch in February 1948, the position of Edvard Beneš and his reaction to the putsch. June 1948, when Beneš abdicated and September 1948 when he died. In every part I describe historical data and the way president Beneš was presented in both the dailies.

The conclusion is that Svobodné slovo actually provided more space to Edvard Beneš in that - in the period I focused on - it published approximately twice as many articles mentioning Beneš as Rudé právo; as well as honoured president Beneš to a large extent. Although the censorship was under communist control at the time, the media image of Edvard Beneš was significantly different in Svobodné slovo from the one in Rudé právo.