

ABSTRACT IN ENGLISH

This diploma thesis deals with the issue of the rights of national minorities and their application in the inter-war Czechoslovakia. The aim of the diploma thesis is to analyze this question in one particular region. For this purpose I chose a linguistic island surrounded by majority of other languages. Yet I tried to provide a view of as much as possible points of view. This linguistic island should therefore contain a people of surrounding majority who create linguistic minority in observed region.

The candidate for the appropriate object exploration is some German linguistic enclave in the middle of Czech settlements. Or a region of significant Czech minority amid German speaking milieu. As the best option I finally chose so called Wischauer Sprachinsel with a German settlement surrounded by Czech-speaking majority. Since the 19th century, the region began to increase the share of Czech-speaking population, which resulted in matryoshka doll consisting of a minority in a minority, the phenomenon typical for Lands of the Bohemian Crown at this time. However, in order to better explain the issue, I chose to compare the situation in the Wischauer Sprachinsel with another sore point for the Czech ethnographic map. The ideal candidate was Litvínov region in the Sudetenland, which was a mirror opposite of Wischauer Sprachinsel in ethnic terms.

At first I outlined the initial conditions in the newly created Czechoslovakia, a minority policy of the former Habsburg monarchy in Lands of the Bohemian Crown. Then I outlined the international obligations for the protection of minorities in Czechoslovakia adopted the Saint Germain agreement on specific provisions of the Constitution. I also described specific laws adopted by Czechoslovak government to answer whether and how Czechoslovakia applied these commitments into national law. Then I outlined the applicability of the minority rights in practice. I demonstrated the applicability in a particular example of Wischauer Sprachinsel. Then I compare this linguistic enclave with similar example in Litvínov, which faced similar, yet in the details completely opposite, national problems.