

Abstract

In my dissertation „Russian Exile and Inner Emigration An Irregular History of a Cultural Phenomenon“ I attempt to examine the issue of the Russian mentality against the background of Russian literary and intellectual trends over the course of one hundred years – from the December Revolt in 1825 to the period after the October Revolution in 1917. The phenomenon of inner emigration and exile, which is characteristic for this period of time, is examined through the use of authentic sources, that is solely literary and epistolary records, as well as through the Czech reflection of the Russian soul, as it was perceived and presented from the time of Masaryk and Slavík and after them by many Czech and foreign scholars up to the present. Examining authentic testimonies, the aim of the work is to make the point that despite the confrontation with European rationalist influences, the Russian world and the so-called Russian soul essentially always retained a spiritual dimension from the Eastern civilizations, based not on rationality but on sensation, not on scholastic argumentation of the external existence of God but on a realization of the unity and the inner interconnection of the material and spiritual world.