

Abstract

“Region“ is nowadays one of the most frequented term in the discourse of the humanities. In the approach of the History, the region is used as a theoretical and methodological concept, whose content has wide range in other social sciences, such as Human Geography and Sociology. This thesis deals with the possibility of the utilization of this term in the historical research applicated on the particular case of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands. Thesis describes the recent state of the research and the progress in the approach to the term of region. The main concepts which can be used in the case of the Highlands are also shown and described. This particular region was chosen because of its specificity – it’s a central periphery, which formed itself into a centralized and institutionalized modern region, the Vysočina Region, during the 20th century. The basic way-out is Anssi Paasi’s theory of the shaping of regions. According to it, region can be found in many dimensions in the process of its creation – not just in a physical shape, but also in a symbolic shape, in the making of its identity. Eventually, region has got variable social and economic characteristics. The meaning in which region is perceived and imagined is also changed by these processes of creation – the role of the region is changing as well. Therefore, this thesis follows not just the administrative and spatial variations of the region, but also the creation of the regional identity in terms of its production, contents and its naming. Attention to the problem of the economic and technological modernization is paid as well. Also, the development of the region is shown from the perspective of the socio-economics, according to the statistical data. This contributes to the complexity of the image of the regional development during the 20th century. The aim of the thesis was to expose the ways in which region can be shaped and formed; to show the progress of this process and its dynamics. It also deals with the changes of the criteria of perceiving and imagining the region. In case of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, this means the change of its role of an undeveloped peripheral territory to the role of a strategic connecting territory in between two traditional centres of the state.