

## **Abstract**

This thesis entitled, 'Kopřivnice in the process of political changes in 1989/1990' consists of a description and analysis of events connected to the disintegration of the post-totalitarian authoritarian regime in Czechoslovakia and deals with the transition to democracy of the medium-sized North Moravian town, Kopřivnice. My aim is to record not only the course of political changes, but also social and economic development after 17 November 1989. In terms of time, the thesis covers the period from 1986 to the municipal election in November 1990.

The first chapter deals with the characteristics of the post-totalitarian authoritarian regime in Czechoslovakia before 1989 and the pre-existing conditions for the subsequent changes which took place in Czechoslovakia and Czech society.

The second chapter explains the basic milestones in the history of the town which influenced its development, its population structure and its importance in the regional framework.

The third chapter 'Reflection of Kopřivnice before 17 November 1989' describes the functioning of the town's municipal committees and their significance in state administration. The current situation in the town just before 17 November 1989 is analysed from the position of the town leadership carried out by the local municipal committee.

The fourth chapter is devoted to the course of days shortly after 17 November 1989. I concentrate on the sequence of events – from the first leak of information about the events in Prague to the response to them.

The fifth chapter implements the oral history method in order to investigate the creation of the local Civic Forum according to archive materials and interviews with contemporary witnesses.

The sixth chapter compares the development during the first ten days after the intervention in Prague with another city - that of Plzeň and with medium-sized towns typologically resembling Kopřivnice.

The position of local media and the problematic search for information is the content of the seventh chapter.

The eighth chapter highlights the transition phase – from 16 January when the demise of the Municipal Council occurred to 24 November 1990 when the first communal election of a municipal government was held.

The chapters dedicated to parliamentary and communal elections analyse the influence of the elections on the region of Kopřivnice and in a broader perspective as well.

The final chapter summarizes the period after the elections in 1990.