

Abstract

In my thesis I tried to put down the transformation of rural areas, specifically the region of Poděbrady, which took place in the first half of the 20th century. The center of the region is the town Poděbrady, the whole area consists of 35 municipalities together. The transformation of rural involved several factors - the establishment of an independent republic, land reform, electrification, river regulation, the development of communications, transport and mechanization of agriculture. I deal with the natural conditions of the region, because they greatly influence the local life and economy. „Střední Polabí“ is a flat area known for its fertility. Therefore, most people here worked in agriculture in the first half of the 20th century. Major employers were landowners from aristocratic families, particularly in Poděbrady and Dymokury. They gave work to people in the fields and in industrial plants. Breweries, sugar mills, brickworks, dairy, oily or glassworks were in operation in the region. Leisure, customs and festivals belonged also to the life of people.