

The Thesis deals with the problem of Stalin's cult of personality. This question was presented to the Closed Session of the Twentieth Congress of Soviet Communist Party on 25th February 1956. This statement known as „The Secret Speech“ was delivered by the First Party Secretary N. S. Khrushchev. In his speech he denounced Stalin's crimes mainly during the Great Terror in late 1930s. Khrushchev and other Stalin's successors had tried hard to deny their own responsibility for the bloody purges during Stalin's era. The Thesis concentrates on effects forming content of the Secret Speech paying attention to instant power struggles in Kremlin. Rehabilitation process and investigation of Stalin's crimes is also an important part of The Thesis. In the conclusion I tried to answer the question whether the Secret Speech was a real turning point and if the changes and reforms made by Khrushchev were fundamental, permanent and stable. Another thing is how far the Secret Speech influenced the Soviet Union, its communist legacy and the world in general.