

Abstract

This thesis represents my attempt to summarise everything important about land reform taking place during the First Czechoslovak Republic. Land reform was a giant project lasting almost twenty years, whose consequences we can still feel today, be it either results of the reform or restitutional trials that are held to this day. Its enduring importance along with my interest in the era of First Czechoslovak Republic are among the main reasons why I have chosen this topic. Throughout writing, I've put emphasis on legal aspects of the reform where possible. The thesis is composed of nine chapters.

Chapter one analyses the economic situation of land owners before the beginning of the land reform. The land owners are divided into categories by amount of owned land and these categories are compared from various points of view.

Chapter Two is the most extensive one and it is entirely adressed to legislation of the land reform. The chapter is subdivided into three parts. Part One is also divided into several subdivisions, each of them explaining demands of each individual political party or movement. Part Two describes the story behind introducing the legal acts. Finally, Part Three thoroughly analyses the most important legal acts of the land reform.

Chapter Three documents temporary actions that were introduced before the beginning of the land reform to calm farmers down.

Chapter Four explores procedural aspects of land reform from giving notice and taking estates away from the original owners through allocation proceedings to allocation to applicants as such.

Chapter Five deals with social security of employees of manor farm estates who were made redundant as a consequence of the land reform. Several forms of social security are briefly described.

Chapter Six looks at financial bodies authorized to secure monetary operations and provide loans. It outlines the origin of these bodies and then describes their most important tasks.

Chapter Seven shortly examines criticism of land reform. It provides the most frequent objections and reasons why land reform was criticized. The objections of the most important critics are also considered.

Chapter Eight discusses the results of the land reform, mostly from the economic point of view.

Chapter Nine closes the thesis and it is somehow connected to the previous chapter. Land reform had a huge impact on the whole society which was not only economic but also political and social, and this chapter intended to capture all of that.