

Annotation

Dissertation “The Image of Freedom in the Views of Historical Sources of Czech Society of Non-aristocratic Origin in the Revolutionary Year of 1848”

The political tensions of the first half of the 19th century, a very stormy period from the political and social points of view, culminated in a significant revolutionary movement in 1848. Although Europe of the early 19th century was strongly influenced by the Enlightenment and ideals of the French Revolution, the Czech Lands were also subjected to long-term Napoleonic wars, which were followed by the conservatively oriented regime of Emperor Franz I. and his chancellor Prince Metternich.

These developments profoundly influenced the mental worlds of people of non-aristocratic origin, even though this same social group still remembered the image of the enlightened "Peasant Emperor", Josef I., as well as the mottos of French Jacobins. Finally, this society gradually became acquainted with the liberal ideas then spreading from Western Europe. These liberal ideas encouraged this social group to fight for a juster social order and greater recognition for itself. Their ideas about freedom supported the reestablishment of society on new political, social and economic bases. The Revolutionary Year of 1848 brought fundamental changes and new ideological impulses to the whole society. Ideas of freedom became a part of everyday discussions, comments, polemics and analyses, but also everyday wishes and desires.

The society of non-aristocratic origin was socially variable, consisting of many social levels with different characteristics, such as social privileges or, on the contrary, obligations to the privileged. Naturally different members of this stratified community perceived the concept of freedom from different perspectives and positions. For this reason, it is appropriate to study the concepts of freedom from that time through the views of selected representatives of these social groups. Members of the Protestant and Catholic clergy, peasants, signatories of petitions and a school assistant will be considered here by means of known or completely unknown historical sources. The main historical sources include: sermons, diaries, memories and petitions.