

Abstract

The so-called Second Czechoslovak Republic (1938-1939) is used to be portrayed as the dark age, when obscure, fascist elements came to lights. This period is usually put in opposition to the previous First Czechoslovak Republic (1918-1938). In this thesis the main argument consist of questioning the continuity between these two allegedly contradictory historical times through the analysis of special legislation – state of exception –, which was adopted in purpose to deal with defending the democracy in Czechoslovakia between 1933 and 1938. The State Protection Act (1936) implemented into legal discourse special term for potential – in the case of war – enemies of the state: „state unreliable persons“. This category of „reliability“ was understood as nationality and part of far more complex national consensus by all contemporary agents, which legitimizes the state intervention primarily into the economic sphere. In the centre of national consensus stood transformed labour: collective duty for the nation. Until 1938, among contemporary agents, exists strong notion that realization the state of exception in the case of war and therefore national consensus cannot be fully realized because of international minority laws. But during the Second Republic (1938-1939) different agents used language of previous national consensus to legitimize their demands: to exclude „state unreliable persons“ from their vocations („Jews“ and „bolsheviks“) or put them into the newly created labour camps („workshy“ and „Gypsies“). National consensus represents both element of continuity between First and Second Czechoslovak Republic and at the same time element of discontinuity because of the change in international politics. Transformation of czechoslovak society in the 1930s was connected with framing up national consensus and perceiving labour as a collective duty for the nation.