

Abstract

This work analyses newspaper articles concerning the conflict between the catholic and the protestant communities of Northern Ireland and the event of January 30th 1972, which is commonly referred to as the “Bloody Sunday”. The work is based on articles released by the Czechoslovak periodical press concerning the period between one month before the Bloody Sunday and one month after the event. This means articles released in January and February of 1972 were concerned. More precisely, articles printed in three national daily newspapers at that time were selected for the analysis: Rudé právo, Mladá fronta and Svobodné slovo. I will focus on how the Communist press reported about the events in Northern Ireland and place it into context with the political situation at that time on both the domestic and international level. An introduction to the regional history of Northern Ireland and a description of the events taking place on January 30th 1972 are a part of this thesis. Furthermore, I also depict how the Czechoslovak press conducted their activities in the 1970s, a period affected by both social and political changes referred to as the Normalisation. The aim of the analysis of the periodical press is manifold. First of all, I present the official stance adopted by the Czechoslovak Communist regime on the Northern Ireland conflict through media production. Second, the way propaganda techniques were manifested while informing about the conflict is described. Finally, I will give an overview showing how the way of informing about Northern Ireland differed between the three analysed newspapers.