

Abstract

The bachelor thesis „Practicing Jewish holidays in Terezín” deals with the Jewish situation in the first half of the 20th century with emphasis on the years of the 2nd world war. In the initial part of my thesis I focus on the development of Jews in the area of Czech lands, elementary classification of different Jewish groups and the situation of anti-Semitic riots just before the war. This is followed by the characteristic of Terezín from the beginning to the liberation in the year 1945.

The characteristic of the most important Jewish holidays and customs is an integral part of the thesis.

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to attempt to apply the gained knowledge to the environment of the Terezín ghetto. The information concerning these issues was drawn from the archive of visual history Malach, in which there are thousands of testimonies of survivors, and also from specialized literature.

I reached the conclusion that the holidays were celebrated in the difficult conditions of the ghetto, even if only symbolically with the use of prayers or collective reminiscence. Paradoxical holidays are those that are connected with fasting, all you have to do is to abstain from food and even these holidays are remembered by the survivors.

The thesis should serve as a general overview of the Jewish situation at the beginning of the 20th century, to remind the Jewish holidays and customs and prove the practicing of these holidays and customs in the Terezín ghetto.