

Abstract

This thesis aims to set a basic framework for “memories of communism” which come along with attempts on political construction of the past during post-1989 regime. Based on the example of public debate about “The Act on the Lawlessness of the Communist Regime and on Resistance Against It”, we will attempt to reveal main resources of anti-communist rhetoric and symbols, and to clarify the role they played in forging political identities in the first half of the 1990s. While the introductory chapter explores concepts which allow us to conceptualize memory in the analysis of the political, other chapters are devoted to various interpretations of the past in the context of discussions of de-communization measures that belong to the category of “coming to terms with the past” (Lustration Act, The Act on the Lawlessness of the Communist Regime). Does Czech anti-communism result from those measures adopted between 1991 and 1993, or does their adoption seek to reduce the plurality of politics of memory? Are attempts to label the previous regime as criminal the exclusive form of anti-communism, or does anti-communism amount to a combination of moral, legal and political arguments that seek to criminalize the previous social and legal order? By analysing different types of utterances we will attempt to design one possible method of discourse analysis of anti-communism.