Summary

This thesis aims to describe the history of welfare state and forms of social security, which preceded the welfare state. Chapter one opens up the topic of the state’s role in the social security. It further defines the concept of welfare state, social rights and the link between these phenomenons. Distinctions between social rights and other types of fundamental rights and freedoms are also explored.

Chapter two of this thesis aims to describe different approaches to division of welfare state into individual categories. Typology of welfare states is essential to understanding the most important characteristics of individual types of welfare states, the function of welfare state and the ideological, cultural, historical and other roots of the concept of welfare state.

Chapter three, the most extensive part of this thesis, describes the welfare state’s history itself. The third chapter also summarizes the historical overview of forms of social security, which preceded the welfare state, since the welfare state must be perceived as one of the stages of social security’s evolution. Contemporary welfare state carries within itself the heritage of preceding forms of social security and that is why it is necessary to mention these forms characteristic for ancient times, the middle ages and early modern times.

The third chapter is focused on the development of welfare state in England and Germany. The most important foundations of the welfare state’s concept were laid in these countries. The crisis of welfare state, which has begun in the 1970’s, is also mentioned, as is the prognosis of possible welfare state’s development.

Chapter four finally explores the critical views on the welfare state’s concept. These views seek the causes and solutions of temporary crisis of the welfare state. The chapter deals with both left-wing and right-wing views, compares them a evaluates their arguments.