

The Policy of the German Minority in the Interwar Czechoslovakia on the Example of German Social Democratic Workers Party in Brno

Abstract of Diploma Thesis

The diploma thesis deals with the politics of the German minority at municipal level in the first years after the Czechoslovak Republic was established. The relations between Czech and German political representation in the years 1918 to 1924 are described by the example of the German Social Democratic Workers Party in Brno. The case study is based on the analysis of contemporary press, especially the party journals of the German Social Democracy, and archival documents from the sessions of the local municipal government. The introduction describes the reactions of German politicians to the loss of the privileged position in the city after the break-up of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy. The first municipal elections after World War I represented a turning point in the politics of the Germans in Brno. They rejected the requirement of joining Moravian capital Brno to Austria and started to be interested in their own representation in the municipal government, and thus participation in the Czechoslovak political system. The next part of the thesis follows up the development of the relationships of the German Social Democrats towards other Czech and German parties concerning significant issues of municipality in Brno. In the first years of Czechoslovakia, they shared their programme of national defence against restrictions of the German school system and the funding of theatre with other German parties. The thesis discusses the significant role of the party in the crisis of municipality 1922 which was caused by inner problems of Czech Social Democracy and German obstructions because of the approval of new taxes. In the end, the influence of economic crisis on moving the attention of the German Social Democrats towards social problems of the workers' class in Brno is showed.