

This thesis discusses the question of compulsory school attendance as a problematic phenomenon, initially met with resistance by some parents, politicians, industrialists, church dignitaries and landowners during the attempts to its introduction and implementation. In order to provide better understanding of the role and purpose of compulsory education, the paper sets compulsory schooling into a particular historical situation, explores the function of universal education in inter-war Czechoslovakia and tracks the changes that have occurred in this area since the period of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It perceives school as the resultant of conflict between the interests of different stakeholders, in which the state plays the major role. Therefore, a section of my thesis is dedicated to the question of what goals did the state pursue by educating youth in schools and what kind of citizen did it intend to raise.