

From the World of Business to the World of Planned Distribution

A Look into the Development of Czech Consumer Cooperatives: 1945 – 1956 (Ústí nad Labem Region)

The dissertation deals with changes in the content, forms and roles of the Czech consumer co-operatives in the years 1945 – 1956. This issue is a theme in four surveyed areas (territorially - organizational structure, the role of co-operatives in the Czechoslovak economy, relations with the Communist Party, economic activity of co-operatives). These are prerequisites of the transformation of consumer cooperatives from autonomous business entities in the subordinate sections of the state-organized distribution. The dissertation analyzes this transformation in its various stages and puts it into a broader context of Sovietisation, creation of a system of centrally planned economy and the economic, social and political development of Czechoslovakia during the researched period.

Keywords: economic history, co-operatives, consumer co-operatives, Sovietisation, centrally planned economy, 1945-1956