

## Abstract

The subject of this thesis is a diversified conception of Czechishness. The main proposition is a comparison of types and aspects of relation to the country in the case of (political) emigrants after 1948 in contrast with the “home-based” non-emigrant Czech population.

The thesis will briefly mention also the preceding periods of Czech emigration, the socio-economic situation at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the 1950s etc. All this will be put into the context of the historical turning of the Czech lands away from the West, despite the latter being the destination of the post-February emigrants. In this respect the description of social-political events as perceived by the citizens at the time, by the official propaganda and by emigrants is crucial. The image of the West or emigrants as perceived then together with other conclusions will be compared with the basic theories of migration and migration policy. In the section on political emigration legislation of the period incl. its wording will be quoted.

The thesis focuses exclusively on emigrants to the West, especially to Western Europe, the USA and Canada, but also to Australia and Israel. It reflects the direction and the main centres of emigration, checks the relevance of information on the numbers of exiled Czechs, their ability to self-actualize in their new country incl. clubs and associations and their attempts to communicate with their home country or to re-emigrate subsequently.

The goal of the thesis, based mainly on the above-mentioned information, is neither a description of the departure from the old country nor the subsequent assimilation in the new one, but an evaluation of the form of awareness of Czechishness and belonging to the Czech nation of these emigrants in comparison with non-emigrants. Information for the thesis/dissertation will be obtained from original research and from specialized literature. The research section will use dozens of questionnaires and several interviews. For the research three groups of respondents will be approached: emigrant Czechs, re-emigrants and non-emigrant population.