

This thesis covers the personality of Josef Redlich, a university professor and a member of the House of Deputies of the Imperial Austro-Hungarian Council representing Moravia, who was twice appointed the Austro-Hungarian Minister of Finance at difficult times. His extensive estate allows us to understand the Austrian society and follow its social transformation. The purpose of the research project focused on Josef Redlich is to provide a comprehensive analysis of social phenomena, which led to the disintegration of the monarchy and the establishment of individual republican states. However, this thesis covers only the period from 1848 to 1914. The thesis comprises two story lines. The one line describes the rise of the bourgeois class, the Jewish patriarchy and the Redlichs, a South Moravian business family, together with the story of Friedrich and Josef Redlich. The other line focuses on the rise of mass political parties and nationalism – it tries to find the explanation whether the symbolic disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy was caused by liberalism rather than nationalism considering the fact that liberalism on the one hand led to an unprecedented growth of the Austrian economy and on the other hand helped to dismantle the old Catholic feudal system which held the monarchy together. The memoirs of Josef Redlich who grew up in a rich Jewish bourgeois family that became rich thanks to liberalism, show us his effort to understand and cope with the rise of chauvinistic movements. He gradually realized the problems of the monarchy and developed a close relationship with Emperor Franz Josef. As a member of the Imperial Council, he became a member of the Bosnian Affairs Committee and closely cooperated with the then Foreign Minister Aehrenthal to manage the international crisis that resulted from the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He also developed close relationships with many Czech personalities, particularly Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk.

The goal of the research project consisting in mapping the Austrian society based on the Josef Redlich's memoirs is to outline the historical development in the period from 1848 to 1936. The thesis is divided into three main chapters: Josef Redlich as a Moravian, Josef Redlich as a monarchist and Josef Redlich as a republican. The bachelor thesis covering the period from 1848 to 1914 describes his activities in Moravia and the course of the Annexation (Bosnian) Crisis. This is the first Czech analysis of the Redlich's estate.