

Abstract:

This thesis is engaged in the formation of the concept of class in the second generation of the Czech (Bohemian) Working-Class Movement. I selected time termination, because of the beginning of the 1890s involved onset of second generation of working-class movement, which deflected from radicalism the first generation of pioneers to engagement oscillating between reformism of Bebel and revisionism of Bernstein. Even since the early 1890s gradually alternated Class about itself (*Klasse an sich*) at precisely defined Class for itself (*Klasse für sich*). Thesis seeks to answer the question: *Why occurred to the above-mentioned phenomenon in the second generation?* The traditional explanation of Marxist Historians about the end of Persecutory Phase and logical accession Mass Party seems too schematic.

The year 1914 is selected as an upper time milestone, because the First World War caused a series of high quantitative and qualitative transitions in social relations: proletarianization of wide classes in society; fatal deterioration of living, social, health and political conditions of workers. The Working Classes in the prewar and wartime periods are two different social phenomena, which ought to analyse historically separately.

The thesis is conceptually draws on Benedict Anderson's seminal work *Imagined Communities*. Following Anderson, the main argument of thesis is: Class for itself is not formed only on the basis of Marxist ideology (to Marx, a sort of the privileged knowledge workers), but also on *community through the images*, or more precisely *belonging*. They were constructed through the Social-Democratic and generally Left-wing Press; Trade Unions; Worker's literary and sport clubs (DTJ), and last but not least on the basis of Worker's Festivities.

Further, I was inspired by Pierre Bourdieu, whose historical analyses of the environment of people allow social historian to affect origin, transformation and extinction of social groups and often complex and unexpected coalitions or conflicts. In the case of coalitions will be beneficial to observe the expansion of coalition potential of *Československá sociálně demokratická strana dělnická* (Czech-Slavonic Social-Democratic Party of Workers), whose coalition potential was extended by smallholders, tradesmen and partially intelligentsia.

Thesis will also analyse mutual relations of the various forms of capital held by worker's leaders. Especially economic, social and cultural capital. It will also take into account the symbolic potential of their public (parliamentary and non-parliamentary) manifestations.

The working class will be interpreted here as an internally dynamic community, more or less intensely experienced social belonging, which was influenced by a wide range of mutual relations, which achieved in many cases (in others did not achieve) with connection to the

working environment and lifestyle to compose collective and emancipating historical actor, who purposefully aspired to social recognition and human dignity.