

## **Abstract**

The doctoral thesis deals with comparative analysis of historical examples in the search for national identity in texts of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk (1850-1937) and Roman Dmowski (1864-1939). Both Masaryk and Dmowski belonged to prominent representatives of public and political life in their countries at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and in first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The question of national identity is a theme often associates with their life and work. Masaryk and Dmowski influenced Czech and Polish politics, political and intellectual thought before 1914. During the First World War, they were leaders of Czechoslovak and Polish politics in West European emigration (Masaryk as the president of the Czechoslovak National Committee, Dmowski as the president of the Polish National Committee). Nevertheless, in the postwar period, their career diverged. Masaryk became president of Czechoslovakia and symbol of the Czechoslovak identity, Dmowski represented rather the opposition against mainstream development in postwar Poland. The first and the second parts of the thesis deal with Masaryk's (first part) and Dmowski's (second part) concept of historical examples in search of national identity in context of their thought and life. Therefore, these parts are organized chronologically and pay attention to historical transformations in Masaryk's and Dmowski's views. The third part is comparative and analyzes (1) the story of nation presented by both authors, (2) the role of historical examples in Masaryk's and Dmowski's mental geography, (3) the relationship between national and international identity formulated by historical examples, (4) the relationship between religion and national identity in perspective of historical examples and (5) Masaryk's and Dmowski's concept of historical transformations (revolution, reform, evolution).